



Republic of Kenya



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

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20th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE)  
***Institutions, Decentralization and  
Structural Transformation in Eastern  
Africa***

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Ad-Hoc Expert Group Meeting (AEGM)

***From theory to practice: Unravelling sustainable  
development opportunities at county level in Kenya***

**DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE**

***9-10 February 2016, Nairobi, Kenya***

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## **I. Background and objectives of the event**

1. The Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) will hold the Twentieth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 8-11 February 2016. The ICE is the statutory organ, which meets annually to define and monitor the implementation of the work programme of the ECA Office in Eastern Africa and to discuss key issues and challenges pertaining to the economic and social development of the sub-region with the view to making appropriate recommendations to address them.

2. In 2016, the ICE will focus on the theme of *'Institutions, Decentralization and Structural Transformation in Eastern Africa'* as a way to further explore the relevance and effectiveness of decentralized political systems of governance as a means to building strong institutions<sup>1</sup>, balancing national and local interest, enhancing social equity and national unity for development, legitimizing markets and generating a "fair deal" for all. Case studies from Africa and beyond will expose the limitations and potential benefits of decentralization processes in the context of strategic planning, decision making, management and allocation of resources, delivery of services, and programme implementation.

3. The ICE will comprise plenary and breakout sessions. The AEGM titled "From theory to practice: Unraveling sustainable development opportunities at county level in Kenya" forms part of the body of the breakout sessions.

4. Kenya's decentralization is among the most rapid and ambitious devolution processes going on in the world, with new governance challenges and opportunities as the country builds a new set of county governments from scratch (World Bank 2015). In March 2013, 47 county governments were elected and were immediately required to produce their 5 year County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) as well as other sectoral plans as a condition to access funds. Programme planning became a challenge in most counties exacerbated by lack of harmonized financial templates that could provide a good learning basis for planning purposes.

5. The AEGM will take stock of the devolution process in Kenya and provide a forum to discuss success stories, good practices and constraints in promoting sustainable development at county level with the view to distilling lessons and generating policy insights to optimise the outcomes of decentralisation across Eastern Africa.

## **II.. Proceedings**

6. The AEGM will include presentations by Kenya's Ministry of Devolution and Planning, country representatives, the UNDP office in Kenya, and the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining of the Sustainable Minerals Institute of the Queensland University.

7. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning will share their experience in spearheading devolution in the country and showcase challenges and opportunities related to the preparation of five-year County

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<sup>1</sup> See Dani Rodrik book 'One Economics Many Recipes: Globalisation, Institutions and Economic Growth' chapter 5 on 'Institutions for High-Quality Growth'.

Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and other relevant county plans aimed to streamline interventions for enhanced structural transformation.

8. UNDP will showcase the Turkana County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) as a an example of contribution of the UN family towards devolution efforts, highlighting related lessons learnt and achievements. UNDP will also present the initiative spearheaded in collaboration with the Ministry of Devolution and Planning on the establishment of County Business Development Centres (CBDCs) aimed to promote inclusive economic growth and job creation at the county level through empowering micro, small and medium enterprises (MSEs), small holders, youth and women to access and leverage economic opportunities.

9. The Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRMI) of the University of Queensland, in collaboration with the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) and Institute for Security Studies (ISS) will present the findings of a UK DFID East Africa Research Hub (EARH) project on *"The impact of extractive industries on political settlements and conflict in East Africa"*, with case studies of Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda. The research focuses on how political settlements shape and are shaped by extractive industries at national and subnational levels, with a view to better understanding and influencing the course of mining, oil and gas governance in East Africa. Kenya's political decentralisation process is considered in light of significant oil and gas discoveries and infrastructure development.

### **III. Expected outcomes of the event**

10. It is expected that the AEGM will contribute to a better understanding of the role of devolution in Kenya and its contributions to national development and structural transformation. This body of information and practice will provide the basis to distil appropriate lessons and policy insights to optimise the development outcomes of decentralisation processes across Eastern Africa.

### **VII. Participants**

11. Expected participants include representatives from Eastern Africa member States (including from national and sub-national jurisdictions such as counties), Regional Economic Communities, Inter-governmental Organizations, CSOs, private sector, media, academia, and other stakeholders.

**The provisional programme of work of the AEGM is included in Annex 1.**

## **Annex I - Provisional Programme of Work**

### **Tuesday 9 November 2015**

- 14.30-15.15: Presentation by the Ministry of Devolution and Planning on "The devolution framework in Kenya: Challenges and opportunities related to the development of County Integrated Development Plans (CDIPs)"
- 15.15-16.00: Presentation by county representative on experience in developing and implementing a CDIP.
- 16.00-17.45: Discussions including tea/coffee break (30 minutes)

### **Wednesday 10 November 2015**

- 9.00-9.45: Presentation by UNDP on Turkana CDIP
- 9.45-10.30: Presentation by UNDP on County Business Development Centres (CBDCs)
- 10.30-12.30: Discussions including tea/coffee break (30 minutes)
- 12.30-14.00: Lunch
- 14.00-15.00: Presentation by CSRM, KIPPRA and ISS: DFID East Africa Research Hub "Evidence synthesis on extractive industries, political settlements and conflict in East Africa: lessons for inclusive development at national and subnational levels".
- 15.00-17.00: Discussions including tea/coffee break (30 minutes)
- 17.00-17.30: Wrap-up & conclusions