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**Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the
Economic Commission for Africa (covering the period
April 2016 to March 2017)**

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Foreword

The present report highlights the main achievements of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) from April 2016 to March 2017. It provides an overview of the major events and activities undertaken by ECA in response to its broad mandate of fostering economic and social development in Africa. In addition to the issues presented in the report, a number of key strategic areas of involvement are highlighted, underlining the Commission's most significant contributions.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

During the reporting period, ECA contributed significantly to the discourse relating to socioeconomic progress in Africa on several fronts. Together with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, the Commission continued to provide technical and policy support to African countries. Evidence of such support is in the facilitation of Africa's input into the elaboration of Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the adoption of a common African position. That common African position has the same tenets as those that underpin Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, which was adopted by the African Union in 2015 and is the continental action plan adopted by the 24th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa 30 and 31 January 2015. The common African position is Africa's consensus on the continent's challenges, priorities and aspirations, and the strategies for dealing with them.

There is a need for an integrated and coherent implementation in Africa of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, in order to minimize the duplication of efforts, to reduce the burden of implementation on member States and to avoid unnecessary competition for resources between the two agendas. It is recognized that some of the goals of Agenda 2063 are unique to Africa. Equally important is the need for better coordination to ensure effective implementation and follow-up, and to ensure that areas of convergence as well as areas unique to Africa are addressed. In that regard, work continued during the reporting period on a coherent common framework that integrates both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda into the national planning framework.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development attempts to respond to the global dimensions of Africa's development challenges, while Agenda 2063 responds to the regional dimension. Implementation of both will therefore require: (i) advocacy and sensitization about the details of both frameworks; (ii) strengthened capacities to integrate, in a coherent fashion, such initiatives in national planning frameworks; and (iii) research to support evidence-based policymaking. Accompanying a common framework for the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 should be sound monitoring and evaluation tools. Those tools will reinforce the culture of planning and managing for results with regard to the implementation of the common framework. Such a framework, by setting targets and key milestones, will also ensure that all parties involved work towards achieving the development objectives of African countries. The framework also ensures that the causes of non-performance are identified and addressed through evaluation processes. In terms of reporting, an integrated approach to reporting on achievements with respect to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 has been developed to ensure coherence and to minimize the burden on country reporting.

African Peer Review Mechanism

Recognizing that good governance is vital for Africa's transformative agenda, ECA is strongly committed to supporting the vision of the African Peer Review Mechanism to track progress and share best practice in the area. Accordingly, during the reporting period, ECA made relevant and strategic contributions to the articulation of the revitalization process of the African Peer Review Mechanism, which began in January 2016. Having reviewed the achievements and challenges since early 2016, the process has gone through a positive shift in approach by encouraging more countries to relaunch their respective self-assessments.

ECA continues to work in close collaboration with the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism to provide support relating to national technical training and participation in external review missions. In line with its comparative advantages, the Commission provided critical support to the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism in the areas of knowledge generation and capacity-building. As a result of the depth of involvement of ECA, the African Peer Review Mechanism has to date reached some milestones: (i) three countries (Chad, Senegal and the Sudan) have completed the external review exercise; (ii) for the first time, the second generation of reviews has commenced, which kicked off in Kenya; and (iii) constructive working relationships have been re-established between the African Peer Review Mechanism and its strategic partners, with the coming of two new institutions: the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and the African Capacity Building Foundation.

I am therefore confident that the overall objective of strengthening the position of the African Peer Review Mechanism to drive the governance agenda in Africa is moving in the right direction, and, with the pivotal role of ECA, the credibility of the process has been restored.

Follow-up on the third International Conference on Financing for Development and fostering of a coherent and coordinated implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows

The Commission's continued commitment to tackling the scourge of illicit financial flows from Africa led to a tremendous contribution to the work of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows, especially with regard to advocacy, legislative dimensions of curbing illicit financial flows and insights from the civil society perspective. The process benefited from an exchange of views on specific and concrete national, subregional and regional actions needed to implement the findings and recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Panel. The Commission has accordingly brought together key representatives of national and regional authorities, including officials from such sectors as revenue, financial intelligence, anti-corruption, legal, parliamentary, academic and media.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda emanating from the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in July 2015, broadly endorsed the recommendations of the High-level Panel and called upon member States to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030 and eventually eliminate them. To achieve that objective, African countries and partners need to set up a robust institutional framework to foster national, regional and global efforts to stem the tide of illicit financial flows.

As a contribution to the ongoing work, it is also worth mentioning that ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, have established a consortium on curbing illicit financial flows from Africa. The consortium involves all key actors on the continent and outside of Africa. It is gratifying to further note that ECA and the African Union Commission have thus offered the African continent a platform

for all relevant stakeholders to come together and share ideas on how to implement the recommendations of the High-level Panel, including through a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of all the actors involved.

I wish to commend the present annual report of the Commission to member States. I have no doubt they will find it useful and continue to support us in the discharge of our mandate to foster the economic and social development of Africa. The report is also intended to provide information on the work of the Commission to a wide audience, ranging from policymakers to those from research and academic institutions and civil society organizations, and the general public.

Lastly, I am proud of the entire staff of the Commission and take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to them for their hard work, which has enabled us to deliver on our mandate.

Abdalla Hamdok
Executive Secretary, a.i. of the Economic Commission for Africa

I. Highlights of programme activities and results

A. Macroeconomic policy

1. The subprogramme aims to contribute to the acceleration of Africa's economic transformation through the design, implementation and monitoring of development plans, policies and strategies for better economic management. The work of the subprogramme is organized around the following focus areas: forecasting macroeconomic and other trends; development planning, global and regional development frameworks; development financing and private sector development; illicit financial flows; and economic governance and public sector management.

2. During the period under review, ECA produced the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa: Greening Africa's industrialization. The key messages and policy recommendations of the report were widely disseminated at launches in a number of cities across Africa, including Abuja (in collaboration with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency), Accra (in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency), Addis Ababa, Khartoum and Lusaka (in collaboration with the Zambia Economic Association). The report was also launched at the annual meeting of the Ethiopian Economic Association and the annual regional meeting of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

3. ECA also produced the 2017 edition of the Economic Report on Africa: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation. The 2017 Report builds on previous editions, which emphasize the need for developmental States and development plans to foster 'greening' Africa's industrialization and structural transformation. Such industrialization and transformation benefit from the continent's resource endowments to promote commodity-based industrialization and embrace dynamic industrial policy frameworks underpinned by innovative institutions, effective processes and flexible mechanisms. As in previous years, the key messages and recommendations of the Report are to be widely disseminated through launches in a number of major cities within and outside of Africa.

4. During the period under review, ECA contributed an analysis of Africa's regional outlook to the 2017 edition (in preparation) of the annual report, World Economic Situation and Prospects, which is published jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations World Tourism Organization and the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations. The 2017 report provides an overview of recent global economic performance and short-term prospects for the world economy and of some key global economic policy and development issues.

5. ECA continued its contribution to knowledge generation and sharing on the issues of development planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. ECA supported the generation of evidence through studies and reports, including Planning for Africa's Development; and a discussion panel on the institutional framework for adaptation and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, published the 2016 MDGs to Agenda 2063/SDGs Transition Report. The report was officially launched in New York, Addis Ababa, Brazzaville, Kigali and Lusaka, and provided a rigorous assessment of progress shown by Africa in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It also served as a basis for policy discussion, peer learning and advocacy. More importantly, the report provided the impetus for strong and coordinated action by Africa's top decision makers towards an integrated and coherent approach to sustainable development in Africa.

6. The subprogramme has designed a toolkit to integrate the goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda and those of the African Union Agenda 2063, and is designing a web-based application for use at the national level and for monitoring the

performance of the two Agendas. The 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 provide the framework for member States to monitor and report on goals, targets and indicators relevant to sustainable development; help avoid duplication of efforts; and provide easy-to-use applications for national planning authorities to provide updates on progress with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and their application at the national level.

7. ECA also continued engagement in upstream policy dialogue and influencing policy decisions on planning, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063; provided insights and knowledge in areas of economic development and structural transformation. Collaboration with the Ethiopia National Planning Commission on design of long-term development plans and participation in regional forums were strengthened. The solution exchange platform brings together Planning Officers to discuss topics on development planning.

8. The subprogramme influenced policy on private sector development and mobilization of domestic and external resources for development. The study on enhancing local entrepreneurship in Africa aims to encourage policymakers to review and adopt new entrepreneurship priorities in enhancing African entrepreneurs to play a more active role in the structural transformation processes. The subprogramme also produced a study on development financing in Africa. The study examined the role of development finance in structural transformation and inclusive growth in Africa and how finance should be mobilized to address the main priorities in the continent. The subprogramme prepared a technical paper on a transformative agenda for monetary and exchange rate policies, debt sustainability in Africa and appropriate policy responses. The paper was presented at the Caucus meeting of African Governors of Central Banks.

9. ECA facilitated the exchange of ideas and promoted research through the eleventh annual African Economic Conference 2016, held in Abuja in December 2016. The topic of the Conference was: Feeding Africa: Towards Agro-Allied Industrialization for Inclusive Growth, and was jointly organized with the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. The Conference drew 180 participants, including ministers, government officials, researchers and development practitioners from Africa and beyond.

10. With regard to economic governance, the subprogramme undertook a study on Effective Regulatory Systems for Service Delivery and Structural Transformation in Africa: Infrastructure Development and the case of Power Pools. The focus of the study was on the importance of power pools as low-hanging fruits in quest to enhance energy access in Africa. Improved access to energy services is crucial not only for the attainment of health and education outcomes, but also for reducing the cost of doing business, unlocking economic potential, creating jobs and speeding up the structural transformation of the Continent. The study notes that energy potential in Africa, especially renewable energy, is enormous, yet only a fraction of it is being currently employed. Power pools remain one effective mechanism for enhancing energy security in Africa.

11. Through a number of high profile launches of the African Governance Report IV, ECA facilitated policy dialogues and promoted research on the issue of corruption. The launches involved ECA staff from various divisions and subregional offices as well as representatives from research institutions. It brought a much-needed synergy between knowledge generation and delivery to the Commission.

12. The subprogramme launched the process of producing the African Governance Report V on Natural Resource Governance and Domestic Resource Mobilization for Structural Transformation in Africa. To be finalized in late 2017, the report will have a critical role in raising awareness and facilitating consensus-building on African priorities for financing for development. It will build on the momentum generated by the third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015.

13. During the period under review, the subprogramme continued to build partnerships and strategic alliances for good economic governance on the African continent. In that regard, it delivered a lecture at the International Anti-Corruption Agency Regional Summer Academy – Eastern Africa on measuring corruption in Eastern Africa. ECA also participated at the round table: “Political will and the fight against corruption in Africa”. In total, 60 participants from 16 African countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) took part. The majority of participants came from the public sector, working in anticorruption agencies, governments, and ministries of justice, economy, or finance.

14. On the regional programme for technical cooperation, the subprogramme worked with the Office of the ECA Deputy Executive Secretary for Knowledge Delivery to review and restructure the country profiles concept note around structural transformation, which will be implemented from 2017. The subprogramme also collaborated with the Capacity Development Division of ECA to provide advisory services to the Government of the Gambia through a macroeconomic policy dialogue for senior policy officials in the Gambia.

15. On the Development Account, implementation of the ECA-wide forecasting model for Africa commenced and is expected to be rolled out to the rest of the continent in the coming years. The forecasting model of ECA has been formulated and further refined during the period under review. The model aims to enhance policy development and planning among African countries. Specifically, it is being customized initially and adapted in six pilot countries, namely: Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. ECA participated in a workshop in Accra on the Ghana macroeconomic forecasting model to ensure maximization of synergies and alignment of the model for Ghana with the ECA prototype.

B. Regional integration and trade

16. The subprogramme provides policy-oriented research on leveraging policies on investment, regional integration, land, agriculture, food security, energy, infrastructure, trade, and industrialization for the continent’s development and structural transformation. The subprogramme also carried out some activities aimed at implementing and mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into national strategic frameworks, action plans and programmes.

17. In the area of investment, ECA launched a study on investment policies and bilateral investment treaties in Africa at a side event during the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in April 2016. The study, which has influenced policy dialogue on the African experience with bilateral investment treaties, raised the need for existing national and regional investment regulations to consider reviewing and renegotiating bilateral investment treaties to take into consideration national development priorities and strategies; proper coordination between the government policymakers and the private sector players in negotiating new bilateral investment treaties; and reviewing the existing investor-State dispute system with a view to considering national and regional legal recourse, in addition to the existing international arbitration mechanisms. Various dissemination activities were held to support regional policy processes on investment and raise awareness on the main policy challenges highlighted by the study through a number of forums, including in a meeting organized by the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community to review the Southern African Development Community Bilateral Investment Treaties Template.

18. As part of sensitizing private equity players on their role in promoting growth and development in Africa, ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, organized a side event during the African Investment Forum, which took place in Ethiopia, in October 2015. The side event brought together

representatives of selected African small and medium enterprises and private equity players to discuss, among other things, how small and medium enterprises can tap into private equity funds to grow their businesses. The policy discussions have further guided ECA work in support of facilitating finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises in support of the structural transformation in Africa.

19. Following a request from the Government of Namibia to the Executive Secretary, ECA prepared a paper on the foreign policy of Namibia, which was presented during the Windhoek Foreign Policy Conference. The paper provided input for policy discussions on the development of industrial sectors in Namibia, which have brought improvements, including a boost in exports in agriculture and fisheries, and increased trade and foreign direct investment.

20. On industrial development, ECA responded to requests by African member States and regional economic communities for technical assistance on development of industrial policy, including by Guinea, Senegal, Swaziland and the Southern African Development Community. Research was completed on reviewing industrial policy landscape in Africa and on the pharmaceutical sector in Africa. The study found a number of challenges that Africa still faces on industrialization, which range from a poor business environment, to limited stakeholder inclusion in policymaking, to lack of adequate infrastructure and limited access to finance, among others. The report also highlighted good practices and policy recommendations for policymakers in Africa. A research study was commissioned by ECA, the topic of which was fostering tourism growth in Africa: the aviation and tourism policy convergence. The study identifies a number of factors relating to an unfavourable regulatory environment that constrains the growth of the two industries and proposes a collective and effective strategy to address them. Such research products continue to serve as a reference point for African countries in terms of their industrial development trajectory. ECA will use the findings of the studies to engage policymakers and stakeholders involved in industrial policymaking.

21. Collaborative partnerships enabled the subprogramme to achieve significant results. The fruitful partnership between ECA and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the University of Johannesburg culminated in the launch of a joint two-year Master of Philosophy Degree programme in industrial policy. As a result of collaboration with the African Union Commission, member States now have a better understanding of the status of implementation of the African road safety action plan as well as the strategic issues that need urgent intervention, notably, the lack of updated and accurate data. ECA is in the process of developing a comprehensive status report on the implementation of the action plan. ECA, in partnership with the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency delivered a United Nations Development Account project on implementing a biofuel programme for household and transport sectors, which resulted in a better understanding of the role of bioenergy in the energy plans of African countries.

22. ECA made a significant contribution by preparing working papers on industrial policy and structural transformation to a high-level meeting on the topic: Africa and Latin America at a crossroads, which focused on addressing structural transformation in the new global landscape. The meeting reflects cooperation among ECA, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development within the Advisory Board on providing a better understanding of policy challenges in the realm of production transformation and development.

23. In 2016, ECA developed a methodology on localization of energy technologies to boost the continent's manufacturing potential. The renewable energy technologies that are selected are those with long value chains and that potentially play a significant role in rural development, namely, bioenergy (biomass), solar photovoltaic and small hydropower technologies. The methodology can be used to

boost manufacturing potential in Africa. In that regard, ECA undertook activities to promote the uptake of the methodology by member States.

24. On agriculture, ECA organized a workshop to validate the continent wide cluster baseline assessment studies that identified and prioritized agricultural regional value chains and relevant agribusiness and agro-industrial clustering possibilities to boost investment and trade within Africa in intermediate as well as highly valued food products. ECA collaborated with the African Union Commission in validating the continental agribusiness strategy and implementation plan, and in developing a structure and business plan for a continental apex agribusiness body. It also provided inputs for the development of a framework for boosting trade within Africa and advancing the implementation of the Malabo Declaration. The implementation of the continental agribusiness strategy and its implementation plan will create a platform for stronger engagement of the private sector for agribusiness development on the continent.

25. ECA organized a high-level symposium on jointly implementing agri-based industrialization and regional value chains for the transformation of Africa in December 2016. Through the high-level symposium, ECA was able to influence the policy discourse on transformative agriculture in Africa. The findings and recommendations of the symposium provided ECA and the African Union Commission with inputs to guide preparations for the launch of the forthcoming agribusiness strategy and regional policy frameworks that address the needs of all relevant stakeholders.

26. The subprogramme prioritized the work on supporting the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area by 2017. Through the African Trade Policy Centre, ECA played a significant role in developing the template agreement for the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area, as mandated by the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Kigali in June 2016. The template is a significant input to the Continental Free Trade Area negotiation process and covers trade in goods, trade in services and investment. The African Trade Policy Centre also provided technical papers that informed the strategic- and policy-oriented discussions of the African Union Ministers of Trade on the Continental Free Trade Area, the “post-AGOA options” (referring to the African Growth and Opportunity Act), investment, economic partnership agreements, Brexit and wider regional trade agreements. ECA continues to engage actively in the Continental Task Force on the Continental Free Trade Area and thereby to support the African Union Commission and member States in the Continental Free Trade Area negotiations.

27. The African Trade Policy Centre brought together experts from ECA, the regional economic communities, private sector, academia, development partners, and the African Union Commission to discuss the boosting intra-African trade action plan, current monitoring and evaluation efforts, and the way forward for establishing a consistent framework for the tracking of progress on the continental priorities identified in the boosting intra-African trade initiative. The meeting endorsed the development of a regional strategy for tracking key indicators, which builds on the work already done by the regional economic communities and other stakeholders, and sets up a clear line of accountability for reporting. The regional strategies will assist regional economic communities in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the boosting intra-African trade initiative at the regional level.

28. The report, “Assessing Regional Integration VII on Innovation, Competiveness and Regional Integration”, was finalized and published in March 2016. It examines how the three elements are linked, and also sheds light on the issue of enhancing innovation and competitiveness in the context of development policy and strategy in Africa. In addition to its availability on the website, the report was

launched in many ECA subregional offices in an effort to ensure its wide distribution.¹

29. In July 2016, the African Trade Policy Centre launched one of ECA's flagship reports, the Africa integration index, in an effort to provide data on the status and progress of regional integration on the continent. The index seeks to provide a means for tracking progress in terms of the different dimensions of regional integration, including trade, movement of people, productive capacity, monetary and financial integration, and infrastructure. The index provides a tool for facilitating evidence-based technical discussions and policy dialogues on regional integration in Africa.

30. Analytical research to inform policymaking has continued with key publications on mega regional trade agreements, trade and climate change, and trade and the 2030 Agenda. Research on the mega regional trade agreements illuminated the link between mega regional trade agreements and continental integration programmes, in particular the Continental Free Trade Area. The research outputs and other materials developed by the African Trade Policy Centre have also been used as training material in training sessions targeted at African trade experts and policymakers. In 2016, the African Trade Policy Centre delivered training on trade and gender as well as on trade policy modelling and analysis.

31. ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, African Development Bank and African Export-Import Bank (known as Afreximbank), organized the inaugural session of Africa Trade Week 2016. Africa Trade Week is a new pan-African platform for advancing intra-African trade dialogue among different stakeholder groups. Africa Trade Week brought together ministers of trade, regional economic communities, chief executive officers and executives from the private sector, development banks, and senior representatives from civil society, academia, international development agencies and the media to discuss a course on how African economies can be transformed through intra-regional trade and trade facilitation. Going forward, Africa Trade Week, as a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss topical trade policy issues in Africa, will assist in fostering a common understanding of current issues among the different stakeholders involved in trade policymaking.

32. In the context of land governance, ECA undertook an initiative focusing on land policy. In collaboration with the African Union Commission, ECA launched the implementation of the 30 per cent target for documented land rights for women by 2025, which was endorsed in 2015 by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. The 30 per cent target supports efforts of member States to economically empower women in Africa for an inclusive transformation of African economies. The land policy initiative also developed a programme to support efforts of member States and regional economic communities, namely, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to integrate land tenure and governance concerns in agriculture strategies and investment plans, with a view to boosting investments in agriculture. Under the same programme, a number of ministries or national-level authorities responsible for land are reforming policies and programmes to better address challenges that constrain the agriculture sector to expedite investments and achieve inclusive agricultural and economic transformation. The ministries or national-level authorities mentioned are from 17 member States, namely: Angola, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

33. The initiative on land policy assisted traditional leaders to establish a continental Forum for African Traditional Authorities, which focused on the

¹ The report is available at <http://www.uneca.org/publications/assessing-regional-integration-africa-vii>.

enhancement of the positive engagement of traditional authorities and on encouraging responsible practices to boost land-based investments, while ensuring benefits for local communities. The Forum for African Traditional Authorities will also promote women's land rights, in particular efforts to achieve the African Union target of 30 per cent allocation of documented land rights to women.

34. The initiative strengthened the capacities of universities and institutions of higher learning through the establishment of a network of excellence on land governance in Africa and Guidelines for the Development of Curricula on Land Governance to ensure land professionals respond better to realities across the continent and address the needs of government, traditional leaders, and the private sector. An example of the success of the initiative is the first round scholarship programme through Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia), Ardhi University (the United Republic of Tanzania), and the Namibian University of Science and Technology. The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, and the institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa) were able to provide short-term training sessions on land governance.

C. Innovations, technologies and management of natural resources in Africa

35. The subprogramme on innovations, technologies and management of natural resources in Africa continued to promote the adoption and implementation of new initiatives and, consequently, improved its research, policy development, analytical work and capacity-building in the areas of natural resources management, climate change and new technologies and innovations, with a view to supporting the advancement of economic and social transformation in Africa.

36. Under the promotion of technology and innovation for structural transformation, the subprogramme is supporting the formulation of science and technology policy in the Republic of South Sudan, and information and communication technology policy in Guinea-Bissau.

37. In collaboration with the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency, the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa, the subprogramme facilitated the third senior experts dialogue on "cities as innovation hubs for Africa's transformation". Given the interest generated by the senior experts dialogue, the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa and ECA are currently exploring the design and delivery of a training course for senior officials and executives of science, technology and information, municipalities and planning agencies on how African cities can serve as drivers of innovation and entrepreneurship to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 and those of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

38. Furthermore, ECA organized the Biomedical Engineering Innovators School Programme in Cairo. Currently, over 600 students are enrolled in biomedical engineering programmes at participating universities across the continent inspired by the initiative.

39. Different initiatives are also being implemented under the cluster to support knowledge generation, which include: (i) research on innovation hubs in Africa; (ii) a field survey of national innovation comprehensiveness and innovation in the informal sector, undertaken in Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe; (iii) a study on emerging issues in information and communication technologies was undertaken, partly to inform policymaking in Africa and the regional review of the World Summit on Information Society; and (iv) empirical research on innovations in medical devices and on financing of research and development in Africa.

40. With regard to its work related to Green Economy and Natural Resources, the subprogramme in collaboration with other ECA subprogrammes (Capacity Development, Regional Integration and Trade, Social Development Policy, Statistics, and the Subregional Office for North Africa) and the Executive Direction and Management, together with the Government of Egypt, the African Union Commission, and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) convened the second session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Cairo, 17–19 May 2016), in preparation for the 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development provided a platform for member States to engage in a dialogue on the implementation and a follow-up of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The Forum strengthened member States' understanding of and capacity with respect to the policy approaches to ensure effective inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the two agendas. Participants reached consensus and adopted key messages comprising policy actions and measures needed to advance inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the two mutually reinforcing transformative agendas.

41. The subprogramme also carried out two studies and organized two ad hoc expert group meetings on: (i) realizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa through an inclusive green economy. The report seeks to enhance understanding and appreciation of an inclusive green economy as a vehicle for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and related Agenda 2063 goals; and (ii) on macroeconomic frameworks for an inclusive green economy in Africa. The report brings focus to the mutually reinforcing nature of macroeconomic and inclusive green economy policies and supports the paradigm shift to a sustainable economic transformation. The expert group meetings held were to review the report of the two studies: dissemination of the report will follow once it is finalized.

42. Policy-relevant information was distilled from knowledge products produced by the subprogramme and packaged in the form of policy briefs. During the reporting period, the following six policy briefs were produced: (i) inclusive green economy policies for structural transformation in Africa (one policy brief); and (ii) achieving sustainable development in Africa through inclusive green growth by leveraging the potential in agriculture, energy, industry and trade sectors, and harnessing ecosystem goods and services (five policy briefs).

43. Furthermore, ECA has continued its support for member States in addressing the challenges of climate change in key development sectors. Its assistance to that end included providing guidance and technical support to member States in the context of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States accelerated modalities of action pathway.

44. At national and subregional levels, ECA continued to support the small island developing States of Africa (Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Seychelles) in numerical weather prediction and early warning systems. In Liberia, a climate change strategy is being finalized. Technical and advisory services are being provided to the Government of Senegal in implementing various climate research and adaptation projects. ECA provided technical and advisory services and training to community radio stations in Cabo Verde, Cameroon and Rwanda, on analytical reporting on climate resilient practices.

45. The high points of the work of ECA during the reporting period were: (i) the organization of the sixth annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, from 18–20 October 2016; and (ii) the leading of Africa participation at the

twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held 7-18 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco. At the sixth annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, over 300 participants urged Africa to engage with, and embrace the Paris Agreement within the framework of its development aspirations, as underscored in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda, which sets global targets with a vision of “leaving no one behind”. They urged the African Climate Policy Centre to consider supporting the revision of the nationally determined contribution of member States in order to ensure proper alignment with national and regional developmental goals, and also to develop a programme to support countries with the implementation of the nationally determined contributions.

46. At the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, ECA in partnership with the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development hosted the African Pavilion, a convening venue and platform for Africans in making the voices of the continent heard during the climate change negotiations.

47. The Africa Day event was held at the Pavilion on two themes: moving from commitment to action with nationally determined contributions, and the Africa renewable energy initiative: moving forward. The day was presided over by President Alpha Condé of the Republic of Guinea and was also attended by the President of Botswana, Ian Khama; the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; the President of Togo, Faure Gnassingbe, and by ministers from the continent, heads of pan-African institutions, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, ECA, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, and by development partners. The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was also an opportunity for ECA to present to development partners the five-year business plan of the tripartite partnership of Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme, jointly implemented by ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank.

48. Recent global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063 are built on the same tenets of transformation, inclusiveness and sustainability. Indeed, Agenda 2063 calls for the transformation, growth and industrialization of African economies through beneficiation and value addition of natural resources, for the implementation of the African mining vision at the country and continental level, with strategies needed to grow the African blue and green economies. The 2030 Agenda, similarly, calls for achieving sustainable management and the efficient use of natural resources.

49. The priorities of African member States in response to recent global trends in minerals and to promote transformation in line with the mandate of ECA are inherently linked under those frameworks, which is the focus of support to member States provided by the African Mineral Development Centre.

50. The work programme of the African Mineral Development Centre focuses on institutionalizing the African mining vision and includes providing, as requested by member States, direct technical support for building institutional partnerships with Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations, expanding its portfolio, kick-starting a number of projects, effectively communicating issues surrounding the African mining vision, and engaging in implementing the country mining vision and regional-level mining vision. During the current reporting period, the African Mineral Development Centre has worked with 24 countries across the continent (with continuously increasing numbers), covering four of the five subregions of the continent, plus regional organizations – specifically, the regional economic communities – and external partners, including governments and the private sector.

51. This covers the African Mineral Development Centre's concerted efforts to leverage the country mining vision process as a platform for eliminating mineral sector enclaves, mitigating fragmentation within the sector and optimizing trade-offs in terms of Governments' management of their respective mineral sectors, and inclusive engagement of stakeholders to balance and align interests and priorities.

52. The African Mineral Development Centre has been organized along a number of key streams of work, and involves new and dynamic areas, including implementation of the recently developed African Mining Governance Framework, the Atlas of African Blue Economy/African Deep Sea Mining, and the African Mining and Geological Information Strategy, in which the African Mineral Development Centre will continue to work in 2017.

53. The work of the African Mineral Development Centre is conducted in close collaboration with the Macroeconomic Policy Division of ECA, the African Centre for Gender, the regional economic communities and the subregional offices. Some of the 2016 achievements include, but are not limited to:

- A study on women in Africa in artisanal and small-scale mining, which was conducted by the ECA African Centre for Gender in collaboration with the African Mineral Development Centre. The report highlights the significant, yet chronically under-reported, major role that women in Africa play in the sector, in particular in artisanal and small-scale mining. In Africa, the workforce of the artisanal and small-scale mining comprises no less than 40–50 per cent women. The report highlights a selection of them in Ghana, Guinea and the United Republic of Tanzania, and reveals the key challenges that women face in the sector and what can be done to make it more gender-responsive.
- The African Mineral Development Centre has supported the work of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows by undertaking a multi-country case study on illicit financial flows along mineral value chains, entitled: "Impact of Illicit Financial Flows on Domestic Resource Mobilization: Optimizing Africa's Mineral Revenues".
- In collaboration with the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, undertaken studies with actionable recommendations for promoting viable mineral value chains for production of critical "feedstock" to drive industrialization in the Southern African Development Community.

D. Statistics

54. The ECA African Centre for Statistics is responsible for executing the subprogramme on statistics. It works to enhance the capacity of member States to produce and disseminate high-quality statistics. The Centre executes the programme through a range of advocacy measures, including production of manuals and guidelines based on international methods, standards and concepts, as well as providing technical assistance in the design and implementation of their national strategies for the development of statistics and other statistical areas such as national accounts, geospatial, civil registration and vital statistics.

55. Progress has been made towards supporting countries in implementing statistical strategies. Joint evaluation missions carried out by ECA and partners, namely, the African Development Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (known as Paris21) pointed out the continued interest of countries to benefit from technical assistance to strengthen their legal and institutional environment, developing human capacity and mobilizing resources for statistical production.

56. ECA organized the fifth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa in conjunction with the tenth session of the Directors General of National Statistics

Offices in Abidjan, 30 November–2 December 2016, and was attended by delegates from 38 member States of ECA and a number of development partners supporting statistical development in Africa. At the meeting, discussions focused on the status and challenges in the production of economic statistics in Africa and took account of the various efforts made towards the modernization of official statistics in the continent to support the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The status of the implementation of resolutions adopted at previous meetings was also reviewed. Other issues covered by the Commission include: urbanization data and statistics in Africa; mobile technology for statistical data collection in Africa; African statistical development index; civil registration and vital statistics; and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

57. In addition, ECA organized the second meeting of the Regional Committee on Global Geoinformation Management in Africa to review progress and consider policies, measures and steps that African countries can take to ensure the successful implementation of global geospatial information management in Africa.

58. ECA has been working with the other pan-African institutions and member States to develop a common list of indicators that can be used to measure progress under the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063. Specifically, the Commission has endeavoured to address the current status and challenges to economic statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. It has developed an operational guidebook for incorporating the informal sector into national accounts. In addition, it is developing a handbook on statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals, which will serve to identify the data gaps and explore the economic statistics database needed for compiling indicators relevant to those Goals.

59. With regard to economic statistics and national accounts, ECA is supporting the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts in Africa. As the secretariat of the African Project on the 2008 System of National Accounts, ECA continued to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration among member States in order to facilitate its timely and effective implementation, including providing technical assistance to countries.

60. The 2020 round of population and housing censuses started in 2015 and runs to 2024. With the support of ECA, the revised Addendum was finalized and brought into line with the third revision of the global Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses. Discussions were held with partners on the 2016–2020 work plan for the 2020 Africa Programme on Population and Housing Censuses Decade (2015–2024), leading to a five-year Africa census programme.

61. The Africa programme for accelerated improvement of civil registration and vital statistics -is being implemented in the light of policy and programme guidance provided by the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration. Within the regional core group concerned with civil registration and vital statistics, ECA has contributed substantively to the implementation of the regional programme, including the development of technical materials designed to enhance skills in African countries; capacity-building workshops on sharing experience and best practice in civil registration and vital statistics; the development of a global e-learning course on civil registration and vital statistics; and support to countries in undertaking assessment and planning processes in their systems relating to civil registration and vital statistics.

62. The establishment of the African Group on Gender Statistics by the Statistical Commission for Africa has increased awareness and facilitated the coordination of several activities in the production and use of gender statistics in Africa. Under the leadership of ECA, the African Group on Gender Statistics developed a regional programme called the African Programme on Gender Statistics, which encompasses all conceivable activities that needed to be undertaken at the regional level under a five-year plan of action for 2012–2016 to ensure that member States develop and implement comprehensive national gender statistics programmes.

63. The Conference of Ministers mandated ECA to produce the country profiles series, which addresses inclusive socioeconomic development with key indicators and data in the economic sphere. The African Centre for Statistics, data centres at the ECA subregional offices and national statistical offices joined hands to source, collect, analyse and validate all data needed for the production of the various country profiles. The profiles offered an opportunity for African countries to recount their own narratives and document their experience of and prospects for socioeconomic development.

64. ECA continued to consolidate the establishment of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management. An action plan on geospatial information for sustainable development in Africa was developed and aligned with global agendas and programmes (in particular, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063) to foster and support technical activities development, strengthen and align specific needs and interests of Africa, and encourage and facilitate the integration of statistics with geospatial information. Further, ECA developed a global strategic framework for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. The strategy outlines some of the policy principles on how to mainstream geospatial technology into the work of national statistical offices all the way through training, data and processes.

65. ECA has continued to oversee the implementation of the global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics in Africa. The various activities are clustered around the three pillars that will contribute to the enhancement of the capacity of national statistical systems: regional training workshops on new agricultural statistics production methods; elaboration of tailored manuals and syllabuses for self-education and on-the-job learning; and awarding of scholarships for Master's Degree programmes in agricultural statistics.

66. ECA has developed the Solution Exchange for the African Statistical Community as a peer-to-peer online facilitation platform for statistical professionals to share their knowledge and experience in pursuit of the common objective of solving problems, thereby improving their effectiveness and influence both individually and as a professional group.

67. Following the 2015 Conference of Ministers resolution "to lead the African data revolution, bringing together diverse data communities and using a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies" and the request of the subsequent 2016 Conference of Ministers that the integrated reporting and follow-up on sustainable development be supported with information on the status of the data system on the continent, ECA programmed a biennial Africa Data Revolution Report. The first edition has been produced and will be launched during the World Data Forum in January 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa. The report reviews the data ecosystem in the continent with respect to harnessing the data revolution for sustainable development, with comprehensive assessments of the national data system in seven countries, namely, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

68. One important aspect of the global data revolution is the open data initiative, which is unlocking the potential in available data to foster economic growth, job creation, transparency and accountability, among other opportunities. However, participation by African statistical offices has been limited and selective. ECA is organizing a session during the World Data Forum on making official statistics open by default. The session is intended to promote consensus building among national statistical officers and other data producers, as well as stakeholders involved in national open data initiatives, and help strengthen the resolution to work towards a new notational data ecosystem in which official statistics is open by default.

69. Finally, ECA is implementing a Development Account project on the use of mobile technologies to collect data. The project is now in the second phase of piloting. Phase I involved the following countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Tunisia and Zimbabwe; phase II involved Egypt, Gabon, Lesotho, Mali and Uganda.

Some of the key results of phase I include: (i) in Cameroon, the capacity of the National Statistical Institute was enhanced by employing mobile devices to collect data on producer prices; (ii) in Ethiopia, the national statistical office successfully tested mobile data collection for compiling monthly retail and producer prices; (iii) in the Gambia and Kenya, the project contributed positively to the relevant statistical offices' efforts to set up a consumer price index that enabled the country to monitor the inflation rate; (iv) in Tunisia, the national statistical office, as a result of the project, moved away from paper-based data collection and is gradually employing digital technology; and (v) in Zimbabwe, the national statistical agency used the mobile devices to conduct a consumer price survey. As a result, other branches of the Government have also started relying on this technology. More of the details on the outcome of the mid-term review are narrated under the Development Account section that follows.

E. Capacity development

70. Under the framework of capacity development, ECA continues to strengthen the capacity of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, and the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism and regional economic communities to implement their development priorities. The latter are in line with the priorities and vision articulated in Agenda 2063 and the first ten-year implementation plan 2014–2023, the United Nations–African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda (for 2017–2027) (PAIDA) and the internationally agreed development goals, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

71. The subprogramme coordinated efforts by organizations and agencies of the United Nations system working in Africa in support of the African Union by facilitating joint activities, particularly in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063. Evidence of such coordination efforts included the seventeenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme, which was held on 2 and 3 April 2016 in Addis Ababa. ECA coordinated the Report of the Committee on the Reconfiguration of the Regional Coordination Mechanism – Africa Clusters, which was finalized at a retreat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism – Africa clusters and subclusters Coordinators, held 11 and 12 February 2016, at Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. The support of ECA resulted in the adoption of the reconfiguration of the Regional Coordination Mechanism clusters in support of the African Union and its priority (Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, for which ECA is the secretariat).

72. The session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism also adopted a new communication strategy that aims to: (a) ensure that influential media follow the ethical principles of objectivity and balance in their coverage of the development process in Africa; and (b) contribute to changing the narrative on the continent. Those dual objectives will enhance communication on the implementation of the objectives of Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It will also promote collaboration and the exchange of information among and between clusters and subclusters.

73. PAIDA is receiving the support of the Africa Group based in New York while it is being considered by the United Nations General Assembly. The process is continuing. The secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, with the support of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, will continue to follow up on the matter in 2017.

74. At the subregional level and through the Subregional Coordination Mechanism (North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa), ECA provided technical support to the respective annual meetings, which form key consultation frameworks for the programming and coordination of support to

corresponding regional economic communities. Overall, their goals were to: (i) define activities to be implemented under the upcoming practice, on the basis of needs expressed by the regional economic communities and in line with the commitment expressed by partners; (ii) develop an advocacy for resources mobilization; (iii) assess the implementation of planned activities; and (iv) prepare the report to the 2017 Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa.

75. Furthermore, in the period under review, the subprogramme influenced policies through functional support and technical input to high-level meetings and to statutory meetings (in particular, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the five subregional offices of ECA: North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa). The influence of ECA is reflected in the outcome documents of those meetings.

76. ECA provided technical support on the issue of transboundary infrastructure and regional integration in the high-level sessions during the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which took place in Nairobi on 27–29 August 2016. As many as 72 memorandums of understanding were signed with African businesses and Japan pledged \$32 billion towards African development. ECA is currently developing an implementation plan post-Tokyo International Conference on African Development in support of the recommendations. In addition, ECA undertook analytical work on transformative industrialization in the context of the Continental Free Trade Area, in support of the goal of the African Union to succeed in achieving the Continental Free Trade Area by 2017.

77. Lastly, ECA conducted scoping missions and consultations with member States and regional bodies in order to define the technical support that will be provided to their strategic initiatives. It also had significant policy influence on the revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism (such as the African Peer Review Mechanism Strategic Plan 2016–2020), while continuing to support countries participating in the Review Mechanism (including Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia) and continental structures.

F. Gender and women in development

78. The Subprogramme on Gender and Women in Development aims to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of international and regional commitments and is implemented by the African Centre for Gender. During the reporting period, the subprogramme undertook policy research and provided advisory services to support member States to integrate gender concerns into policies, programmes and strategies. It also used knowledge platforms for outreach, and sharing of information and best practices. The focus of the work of the subprogramme during the year under review was gender statistics, women’s economic empowerment with a focus on extractives, women’s human rights, and gender mainstreaming.

79. **African Women’s Report:** The African Centre for Gender is conducting research on securing women’s rights to social protection in Africa to produce the new edition of the African Women’s Report. The report aims to document women’s constraints to access social protection services in Africa and to define policy actions for member States to address them. In line with ECA policy to build strategic partnership with research institutions and academia, the African Centre for Gender is working with the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development to carry out empirical research in five African countries: Chad, Kenya, Mauritania, Namibia and Senegal. Secondary research is being undertaken across the continent to document and analyse country legal frameworks, policies and programmes related to women’s rights to social protection.

80. **The African development and gender index** enables countries to compile data and assess their own performance, in terms of achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment, both quantitatively and qualitatively. It provides a

mechanism for streamlining reporting on all gender-related conventions and commitments. The Cabinet of Ministers of Mauritius underscored that the African development and gender index was a critical mechanism to measure the status of women as compared to men in the social, economic and political spheres. During the reporting period, the African development and gender index was rolled out in additional 10 countries (Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, the Niger, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, South Africa and Zimbabwe) as part of phase 3; South Africa undertook its second African development and gender index in 2016. The fourth and final phase of the African development and gender index was launched in June 2016 with the organization of a methodology workshop, which was attended by 11 countries (Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Sao Tome and Principe, South Sudan, and the Sudan). The workshop was outstandingly rated by participants in all key areas as either relevant or very relevant. Phase 4 of the African development and gender index is implemented by five countries: Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mauritius, and Sao Tome and Principe. This brings the number of countries covered by the African development and gender index to 40.² Starting in 2016, the African Centre for Gender has started compiling gender dashboards for African countries based on the information collected as part of the African development and gender index.

81. As a result of recommendations from member States, the African Centre for Gender is currently working with the African Development Bank to merge the African development and gender index with the gender equality index of the African Development Bank into one Africa-specific gender index. The joint index will take account of the gender-related indicators associated with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It will be in five African countries during the first quarter of 2017 and roll out across the continent towards the end of 2017.

82. **The African Scorecard on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** At the request of the African Union Commission, the African Centre for Gender, in collaboration with the African Development Bank produced the second edition of the African Scorecard on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, of which the topic was: "Women's rights in Africa: Where does the continent stand?". The aim was to support African leaders in implementing their commitments for women's human rights by providing them with a comprehensive assessment of the progress they have made in securing and protecting women's socioeconomic, civil and political rights. It also analysed the challenges faced and identified measures that are essential for ensuring that the human rights of women are realized. The results of the Scorecard were presented at the African Union Heads of State and Government held in July 2016 in Kigali, during which the Chairperson of the African Union Commission gave an award to the best performing countries.

83. **Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining:** The African Centre for Gender, in partnership with the African Minerals Development Center, undertook a study in six minerals-rich and producing countries, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Central Africa); Ghana and Guinea (West Africa); the United Republic of Tanzania (East Africa); Zambia and Zimbabwe (Southern Africa), to examine the degree of gender sensitivity of their existing policies, laws and regulations on artisanal and small-scale mining and also to explore the possibilities of financing for women and collaboration between large-scale mining companies and artisanal and small-scale mining. The study resulted in the production of two reports: "Regional Synthesis of National Reports on Women in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining" and "Regional Synthesis of national Compendiums on Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining". Furthermore, the work of the African Centre for Gender has helped

² The other 24 countries are Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

influence the mining policies of Ghana and Zambia on the formalization of artisanal and small-scale mining.

84. **Capacity development:** In line with the Senior Management Team's approved Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, the African Centre for Gender organized ECA-wide gender mainstreaming training from June to August 2016, focusing on gender mainstreaming and aimed at building the capacity of staff members to integrate gender into programmes and operations. The training was organized to reach all staff members (professional and support staff) and was tailor-made for each division to ensure relevance and usefulness. ECA divisions and subregional offices underwent the training. Overall, a positive feedback was received on the training in terms of its relevance, content and usefulness.

85. **Gender marker:** The African Centre for Gender, in collaboration with the Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division of ECA, rolled out the ECA gender marker, a tool recommended by the United Nations system-wide action plan to track resources used and the extent to which gender was integrated into programme outputs as part of compliance with the Chief Executives Board for gender policy. The gender marker has been included in the annual business plan template to enable routine reporting and review of progress made. To ensure compliance, programme assistants and the Africa Build Portal focal persons were trained on the use of gender markers in February 2016. In addition, continual backstopping was provided from the Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division of ECA and the African Centre for Gender, which was in place to support the rolling out of the programme and to ensure its effectiveness.

86. **Technical Support:** The African Centre for Gender provided tailored technical support to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family of Mauritania on integrating gender issues in national plans, programmes and budget. A key outcome of the support was the development of a strategic plan for the operationalization of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

87. The African Centre for Gender, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and the African Union Commission jointly organized a consultative meeting of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in January 2016, which focused on women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development. The aim was to support member States to build consensus around African priorities in order to influence the global outcome document of that session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The meeting brought together ministers of gender and women's empowerment, experts from 38 African countries, representatives from regional economic commissions, and civil society organizations, resulting in an outcome document that, in turn, shaped the contribution from African countries in March 2016 to the agreed conclusions of that session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

88. **Consultative Forum with African Universities:** The African Centre for Gender organized a consultative forum on "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: The Role of Research Institutions and Universities in Harnessing the Potential of Agendas 2030 and 2063, with Africa's Academia and Research Institutions", held 3 and 4 October 2016. The meeting forged a strategic partnership with African universities, research institutes and think tanks on gender equality research agenda-setting. The meeting defined a clear strategy for capacity-building and for strengthening a common research agenda, within the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The forum brought together over 30 experts, researchers and scholars from African universities, research institutes, African think tanks working on gender and social development issues as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and the African Union Commission. The forum established a research network for the implementation of the research agenda for the continent on gender. The following four priority research areas for strengthening gender research in general and providing vital knowledge to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and

Agenda 2063 have been identified: (a) global, regional and national socio-economic and political developments and regional economic agendas and their implications for implementing gender equality and women's empowerment agendas; (b) economic justice and empowerment; (c) promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in politics, policies and institutions; and (d) social relations, social sectors, policies and outcomes for gender equality and women's empowerment.

G. Subregional activities for development

1. Subregional Office for North Africa

89. The Subregional Office for North Africa contributed to enhancing the capacities of member States in areas related to the countries' participation in global and regional value chains and the development of innovative and integrated policies for green and sustainable growth.

90. In line with the mandate of ECA, the Subregional Office for North Africa, in partnership with the OCP Policy Center and the University of Pennsylvania, contributed to the organization of the third Africa Think Tank Conference on Building a Sustainable and Secure Future for the People and Institutions of Africa, by mobilizing the participants and contributing to the scientific content. The conference was in Marrakech, Morocco and held 2 and 4 May 2016. More than 120 experts from 85 African and global think tanks and institutions took part. The ECA country profiles were disseminated at the event. The main idea proposed during the conference was to set the financing mechanism to assist the Governments of Africa in making the most informed decisions possible, by providing decision makers with robust, reliable and independent research evidence coming from African think tanks.

91. African Centre for Statistics and the Subregional Office for North Africa assisted the office of national statistics of Tunisia to introduce the use of mobile technologies for data collection and dissemination in the framework of a development account. The national institute has started collecting data using android tablets to facilitate the monthly calculation of the price index. With ECA support, it has also launched a mobile application for the data dissemination from the 2014 census. The project allowed Tunisia to significantly improve its global open data ranking. Technical measures were also taken in preparation for the launch of the first employment survey using mobile technologies in Tunisia.

92. The Subregional Office for North Africa provided support to the Union maghrébine des entrepreneurs in organizing national and regional round tables (in Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) to increase private sector awareness on climate change challenges and opportunities as well as on trends in climate finance opportunities, particularly in the context of implementing the national determined contributions. The recommendations of the national round tables were discussed during the regional meeting that resulted in the adoption of the Union maghrébine des entrepreneurs Declaration. That Declaration was presented and officially signed by the four national business organizations during a press conference held on 16 December 2016.

93. The Subregional Office for North Africa produced the country profiles for three countries (Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia) in addition to four produced between June 2015 and March 2016. The production of country profiles involved many activities, including conducting missions to countries to strengthen partnerships with national institutions, such as the economic affairs, finance and development departments and the national statistics institute; data collection from primary sources; and identifying the existing needs for capacity development to improve the availability, quality and analysis of statistical data.

94. With regard to knowledge generation and information sharing, the Subregional Office developed in-depth research on several areas, such as: access to funding for rural women's empowerment, which was a comparative analysis of good

practices and lessons learned on microfinance, covering Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia; migrants remittances in many North African countries and their impact on development; territorial approach of industrial policy and inclusive growth within the context of structural transformation.

95. Such research areas were requested by member States, in particular during the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts meetings; the main findings were also shared and discussed during expert group meetings attended by high-level experts from international and national institutions.

96. The Subregional Office for North Africa organized an expert group meeting on the territorialization of industrial policy and inclusive growth, which was held in Tunis, 24 and 25 November 2016. A study was produced by ECA and the Subregional Office and presented at the expert group meeting for discussion. The objective of the study was to make an assessment of industrial policy territorialization in North Africa, with a focus on Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Recommendations have been proposed and discussed during the meeting, and approved by the experts of member States.

97. In June 2016, the Subregional Office for North Africa presented the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa to the Conseil économique social et environnemental of Morocco. In addition, the Subregional Office participated in nine national and regional events, where ECA knowledge generation products were disseminated, including the country profiles and the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa. Several related activities took place, including: a conference on regional integration and industrial policy tools (Tangier, Morocco); “Innovation for Sustainable Development in Africa” (Beni Mellal, Morocco); a conference on the single window initiative for Arab and African countries, in the context of the post-Nairobi World Trade Organization trade facilitation agreement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Casablanca, Morocco); “Ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063” (Cairo); “External equilibriums, competitiveness and the structural transformation process of the Moroccan economy” (Rabat); (6) launch of the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa at the Ahmed Ben Ahmed University (Oran, Algeria); a workshop on the post-Nairobi World Trade Organization Agenda (Tunis); a workshop focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals: “How to tackle the challenges of climate change?” (Rabat); a panel discussion on investment that focused on exports diversification, which took place at the African Forum (Algiers).

98. In the area of consensus-building activities, the Subregional Office for Northern Africa supported the preparatory activities during the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in order to ensure an effective participation of the African member States. The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties was held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, in partnership with the African Development Bank and the 22nd Conference of Parties Steering Committee. Several high-level meetings were conducted to build consensus for the continent. Those taking part included representatives from African countries, high-level members of the Steering Committee of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties, representatives of the local organizations and entities in the United Nations system, and the main local business association. Participants called for non-governmental organizations and business associations from within Africa to have a strong presence at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties, and to coordinate their participation. Furthermore, the Subregional Office supported the host country for the organization of the African Pavilion at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which gathered about 15,000 participants and 1,000 journalists.

99. Moreover, the Subregional Office supported the annual meeting of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism held in Rabat, which contributed to identifying the priority areas of cooperation for the period 2017–2018, both in the context of the

sociopolitical situation in North Africa and in that of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the subregional level.

2. Subregional Office for West Africa

100. As the main regional economic community in West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States is the undisputed pillar of the continental integration process, as advocated by the African Union. The regional economic community comprises 15 countries and aims to promote cooperation and integration in the economic, social and cultural domains, including the free movement of persons and right of residence. Others in the group promote peace and security, although the operational and rapid response capacities of the forces of the Economic Community of West African States need strengthening. Supervision of electoral processes has become an imperative, an objective upon which the credibility of the Economic Community of West African States rests.

101. The Subregional Office for West Africa strengthened the partnership with the Economic Community of West African States, in order to make progress with regional integration in West Africa, as specified in the Protocol of Agreement signed in June 2013, which established a framework for consultation, cooperation and partnership among intergovernmental organizations in West Africa. That includes the Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the Liptako-Gourma Authority, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Niger Basin Authority and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development.

102. The Subregional Office for West Africa re-edited its publication on the progress made towards regional integration in West Africa since the inception of the Economic Community of West African States in 1975, entitled: "ECOWAS at 40: An Assessment of the Progress Made towards Regional Integration in West Africa". In addition, a study is being finalized on the prospects of the unique currency of the countries of the Economic Community of West African States.

103. During the meeting between the Subregional Office and the Economic Community of West African States, which took place on 11 November 2016 at the headquarters of the Economic Community in Abuja, the opportunity was seized to meet with its new President, in order to accelerate the ongoing large consultations with the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, including its different departments, laying the foundations for the finalization of a new multi-years programme between the two institutions. The cooperation agreement encompasses not only long-standing issues pertaining to the consolidation of the integration process but new and emerging challenges of the subregion.

104. In the same vein, during the first week of March 2016, the Subregional Office for West Africa participated in a meeting that focused on the structural transformation of the Liptako-Gourma Authority, including an assessment of staffing and its new mandate to better serve its three member States (Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger). Such support has helped the Liptako-Gourma Authority to strengthen its technical capacity to be the technical arm of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, as well as to subcontract some regional activities.

105. The Subregional Office responded to 22 advisory service requests to support regional economic communities and other subregional and intergovernmental organizations on institutional and sectoral issues in the areas of statistics, regional integration and sustainable development in West Africa, when only six such responses to service requests are required for 2016.

106. The nineteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa, held in Dakar in February 2016, in close cooperation with the authorities of the Government of Senegal was one of the major events of the Subregional Office for West Africa. During that event, under particular consideration were the ECA country profiles as tools to serve the structural transformation of West African countries. The meeting was followed by two ad hoc experts group meetings on

innovative financing for the structural transformation of West African economies held in February 2016 and on transport infrastructure and trade in West Africa held in November 2016. At the time of writing the present report, the knowledge products, that is, the country profiles, are being prepared for publication.

107. In line with the biennium target, the Office has already produced four country profiles on Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria. Four countries profiles are expected to be finalized in 2017 on Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali and Togo.

108. The Subregional Office for West Africa continuously deploys efforts by strengthening the statistical systems in West Africa, including:

1. The statistical flow mechanisms for data collection by member States are being reviewed putting emphasis on harmonizing approaches and methodologies, starting from data collection to compilation, analysis and dissemination and to convey quality data towards the Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and ECA databases for broader use. This was done through workshops (mission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union at the Subregional Office for West Africa in February 2016, the Subregional Office's field missions in Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria, the meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa in Abidjan, the Regional committee on Integration, November 2016) gathering statistics stakeholders among whom the General Directors of the national statistical offices of the member States of the Economic Community of West African States and the Head of the Statistical Centre of the the West African Economic and Monetary Union. The regional databases are already benefiting from such an approach.
2. In January 2016, the Subregional Office for West Africa, in collaboration with the Social Development Policy Division, contributed to the launch of the process of preparing the African Gender and Development Index of the Niger in Niamey. The main objectives of that high-level meeting were to launch the African gender and development index implementation process in the Niger by gathering together all the actors concerned as well as to strengthen the capacities of the actors in order to ensure a better supervision and appropriation of the process.
3. In July 2016, the Subregional Office for West Africa contributed to the first statutory meeting of the West African Monetary Agency, which took place in Conakry and involved the representatives of the ministries of economics and finance.
4. As one of the key strategies for the revival of the statistical data collection mechanism, which is currently under way, the Subregional Office for West Africa signed a new cooperation framework with the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa in Niamey on 22 September 2016.
5. The harmonization of forecasting methodologies and datasets in member States as part of the global strategy of producing quality and timely data was highlighted. The Subregional Office has revisited the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics, adopted by the African Union, in the West Africa subregion. The Office held an expert group meeting on an assessment and prospects of the African Charter on Statistics and the data revolution in West Africa, in Dakar, 24 and 25 November 2016.

109. The Subregional Office for West Africa has undertaken the following mitigation actions in order to reduce impacts of a number of risks that impede development activities in the subregion:

1. The socioeconomic, institutional and security environment, including after-Ebola pandemic outbreak in the subregion, are characterized by continual threats imposed by the criminal activities of the group known as Boko Haram with some attacks perpetrated against member States (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger). The situation calls for reinforcement of the Office business continuity mechanism when full support is given to the United Nations Joint and Integrated Strategy for resilience in the Sahel region.
2. In view of the preparation of a scoping mission and to reinforce its cooperation with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, a mission took place to N'Djamena in November 2016. Frequent threats imposed by criminal activities of the Boko Haram sect in the West Africa subregion were among the issues discussed. That situation jeopardizes ongoing efforts to advance the structural transformation of economies in the region. Hence, stakeholders are called for extended partnership in order to efficiently overcome the challenges.
3. Owing to an increasing change or mobility of focal persons for statistical data collection, a continuous engagement is needed to reinforce statistical data collection mechanism.

3. Subregional Office for Central Africa

110. During the period under review, the Subregional Office for Central Africa produced several reports, organized one ad hoc expert group meetings, two high-level policy dialogues and one consultative meeting. The Subregional Office for Central Africa also undertook advisory services and continued to disseminate information and knowledge in central Africa. In the same vein, the office engaged in additional activities jointly with ECA substantive Divisions in support of member States and regional economic communities.

111. Subregional Office for Central Africa produced four country profiles for Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Sao Tome and Principe, respectively. It also produced Quarterly Updates of those country profiles. All the associated activities and, notably, the choice of the thematic for each country profile were conducted in close collaboration with the main data providers in the respective countries.

112. Subregional Office for Central Africa organized an ad hoc expert group meeting in Brazzaville, held 13 and 14 December 2016 to review the report on the status and prospects of the implementation of the African mining vision in Central Africa. Participants recommended that some key issues be included in the analysis, such as mineral development and artisanal mining, with the view to improving the report. They also urged regional economic communities, member States and development partners to accelerate the implementation of the African mining vision in Central Africa. In particular, the African Minerals Development Centre was invited to ensure greater popularization of the African mining vision within countries by organizing more training sessions on mining contracts negotiation.

113. The seventh session of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism for the Support of the United Nations System for the Implementation of the African Union and NEPAD Programmes in Central Africa was held on 6 and 7 December 2016 in Libreville. The objective of the meeting was to reflect on how the United Nations system could support subregional institutions through the Subregional Coordination Mechanism in the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The participants highlighted that the elaboration of the successor to the Indicative Joint Programme 2013–2016 would provide an opportunity for the subregion to take into account the priorities identified under those two international agendas. They suggested that, in the interests of deeper knowledge and ownership of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the capacities of member States and the regional economic communities be strengthened with the support of technical and financial partners,

including those outside the United Nations system. At the end of the discussions, a road map for the development of the next indicative programme was adopted. African countries were also called on to generate better quality data as well as to set up strong and effective national planning institutions with political legitimacy.

114. In line with the ECA campaign approach, the Subregional Office for Central Africa has built on the policy challenges identified in its country profiles of the Congo and Gabon in order to organize policy dialogues on two topics, namely: developing transport infrastructure for meeting the challenge of structural transformation of the Congo; and developing the timber industry to support the structural transformation of Gabon. The dialogues offered platforms to deepen the understanding of the development problematic confronting the selected countries as well as explored policy options to address the topical challenges of diversifying through the timber industry (Gabon) and enabling infrastructure to accelerate structural transformation. The events attracted the participation of high-level government officials. They culminated in the identification of follow-up workstreams that the office is already working on and include study tours on corridor development for Congo and cluster development studies for the timber industry in Gabon.

115. On 9 June 2016, the Subregional Office for Central Africa, in collaboration with the Capacity Development Division of ECA, organized a high-level policy dialogue that gathered close to 40 senior State planning officials from across Africa to share views and best practices on urbanization and development planning for its potential to deliver growth, improve livelihoods and accelerate structural transformation. The dialogue, which is the fourth instalment of a continent-wide initiative by ECA for policy coherence in Africa, provided a platform for countries to share experiences as they come to terms with the stark reality that they cannot effectively emerge if they continue to overlook urbanization concerns in development planning. The participants proposed that decision makers and policymakers make use of geospatial information to tease out the challenges and opportunities brought by urbanization. They also underscored the need to improve the connectivity of urban areas to rural, regional and global spheres in order to attract investments. The value of such connectivity could not be overstated, given that better connectivity would go hand in glove with greater regional integration and cooperation, which are crucial for shared infrastructure such as energy supply and for overall growth. Moreover, participants commented that since urbanization is cross-cutting, it requires national planning to achieve effective intersectoral coordination.

116. Advisory services were provided in support of post-conflict countries in Central Africa during the round table organized by United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community of Central African States, held in Yaounde, 18 and 19 October 2016, on the topic of regional integration, an essential lever for peace and development in Central Africa. The regional integration index of ECA was presented during the round table.

117. Pursuing its effort to support regional integration in Central Africa, the Subregional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community of Central African States signed an aide-memoire on 8 December 2016 to strengthen their cooperation in areas including infrastructure development, information and communication technology, energy, governance, peace and security, trade and access to markets, environment, agriculture and food security, rationalization of the Regional Economic Commission, and statistics. Moreover, the Subregional Office for Central Africa and organizations in the United Nations system in the subregion reiterated their support of the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

118. The Subregional Office for Central Africa continued its efforts to disseminate information and knowledge through its website, library, knowledge-sharing platforms and publications.

119. The activities carried out by the Subregional Office for Central Africa contributed to strengthening the capacity of regional economic communities and

member States to formulate harmonized macroeconomic and sectoral policies, to sensitizing various stakeholders on regional integration, structural transformation, post-conflict, sustainable development, and to disseminating knowledge and information.

120. Some of the challenges facing the Subregional Office include its relatively high vacancy rate and the unavailability of timely and current data for country profiles, notwithstanding the close collaboration and engagement with national statistics offices. The problem is structural in nature.

121. Moreover, delivery of the subprogramme faces inherent risks. Threats of instability in post-conflict countries and the level of willingness on the part of member States and organizations to strengthen subregional cooperation could hamper the effective and efficient delivery of the subprogramme. For example, political instability in the Central African Republic presents a clear threat to the economy of that country and repeated attacks by Boko Haram could seriously hamper the stability of Cameroon and Chad. More significantly, the Central African Republic is the host country of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, a major partner of the Subregional Office for Central Africa.

122. As a lesson learned, the role of ECA as a think tank is increasingly being recognized across the entire subregion. Member States and regional economic communities have expressed interest in establishing closer collaboration with ECA. The presence of the Commission beyond the host country is being requested by many countries in Central Africa. With new staff on board, it will be easier for the office to be more client-oriented.

4. Subregional Office for Eastern Africa

123. The twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa, held in Nairobi, 8-11 February 2016, focused on institutions, decentralization and structural transformation in Eastern Africa. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa was an opportunity for reflection and dialogue about the role of institutions and decentralization in structural transformation. The event was attended by more than 300 participants representing the 14 member States covered by the office, policymakers, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, media, private sector, academia, think tanks and other stakeholders.

124. As a follow-up to the twentieth Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa developed a programme entitled: "Pathways to Structural Transformation in Eastern Africa". The overarching objective of the programme is to help support the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the twentieth Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa (referred to as the Nairobi Agenda) in the 14 member States served by the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa. Beyond the scope of the twentieth Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa and its theme, the programme aims to create platforms to document, analyse and discuss issues on structural transformation in the region.

125. During the period under review, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa has produced and disseminated country profiles for Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Following the launch of the country profiles in Addis Ababa in March 2016 at the Conference of Ministers, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa has continued to share those products at different platforms across the region. For example, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, the Rwanda country profile was launched during a high-level policy debate on structural transformation and green industrialization, organized by the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa in Kigali in May 2016. The dissemination process for the country profiles has been replicated in Kenya and Uganda and has also attracted high-level participants, the latter case leading to an invitation to present the report to

parliamentarians of the Government of Uganda. Several other country profiles are currently being drafted or are being reviewed (for Burundi, Djibouti, Madagascar and Somalia), and drafts shared with government officials. Data continue to be a challenge for some of the countries in Eastern Africa, limiting the desired level of analysis, especially for country profiles. Greater coordination with substantive divisions in Addis Ababa is required on a number of key outputs, particularly the composite indexes (the African regional integration index, the African gender and development index and the African social development index), on which the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa is expected to collaborate.

126. Furthering the theme on the challenges to achieving a faster pace of structural transformation, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa has also collaborated with UNCTAD in hosting two policy dialogues (in July and December 2016), using as an opening the launch of two of their annual flagship publications: *Economic Development in Africa 2016 - Debt Dynamics* and *Development Finance in Africa and Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The path to graduation and beyond: Making the most of the process*. Both events were well-attended by government officials, partners from think tanks and were covered in the media.

127. Under the thematic areas of “blue economy energy” and “sustainable tourism”, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa developed a number of publications, tools and policy documents that have resulted in follow-up and capacity-building interventions at the regional and country levels. A few are highlighted below:

128. **Blue economy:** During the inaugural Africa Development Week held in April 2016, in Addis Ababa, Africa’s Blue Economy; a Policy Handbook was launched, aimed at assisting member States in mainstreaming blue economy concepts and principles into their national strategies and policies. It complements the background study on the blue economy presented during the nineteenth Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, held in Madagascar in March 2015, and has generated momentum on the theme among countries and organizations such as Kenya, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Commission. Staff members representing the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa attended and made a presentation of the Blue Economy Policy Handbook at the Regional Workshop of the Indian Ocean Commission on 12 and 13 December 2016. The main recommendations of the meeting, attended by all member States (the Comoros, France³, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles), included the strengthening of cooperation between ECA and the Indian Ocean Commission in disseminating the Handbook in the subregion and using it as a methodological tool towards the development of an Indian Ocean Commission regional action plan on the blue economy.

129. **Energy:** The Subregional Office for Eastern Africa supported EAC member States in developing an Energy Security Policy Framework. Individual member States are also being supported through, for example: a framework for sustainable deployment of renewable energy technologies in Rwanda; a national solar energy strategy and action plan for Rwanda; and an energy resources assessment and development planning advisory service to Djibouti. A regional energy workshop was held in Rwanda, 13 and 14 June 2016, bringing together experts and stakeholders from EAC, and EAC partner States, to validate the energy security policy framework for the EAC region. That work was undertaken by the partnership of EAC and the Subregional Office. At the validation meeting, the policy framework was well received and comments were contributed relating to its enhancement and submission to the EAC Energy Sector Council in September. At the Africa Power Summit 2016, Subregional Office for Eastern Africa was invited and participated from 25 to 27 October 2016. The meeting hosted about 75 participants from Africa, including government and private sector players. During the Summit, the Subregional Office was given a platform to discuss energy security policy in Eastern Africa, and its

³ France was represented by its overseas territory, Reunion Island.

implications for Africa. Furthermore, during the high-level panel, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa further highlighted the importance of renewable energy deployment as African countries make headways in terms of renewable energy capacity expansion, in line with the sustainable energy for all agenda.

130. Sustainable tourism: After the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Sustainable Tourism Master Plan was launched, several capacity development initiatives were provided to member States in the subregion. A regional tourism workshop that brought together over 90 tourism stakeholders drawn from the Eastern Africa region was organized in Kigali, 1 to 3 June 2016. The workshop addressed issues relating to marketing regional tourism products, establishment of an umbrella regional tourism body, tourism safety and security, development of sustainable tourism toolkit and tourism satellite accounting, particularly on the need for good quality tourism data to inform appropriate policy formulation. In addition, the High-level Panel on Marketing Regional Tourism Products: Challenges and Opportunities, was organized, which brought together discussants from the region. There are emerging opportunities being brought about by regional integration and the growing middle class in Africa that has increased demand for tourism services. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Knowledge Delivery of ECA handed over the Tourism Master Plan to the Minister of Tourism and Culture of Ethiopia. The handover ceremony took place during a United Nations–WTO regional workshop on tourism, held in Addis Ababa, on 15 September 2016.

131. The Subregional Office for Eastern Africa was invited to make a presentation on sustainable tourism, economic development and poverty alleviation at the first Annual Southern Africa Sustainable Tourism Forum. The meeting took place on 16 and 17 November 2016, and was hosted by the Regional Tourism Organization for Southern Africa, an arm of the Southern Africa Development Community. The aim of the conference, which mainly drew over 60 participants from 15 member States of the Southern Africa Development Community, was to share experiences of best practice on sustainable tourism development in Southern Africa and beyond.

132. An important advisory service rendered to the Government of Rwanda is a Market Analysis Study for Rwandan Exports to Angola and Gabon. That was a response to a request made by the Government of Rwanda to ECA as a follow-up to Rwanda's decision to re-join the Economic Community of Central African States and the subsequent high-level dialogue between the Government of Rwanda and ECA, held in Addis Ababa in February 2015, as well as the workshop on accelerating growth in Rwanda, held in Rubavu, Rwanda, in December 2015. The study was carried out in two phases. Phase 1 was a desk-based analysis of trade profiles for all countries in the Economic Community of Central African States region and identification of potential trade opportunities for Rwanda in the Economic Community of Central African States region. For that phase, ECA produced a study, entitled: "Looking West? – Potential Market Opportunities for Rwandan Exporters in the Economic Community of Central African States region: A Scoping Study". On the basis of the findings of the first phase of the study, market penetration assessments were identified during the second phase for Angola and Gabon with a focus on the key commodities.

133. In collaboration with colleagues from Macroeconomic Policy Division of ECA, the MDGs to SDGs/Agenda 2063 Transition Report 2016 was launched on 27 October 2016 at the Kigali Convention Centre. The purpose of the launch was to increase awareness of the findings of the report among countries in the subregion. The function was attended by several high-level participants, with the Government represented by the Minister of State for Local Government. The One UN in Rwanda was represented by the Resident Coordinator. In addition, those in attendance included the Chairperson of the Rwanda Governance Board; the Director General of Planning in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning; the Ambassador of China; a number of representatives of United Nations agencies, the African Development Bank, civil society and other institutions.

134. The annual meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa was organized by the Economic Commission for Africa, Subregional Offices for Eastern and Southern Africa and hosted by the Southern African Development Community in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 6 and 7 December 2016, on the theme of strengthening regional interventions towards attaining the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The key objective of the 2016 meeting of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism was to provide a forum for stakeholders to deliberate and make recommendations on the alignment of key flagship initiatives of the regional economic communities and the intergovernmental organizations with Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda; and on the instruments of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism (Addendum to the Business Plan, Stakeholder Mapping Study, existing partnerships) aimed at enhancing the collaboration, synergies and coherence among regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and partners around selected flagship initiatives.

5. Subregional Office for Southern Africa

135. The work of the Subregional Office for Southern Africa was geared towards assisting member States, regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations to mainstream priorities of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in their policies, strategies and plans. In particular, the work of the Subregional Office for Southern Africa focused on enhancing the capacity of member States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community to produce and disseminate quality statistics for evidence-based planning and policymaking; and also strengthening their capacity to accelerate the implementation of priority subregional initiatives. The following were the key activities undertaken and intermediate results achieved:

136. The Subregional Office for Southern Africa, upon request, provided technical advisory support to the Southern Africa Development Community in developing the action plan for implementing the Southern Africa Development Community industrialization strategy and roadmap (2015–2063). The action plan, which focuses on the first 15 years of the strategy and roadmap, seeks to establish a coherent and synergistic implementation scheme which contains strategic options and general policies towards the progressive attainment of the set time-bound targets. Support provided included reviewing, and substantively making substantive comments on the early draft action plan, attending and actively participating brainstorming sessions and high-level meetings that reviewed the draft action plan. Key input made by the Subregional Office for Southern Africa in shaping the action plan included the need to clearly spell out its guiding principles, such as inclusivity and mutuality; wealth creation; transparency and accountability; efficiency through quality and pricing; and the need to take cognizance of the dynamic nature of regional value chains. Those principles underpin the whole agenda of the industrialization strategy.

137. Furthermore, the Subregional Office for Southern Africa provided technical support to the mineral processing subcommittee meeting of the Southern Africa Development Community, including participation in a consultative meeting of the subcommittee in Gaborone in May 2016. The meeting, convened by the secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community, reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of two studies, one on profiling mineral beneficiation in the Southern Africa Development Community region; and the second on the assessment of skills in the minerals sector of the Southern Africa Development Community region. The studies, undertaken with technical support from the African Mineral Development Centre and the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, are key elements in the Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015–2063). The study on mineral beneficiation identified key value chains which the region could focus on as quick-wins in the industrialization journey and proffered recommendations on how these could be tackled including the development of a regional mining vision and a

regional beneficiation strategy. The study on skills identified gaps in the sector and called for deeper integration to facilitate movement of skills, harmonization of training curricula and the sharing of capacities to address the gaps. The subcommittee called on the African Mineral Development Centre to provide further technical support towards developing a mining vision from the perspective of the Southern Africa Development Community and an action plan as well as a costed and prioritized implementation plan for the quick-wins identified in the beneficiation study.

138. Apart from preparing quarterly updates of the 2015 edition of country profiles (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) that were finalized, published and disseminated in time for the Conference of Ministers in April 2016, the Office embarked on the process of producing the 2016 edition of country profiles for the remaining six member States (Angola, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland), as a way of influencing the policy development process at national and subregional levels. Additionally, the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, in collaboration with African Centre for Statistics, convened a Consultative Meeting on Data Collection and the Compilation of Country and Regional Profiles, which was held in Lusaka in September 2016, with the participation of national statistics offices, central banks and ministries of finance, the Southern Africa Development Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and other United Nations agencies. The meeting reviewed the six drafts of the 2016 edition of country profiles, and also discussed data collection and cooperation in Southern Africa. The meeting raised the awareness on country profiles as, in the words of the Director of the Central Statistics of Zambia: “useful tools for policy advice to member States and regional economic communities”.

139. In addition, the Subregional Office for Southern Africa organized an ad hoc expert group meeting on Harmonizing Data for Better Economic Governance in Southern Africa, in December 2016, in Lusaka. The meeting reviewed a draft study report prepared by the Office on the subject and also deepened the discussion on the role of member States, regional economic communities, the pan-African institutions and development partners in data harmonization efforts in southern Africa. The meeting also provided a useful forum for sharing best practices and experiences on strengthening national statistical systems, and the design and implementation of robust national strategies for the development of statistics. Key recommendations included the need to ensure that the coordinating role of the National Statistical Systems within the National Statistics Office is streamlined in the national legislation; introduce integrated national statistical data collection schedules as a part of multi-year statistical development programmes; and facilitate a subregional forum to promote exchange of best practices and experiences.

140. In stimulating policy and intellectual dialogue on topical and emerging development issues, the Office convened a special event: Subregional Forum on Developmental Regionalism, Peace and Economic Transformation in Southern Africa. The forum was organized in partnership with the Social Science Research Council (based in the United States of America), in collaboration with the Southern Africa Development Community, and held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, in September 2016. Among others, the forum provided a platform for sharing comparative perspectives on how inter-regional development and the global system affect the object of developmental regionalism in Southern Africa. In its outcome statement, the forum proffered key policy options and strategies on how developmental regionalism can be consummated and sustained in Southern Africa, for consideration by member States, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and development partners, in promoting of economic transformation in the subregion. The forum also provided a platform for the Subregional Office for Southern Africa staff members to present preliminary findings of their research papers.

141. The annual meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania in December 2016 and hosted by the East African Community, focused on strengthening regional interventions towards attaining Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. It led to a

common position among stakeholders on the need to align their key flagship initiatives with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and the instruments of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism, such as the Addendum to the Business Plan, in so as to enhance the collaboration, synergies and coherence among regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and partners. Consensus reached among the stakeholders included the need for the African Union Commission to engage regional economic communities to a greater extent regarding the implementation of Agenda 2063 as they do with their member States to ensure alignment and linkages of interventions of the regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations to both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063; the Subregional Coordination Mechanism business plan (2013–2017) and operational modalities to be reviewed to reflect to the current priorities of the regional economic communities and the intergovernmental organizations by ensuring that interventions at the regional and subregional levels are explicitly identified and articulated in the business plan.

142. The Subregional Office for Southern Africa provided technical support to the Southern Africa Office of the African Union in facilitating the coordination meeting on the Ratification, Domestication and Implementation of the Legal Instruments Strategy, organized jointly by the African Union, the Southern African Development Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, held in South Africa in November 2016. The meeting noted that any success in achieving objectives of the African Union and the regional economic communities lies in addressing existing gaps in the implementation of their legal instruments at the national level. As a result, a common position emerged on the urgent need to devise a coordinated strategy that can track progress in the domestication and implementation of those legal instruments. Key recommendations included the need to develop toolkits in the form of guidelines for in-country use; assigning clear roles and responsibilities to stakeholders for protocol monitoring; and developing a monitoring and evaluation system that would track domestication and implementation. The key role played by the Subregional Office for Southern Africa in facilitating this process was applauded in a letter of appreciation (22 November 2016) to ECA from the Southern Africa Office of the African Union.

H. Development planning and administration

143. The main objective of the development planning and administration subprogramme, which is managed by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, is to improve public sector management and development planning in support of economic and social transformation in Africa through training and other activities related to capacity development. The Institute's activities are organized around a portfolio of capacity development and skills training programmes, and policy research and high-level dialogue initiatives, which are aimed at supporting member States in their efforts to achieve the core goal of structurally transforming their economies and societies. It also offers on-demand advisory services to Governments and public institutions, and serves as a forum for alternative thinking on African development.

144. During the year, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning has progressed well towards its target of increasing the number of countries and sub-national regions adopting policies and measures or implementing activities in the area of development planning in line with recommendations made by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning from a baseline of 10 countries to an estimated 16 countries so far (target 25 countries). Similarly, progress has been made towards meeting the target of increasing the number of national or subregional public sector departments and institutions applying appropriate new policy approaches in planning and analysis as a result of the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning from a baseline of 23 to an estimated 27 countries (biennium target-35). The Institute also made progress

towards its target of increasing the number of countries adopting new or enhanced approaches to development policy formulation and management from a baseline of 10 to an estimated 16 countries so far (biennium target-25). An impact assessment exercise has been scheduled for the first quarter of 2017 to ascertain the outcomes. In summary, a total of 402 public officials, 40 per cent of which were female (162), benefited during the reporting period from training sessions provided by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in skills relevant to economic management and development planning. Specifically, participants received skills trainings in areas ranging from the formulation, analysis, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and negotiation of a number of macroeconomic issues as well as sectoral policies, including gender, economic policies for employment, public debt management, regional integration, trade policy, industrial policy, agricultural policy, minerals policy, migration and population, energy policies, development planning, data analysis and microeconomic modelling, social policy, youth and employment, land investments, minerals governance, gender and the environment, and natural resource management. In line with the strategy of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to offer training to personnel in relevant skills that can be of immediate use by member States as they implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, a new course was delivered on domestic resource mobilization and investment, with a key module on illicit financial flows and linked to the structural transformation agenda of Africa.

145. Complementary to the training sessions, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning organized eight development seminars and policy dialogue sessions, which attracted up to 550 participants from across the continent and beyond, including public officials, policymakers, experts, academics, and representatives from the private sector and civil society. The events provided an occasion to reflect on how to improve development policies. They focused on challenges and opportunities pertaining to the structural transformation agenda, such as the developmental State, industrialization, intra-African trade, private sector development, land policy and governance, natural resources management, minerals fiscal policy, international economic negotiations, corporate governance and migration for development. The events served to influence policy in domains ranging from minerals, industry, regional integration and trade, agriculture, public debt, public finance, resource mobilization and investment. In addition, the seminars and dialogue sessions provided the Institute with an opportunity to broaden its engagement with various other stakeholders, allowing them to contribute to policy review, design and implementation processes. The level of engagement of senior officials at the events is suggestive of their involvement in policy matters and hence prime evidence of the events' influence in policy. Specifically, a round table dialogue session, which was organized within the framework of the course on fundamentals of development planning, held from 2 to 13 May 2016, focused on the Experience of Senegal in Sectoral Planning: The Case of the Agricultural Sector. The session attracted senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, who shared experiences and engaged the course participants on the successes and challenges of sectoral planning. In support of the push towards a unified market (the Continental Free Trade Area) in Africa, the Institute held a round table policy dialogue on the premises of the African Continental Free Trade Area: "What remains to be done?", where participants examined and proposed solutions to the challenges being faced in the negotiations and implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area.

146. Additionally, the Institute for Economic Development and Planning partnered with the African Union Commission to host a meeting of the Scientific Committee of the African Integration Development Review from 19 and 20 October 2017, and the first edition of the Forum on the Evaluation of the Minimum Integration Programme on 20 and 21 October where complex regional and continental integration challenges were discussed. Furthermore, the Institute for Economic Development and Planning collaborated with the Subregional Office for West Africa to disseminate three ECA flagship reports published this year, namely the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa: Greening Africa's Industrialization, the fourth edition of the African

Governance Report on Measuring Corruption in Africa: the International Dimension Matters and the country profile for Senegal. Following the launch and deliberations, policymakers were called upon to translate the recommendations of the Economic Report for Africa into concrete actions. ECA was requested to follow up on the implementation of the actions by individual countries and subregions. The Institute for Economic Development and Planning also collaborated with the Capacity Development Division of ECA on the high-level launch on the theme: 16: Infrastructure Projects for African Integration, held on 15 December 2016 in Dakar at the request of the President of the Republic of Senegal, Mackey Sall.

147. In collaboration with the University of Johannesburg, the Institute for Economic Development and Planning officially launched a Master of Philosophy programme in Industrial Policy on 18 April 2016, with a first cohort of up to 20 public officials (10 fully sponsored by the Institute) from the five subregions of the African continent. Senior officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry of South Africa attended the event on behalf of the Minister and pledged the Ministry's support to this unique programme. The programme's unique appeal lies in its emphasised focus on training the next generation of leaders equipped with skills and knowledge on how to guide Africa in its industrialization efforts. It also benefits from direct access to relevant policy research and lecturers from ECA in addition to the University's strong faculty. On the back of the success of the first Master's programme, negotiations for a second Master's Degree focusing on mining policy and minerals governance have commenced and a memorandum of understanding is currently under review for formalization.

148. Significant progress has been made in the development of an e-learning platform. A new division focusing on knowledge management and information technology and communication has been created to champion the programme. Subsequently, a training specialist was engaged to undertake an assessment of the relevance and impact of the programme of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning as well as to design a roadmap for the implementation of the e-learning programme. Results of the assessment strongly highlighted the increasing demand and high regard for the interventions of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning by member States and therefore support the need to expand reach as well as attain a more gender-balanced participation through the development of an e-learning platform, which is anticipated to be operational by mid-2017. Alongside that project, the Institute for Economic Development and Planning collaborated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to launch its e-learning programme on 26 September 2016. The 2015 edition of the flagship publication of ECA, Economic Report on Africa: Industrialization through Trade, was available at the event and fulfilled the function of knowledge product for instruction. As a clear reflection of the relevance and interest generated by the publication, there were a total of 505 applications (340 for English and 165 for French) for the 250 spots available (split equally). The Institute for Economic Development and Planning has further moved to address this demand for skills and knowledge by embarking on the digitization of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning Library, a repository that holds rich resources and publications going back to the 1960s. The first phase, comprising of preparatory cataloguing, indexing and sorting of relevant and digitizable material is complete and has yielded over 400,000 pages of historical materials requiring conversion to electronic media to be made widely accessible to the public. The second phase, that is, digitization, is expected to take place over most of 2017, owing to the volume of documents.

149. The Institute for Economic Development and Planning continues to expand its presence in the collaborative network of centres of excellence such as universities, research centres, think tanks and civil society organizations across the continent. During the period under review, the Institute, through ECA, signed partnership agreements with the African Institute of International Law and the University of Geneva. Processes are also under way to consolidate collaborations with the Macroeconomic and Financial Institute Management for Eastern and Southern

Africa, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, the Pan-African Parliament, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The Institute has also collaborated on various matters with the University of Manchester and Tsinghua University of China.

I. Social development policy

150. The subprogramme provides support to member States in the design of targeted policies and strategies to realize an inclusive, equitable human and social development agenda. It has helped to raise the profile of social development at regional, subregional and national levels. Its work on social development supports the global and continental development agendas, namely, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, through its analytical and research work, provision of demand-based advisory services, generation of high-quality knowledge products, strengthening of national capacities, policy dialogues and advocacy, and strengthening of data systems.

151. The activities and the significant results achieved in 2016 are organized under six categories.

1. Analysis, research and technical backstopping

152. Two studies on the cost of hunger in Africa were launched in Chad and Ghana. They were part of a larger project undertaken in partnership with the World Food Programme, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. The launches stimulated interest and discussion among policymakers and various stakeholders in the two countries on the need to tackle under-nutrition decisively.

153. The third review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing is under way and is in response to the call at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development to the United Nations system to assist countries to undertake and build their capacities to review the implementation of the Plan of Action on Ageing every five years.

154. In recognition of the relevance and critical role of older persons in achieving the demographic dividend in Africa, a research report was prepared on ageing and development in the small islands developing States of Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, and Sao Tome and Principe.

155. A number of initiatives to address the opportunities and challenges of international migration in Africa are being undertaken in response to a resolution to establish a high-level panel on migration endorsed at the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which took place in Addis Ababa in March and April 2016. A secretariat is being set up within the Social Development Policy Division of ECA to support the work of the high-level panel, and ECA is currently developing a comprehensive programme on migration with a strong African narrative.

156. In recognition of the current and future population structure of Africa for the next 50 years, the Social Development Policy Division of ECA is engaged with member States on the need for inclusiveness and “leaving no-one behind”; the approach is to examine the demographic dividend in the context of socioeconomic and gender inequalities so as to harness the demographic dividend. Projects include:

157. Technical backstopping of the African Union Sub-Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, and, specifically, its Housing and Urban Development Sub-Committee, for the development of the common African position towards housing and sustainable human settlements, known as the Habitat III Agenda. The Heads of State Summit recognized the role of ECA in facilitating a coordinated framework for African engagement in the process arising from the third United Nations Conference on

Housing and Sustainable Human Settlements (Habitat III) process, and member States responded positively to the common African position.

158. Leading the Africa regional review process for the development of the New Urban Agenda, which was adopted at the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Human Settlements (Habitat III) in October 2016, the Division prepared the Africa Regional Report of Habitat III in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and organized consultations with national experts and other stakeholders as part of the process.

159. Undertaking research and developing knowledge on industrialization and urbanization in the context of preparing the 2017 edition of the Economic Report on Africa, which analyses the drivers, enablers and levers of the urbanization and industrialization processes to help frame policy recommendations. The report will be shared with ministers of finance, planning and economic development in March 2017.

160. Participation in and providing inputs into the technical review of the African Union Five-year Priority Programme on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development for Africa. The contributions of ECA were acknowledged and appreciated by the African Union Commission.

2. Development of tools, manuals and guidelines

161. As part of the generation of high-quality knowledge products, three subregional reports on the African social development index for Southern, Eastern and North Africa were produced and launched. The launches were well attended by senior government officials from participating member States, and various stakeholders, and were extensively covered by the media at national, subregional and regional levels thus increasing the policy outreach and influence of the work of ECA. Policymakers found the reports very informative and relevant to their own policymaking processes in dealing with inclusive development.

162. The development of the Operational Guide for Implementing and Monitoring the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014, which offers member States clear and specific guidance for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration.

3. Policy dialogue, outreach and partnerships

163. The regional policy forum on tackling inequalities within the context of structural transformation in Africa was organized jointly with the Society for International Development, which drew participants from within and outside Africa. The points arising were framed so as to contribute to the discussions of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, both of which place a high premium on addressing inequality.

164. A number of communication and dissemination tools are currently being developed around the African social development index, including a webpage, a mobile application and an online platform and e-forum, to increase outreach and foster policy debate around issues of inclusion and equality in Africa. The tools will be developed and become operational during 2017.

4. Capacity-building

165. In response to requests for capacity-building on the process and application of the African social development index from member States, regional economic communities and other pan-African institutions, the Social Development Policy Division rolled out customized trainings to government officials from Botswana, Kenya and Mauritania. Other capacity-building workshops were held for members of parliament of the Pan-African Parliament, the secretariat of NEPAD and the secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Training on the African social development index was also delivered for senior and middle-level officials and development planners from 20 countries in Africa at a course on social

policy for development planners organized by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

166. Such training activities have increased the visibility and impact of the work of ECA and has led to increased demand-driven technical assistance to various clients, including, among others, member States and regional economic communities, in monitoring human exclusion, and has helped to improve the status of ECA in member States, in terms of policy influence, credibility and advocacy. For example, Kenya intends to use the African social development index to inform its fiscal decentralization programmes at the subnational levels to allocate resources to priority areas. Botswana has also indicated that it will use the African social development index results to inform the formulation of its 2036 national vision plan, currently under preparation, particularly in dealing with social development challenges as identified by the African social development index.

167. Strengthening the capacities of member States in designing and implementing strategies and policies for inclusive and sustainable cities in five African countries (Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Morocco, Uganda and Zambia) to enhance the capacities of policymakers to integrate urbanization in national development strategies to promote inclusive and sustainable cities, building on experiences and good practices from Africa and other world regions.

5. . Strengthening data systems

168. In view of the implementation and monitoring responsibilities of member States on targets on cities and human settlements in the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the fifth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa unanimously endorsed the recommendation to establish an African programme on urbanization data and statistics at ECA to strengthen the capacity of countries to harmonize urbanization concepts, indicators and methodologies, and produce and analyse urbanization data and statistics for improved national planning and policymaking in Africa.

169. As part of the Joint Labour Migration Programme for Africa, an initiative is in place to compile and produce labour migration statistics for the African continent. The working group on labour migration statistics, consisting of members from ECA, the International Labour Organization, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission, will produce biannual reports on labour migration statistics in Africa. The first report was produced in 2016 and widely disseminated among key stakeholders.

6. United Nations Development Account project

170. Strengthening capacities of governments to respond to the needs of young people through the implementation of the three-year Development Account project (2014–2017) jointly with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. The project is developing a youth policy toolbox as an interactive online platform to provide policymakers with a comprehensive resource for developing inclusive and responsive youth policies with engagement of young people. Testing and piloting of the toolbox will focus on three countries, namely, Kenya, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

171. Strengthening capacities of select countries to design and implement equality-oriented public policies and programmes through the implementation of a three-year Development Account project jointly with ECLAC to strengthen capacities in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Republic of Tanzania to conceptualize, design and implement multidisciplinary public policies oriented towards greater socioeconomic equality.

172. Strengthening capacities of governments for monitoring investments in social protection policies and programmes through the implementation of a three-year Development Account project jointly with ECLAC. Three technical missions were undertaken to Mauritania, Mozambique and Nigeria to assess the specific needs of the countries, and two more missions are planned in 2017.

II. Technical cooperation: United Nations regular programme of technical assistance and the United Nations Development Account

A. Regular programme of technical cooperation

173. The regular programme of technical cooperation continues to support four themes, namely, macroeconomic policy, regional integration and trade, development planning, and natural resources contracts negotiation, and contributes to the results under the regular programme of work of ECA.

174. The following achievements were realized during this reporting period:

175. Macroeconomic policy: ECA developed a Programme of Action for the Republic of Senegal following a scoping mission in December 2015 and a technical mission in May 2016. At the Ministry of Economic, Finance and Planning, the Director for Planning expressed satisfaction with the cooperation of ECA in matters of capacity-building.

176. In light of recent good scores with regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations (EAC, the Economic Community of West African States or the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in 2015/2016, and the Southern African Development Community), ECA organized a capacity development workshop for senior staff of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Djibouti on 2–6 May 2016. The workshop shared the current state of the economy in Africa, regional integration, Agenda 2063 and its 10-year implementation plan, the synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, industrialization, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the costs of conflict, among others. The support to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development was followed by engaging with senior policymakers on issues pertinent to the advancement of the economies of the region involved with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, through deeper regional integration and cooperation, and to enhance their understanding on the developmental challenges facing the region, and how best to formulate appropriate regional policies. ECA also drafted the capacity development strategy of the Authority, which is expected to be adopted by its member States.

177. Curbing illicit financial flows is another area where the subprogramme targeted policy influence. ECA helped organize the inaugural meeting of the Consortium to Stem Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. The meeting took place under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chair of the African Union/ECA High-level Panel On Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 13 and 14 June 2016. The Consortium will serve as a multi-stakeholder platform to leverage the partnerships established among stakeholders since the release of the High-level Panel report and in turn, providing overall strategic direction for efforts to reduce illicit financial flows from Africa.

178. ECA was also called by the African Union for technical support to Donald Kaberuka, its Special Envoy on the Peace Fund. The support explores options that member States could use to raise potential revenues to support the budget of the African Union Commission, including the peace fund. A report prepared by ECA was presented at the African Union Summit in July 2016 in Kigali. Again, such involvement showcases the policy influence of ECA as a strategic partner to the African Union.

179. In addition, ECA conducted strategic studies to generate and share knowledge that contributes to promoting structural economic transformation and sustainable development. The studies are *New fringe pastoralism: Conflict and insecurity* (2016) and *Development in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel* (2016).

180. **Industrialization (regional integration):** Following the Extraordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community, held in March 2015 in Harare, approved the Community's industrialization strategy and roadmap and reaffirmed the importance of industrial development in poverty reduction and the economic emancipation of the people of the region. The Development Community made an official request for ECA support in order to assist in the development of its action plan for the implementation of the road map and strategy for industrialization in the region. The request is evidence that ECA can effectively influence policy choices and decisions. Furthermore, it is another opportunity to reinforce the message of ECA with regard to industrialization in Africa in order to support economic transformation.

181. The secretariat of the Southern African Development Community also called on ECA to develop an ICT Observatory for the region. The observatory is being developed in support of industrialization in the Development Community as an intelligence-gathering tool. When completed, the tool will be used to inform the construction of a database, portal and the reports as well as in the operationalization of the regional ICT Observatory, thereby enhancing intra-African trade within the Southern African Development Community region.

182. The delivery of advisory services and technical assistance for Angola, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone are also an indicator of policy influence since member States called for ECA savoir-faire in trade and industrialization matters.

183. The capacity development initiatives of ECA are to support evidence-based decision-making through the production of outputs that are anchored on solid evidence. A good example is the finalization of Project 16-16-16, a strategic regional integration project in the context of PIDA. As a complement, a study on the harmonization of policies, laws and regulations to enhance investment in transboundary infrastructure will be a framework model law that can ease private sector investment in transboundary infrastructure.

184. Development planning and public administration: In 2016, the thirty-third meeting of the East African Community Council of Ministers, which met on 29 February 2016, and the seventeenth Summit of the East African Community Heads of State, which met on 2 March 2016, approved the Regional Vision for Socio-Economic Transformation and Development, referred to as EAC Vision 2050. The Secretary General of the East African Community expressed his appreciation to ECA for the invaluable technical and financial support towards the formulation of EAC Vision 2015. Based on that satisfactory collaboration, the East African Community requested ECA to support the formulation of the fifth East African Community development strategy, which strengthened further the collaboration.

185. ECA has been assisting countries in the design and support of national visions, an example of which is the technical support that ECA provided to the Government of Benin to assess the current Vision 2025 that will inform the development of the new institutional framework. The new Vision and the evaluation of the former Vision has been defined and its implementation actors were identified at all levels. ECA has supported the Republic of Guinea in the formulation of a long-term development vision, referred to as Guinea Vision 2040, as well as in its GDP rebasing effort. ECA also supported Senegal in the articulation of a programme of action in the areas of planning and statistics.

186. Similar high-level strategic outputs followed by delivery, with multi-disciplinary teams, have been entrusted to the Commission by Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria as well as other member States that are yet to receive our scoping missions, including Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, .

187. **Innovations, technology and management of natural resources in Africa:** ECA contributed to policy options through knowledge production and supporting

strategies aiming to strengthen the capacity of African countries with respect to natural resources and their management, beneficiation and value adding, particularly in the extractive sector.

188. In line with ECA's capacity development strategy, the subprogramme has used high-level policy dialogues to enable member States to fully appreciate the findings of its studies, and to brainstorm on proposed policy options in order to turn them into action. For instance, a high-level dialogue was organized on the impact of urbanization on national development planning in Africa, held in Yaoundé on 7–9 June 2016, which led to a consensus to mainstream urbanization into national development planning and strategies. In addition, a high-level policy dialogue was organized on risks in investment on transboundary infrastructure projects in Africa, held in Kigali on 17 and 18 May 2016. The dialogue called for the need to fully integrate transboundary projects into planning at the national and regional levels, and budgeting processes and taking measures to mitigate potential risks.

189. Other high-level policy dialogues have also been organized across the thematic areas of the regular programme of technical cooperation and it includes the following:

1. The annual African economic negotiations training workshop took place in Johannesburg 5–9 December 2016. The training aimed at assisting member States in the development of common positions towards international negotiations as well as in enhancing the skills of African negotiators to get optimal deals for their countries and region from bilateral and international negotiations. That, in turn, promotes policies and programmes that strengthen the process of African economic integration.
2. A macroeconomic policy dialogue for the Gambian senior policymakers held 15-17 November 2016. The purpose of the dialogue was to enhance the understanding of the senior policymakers in the Gambia on the development challenges facing the country and how best to design and formulate appropriate macroeconomic policies and strategies.
3. A policy dialogue on challenges faced by African States in mining and petroleum contract negotiations with special emphasis on stabilization clauses in Douala, Cameroon 26 and 27 October 2016. The policy dialogue has contributed to strengthening the capacity among African negotiators on key issues such as stabilization clauses by bringing together African experts and negotiators so as to allow them to exchange expertise and experience for the benefit of the continent.

B. United Nations Development Account

190. The United Nations Development Account provides a common platform for the technical cooperation work of 10 entities of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, five United Nations Regional Commissions, UNCTAD, UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNODC). It was established by the General Assembly in 1997 and is funded from the United Nations regular budget.

191. The objective of the Development Account is to fund capacity development projects in the priority areas of the United Nations Development Agenda that benefit developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The projects serve as a natural extension to the normative and policy activities of the implementing entities in their follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits in economic and social affairs. The Development Account encourages close collaboration of entities of the United Nations on innovative, strategic, cross-sectoral regional or interregional projects, which draw mainly on the technical, human and other resources available in beneficiary countries.

192. The Development Account is a critical source of funding in support of the ECA regular budget to help African member States address their capacity development priorities. In 2016, ECA has continued to implement its 12 operational projects – benefiting over 35 member States – intended to develop national policies centred on the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic).

193. Specifically, current operational projects under the United Nations Development Account have contributed to the gathering of knowledge in key areas for Africa’s transformation, such as the development of competitive regional agricultural value chains, the use of renewable energy, the effective implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism and the capacity for Governments in Africa to negotiate equitable, transparent and sustainable contracts in extractive industries. Development Account projects also contribute to the creation of knowledge through policy research and practice in the area of development planning and the production of continuous and reliable data by enhancing the capacity of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa.

194. In 2016, ECA developed seven new Development Account projects that aim at supporting member States in strengthening evidence-based policy coherence, integration and participatory implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

195. Furthermore, the Evaluation Section, in collaboration with subprogrammes and independent consultants, finalized end of project evaluations for two Development Account projects, namely innovative financing mechanisms for new and renewable energy and strengthening capacities of African policymakers to mainstream natural disaster risk reduction. The evaluations assessed and documented the performance, results and outcomes of the projects against its respective objectives and performance indicators. Findings from the evaluations revealed that the projects were well designed and achieved their objectives. One of the recommendations that came out was that gender responsiveness needed to have been strengthened in both projects and in future projects of the same nature.

196. As mentioned in the chapter on statistics, a mid-term evaluation was completed of a Development Account project on strengthening the capacity of African countries to use mobile technologies to collect data for effective policy and decision-making. It was reported by national statistics offices that in all six countries, the project is being implemented, and that they were able to save on average between 20 and 40 per cent of time in collecting and transmitting data. The evaluation also noted that the capacity-building component of the project resulted in more effective and efficient institutions that will contribute towards sustainability of the intervention beyond the lifespan of the project.