

## **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)**

### **Support for NEPAD**

#### **Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008**

ECA's mission is aligned with the priorities of the AU and its NEPAD programme, with a focus on two related areas, namely; promoting regional integration in support of the AU vision and priorities, and helping meet Africa's special needs and global challenges in support of NEPAD implementation, through knowledge generation, sharing and networking, advocacy and consensus building, and through technical cooperation.

#### **Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of AU and NEPAD**

In collaboration with other UN agencies, ECA organized the Eighth Regional Consultation Meeting of UN agencies and organizations in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme in November 2007. The meeting provided the opportunity to build on the achievements of the Seventh RCM and to deepen partnerships with the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat. There was high-level representation from the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and most UN agencies. Also represented were the RECs, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other multilateral agencies.

ECA's Sub Regional Office in Southern Africa (SRO-SA) in collaboration with the World Bank and the IMF, prepared the 2007 review of macro-economic policy and institutional convergence. The report was endorsed by the representatives of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Member States. A comprehensive five-year implementation plan was also developed on mining for the subregion with UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, ILO, and SADC.

In collaboration with ITU, the AU Commission, AfDB, the UN Global Alliance on ICT and Development (GAID) and the Digital Solidarity Fund, ECA organized the Connect Africa Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, in October 2007. The Summit was aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources required to close ICT gaps throughout Africa and adopted five goals to facilitate participation of the continent in the Knowledge Economy.

UNDP, the AU Commission and the government of Kenya, along with ECA, organized an ad hoc expert group meeting on progress review of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in Africa in February 2007. This allowed African trade experts to assess progress and coordinate efforts in negotiations. Furthermore, in collaboration with UNDP, UNIDO, the AU Commission, the World Bank and FAO, ECA organized another ad hoc expert group meeting on sensitive products in WTO negotiations. The meeting provided more insights into methods of designing product lists, as well as coordination mechanisms at subregional level.

Within the framework of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), activities carried out in collaboration with UN agencies (UNDP, FAO, IFAD and UN-HABITAT, and the International Land Coalition) included sub-regional assessments and consultations in Southern Africa, which contributed to consensus building and raised the profile of the dialogue on land policy issues. Another joint effort was the Expert Group Meeting on Land Policy Indicators which came up with plausible mechanisms and strategies for the development of regional and national indicators for land policy, an initial set of benchmarks and a list of indicators for measuring progress.

### **Institutional support and technical assistance to the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)**

ECA convened an ad hoc Expert Meeting on the Challenges and Prospects in the Implementation of NEPAD in June 2007, with the following main outcomes: a clear identification and understanding of the challenges to the implementation of NEPAD programmes, articulation of policy measures to accelerate implementation and the adoption of a set of recommendations and modalities for their implementation. These proposals were compiled into a report entitled: *“Prospects and challenges in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development”*.

ECA’s Sub Regional Office in Central Africa (SRO-CA) assisted the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to conduct technical studies with a view to formulating policies in the following areas: rationalization of RECs in Central Africa, strategic vision, water resources management, trade promotion and air transport network, which were presented to the technical committee of experts. Based on the recommendations of the experts, the Heads of State of ECCAS adopted the strategic vision for the Community, together with the sectoral policies, and established a steering committee in charge of the rationalization of RECs in Central Africa. SRO-CA also organized two ad hoc expert group meetings on the harmonization of the trade policy instruments of CEMAC and ECCAS, which resulted in consensus between the two RECs for the adoption of common rules relating to five free trade area instruments: (i) rules of origin, (ii) certificates of origin, (iii) procedures for agreement to the preferential tariff regimes, (iv) compensation mechanisms, and (v) transit regime.

ECA’s Sub-Regional Office in Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) undertook in 2007, a policy study on “Customs Cooperation within the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC)” which provided a critical analysis of trade liberalization and proposed a roadmap to achieving a customs union in Eastern Africa by 2008.

ECA provided technical support to the AU Commission to establish on-line discussion lists, prepare substantive papers and organize ministerial conferences and meetings. Support was also provided to the NEPAD Secretariat to organize several workshops on regulation, e-governance and ICT indicators. Furthermore, ECA facilitated initiatives on the harmonization of national strategies and regulatory frameworks at the regional level, as countries deregulate and liberalize their telecommunication markets.

ECA assisted the AU Commission, RECs and member States to establish the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) Project and to design the conceptual framework of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Africa Programme.

In addition, ECA developed numerous information and knowledge resources and services to improve availability and use of information for development at the national, regional and subregional levels, namely the AFREF Project (a unified geodetic reference frame for Africa), a transportation GIS database of Central Africa, an African Profile of the International Standard ISO 19115:2003 and an MDG mapping tool.

ECA continues to play a catalytic and technical role in the development of the AUC-ECA-AfDB-GCOS Climate and Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) programme. The programme aims at strengthening the capacity of African countries, RECs and other institutions in the development and implementation of policies and programmes for improving climate observations and data, information services and risk management practices in priority sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy, health and infrastructure.

Since its establishment, ECA has participated actively in the entire APRM process. During the period under review, ECA made significant contributions towards the successful implementation of the APRM process in the form of advisory services through country support and review missions, training workshops and the development of a database of African and Diaspora experts on governance.

### **Advocacy work in support of Africa's development**

ECA successfully organized the Fifth Session of the Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration in October 2007. A major accomplishment was the ability to bring together top policy makers from member States in charge of Africa's integration and NEPAD, as well as experts from RECs, to review progress in implementing Africa's integration agenda. Of particular significance was a discussion on the AU Summit's Accra Declaration to speed up integration through the formation of the African Union Government.

As part of the series on Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA), ECA produced ARIA III in 2007. The report assesses the extent to which attempts at harmonizing macroeconomic policies at the REC level have been achieved in terms of the degree of convergence on interest rates, inflation rates, budget deficits, growth rates, current account deficits, harmonization of direct and indirect taxes, external debt and debt service ratios. ARIA publications have been used as important sources of data and information, as well as policy recommendations on regional integration.

ECA published several briefing papers, electronic material and online materials on ICT for development for use by African policymakers, planners, researchers, the media and

civil societies. Several exhibitions were also held during major conferences organized by the African Union and ECA. Furthermore, ECA's Sub Regional Office in Southern Africa (SRO-SA) organized a dissemination workshop for the e-SADC initiative, which has received the endorsement of SADC Heads of State.

ECA organized the Big Table in February 2007 on the theme of "*Managing Africa's Natural Resources for Growth and Poverty Reduction*". 52 high-level representatives of African and OECD governments, international organizations, academia, private sector and NGOs attended the event. The Big Table agreed on a new Compact and platform for action to help improve the development outcomes of natural resource-rich countries in Africa. As a follow-up, ECA organized the inception meeting of the International Study Group (ISG) to Review Africa's Mining Regimes in October 2007. The meeting agreed on the methodology, theoretical framework and the deliverables of the review exercise, as well as defined the roles and responsibilities of members of the ISG. The review exercise has commenced and is expected to conclude in June 2009.

ECA's flagship publications – *Economic Report on Africa* and *Survey on Economic and Social Development in Africa*, prepared in collaboration with the AU Commission, support NEPAD's agenda on growth and poverty reduction. Through these reports, ECA gives advice on how to improve macroeconomic policies through policy analysis and demonstration of best practices.

In collaboration with WTO, AfDB and the Tanzanian Government, ECA organized a high-level dialogue on mobilizing aid for trade with a focus on Africa in October 2007. The meeting raised awareness on the importance of trade for African development, identified priorities, highlighted the need for effective financing and reached agreement on the way forward.

Also in collaboration with other UN agencies, ECA convened the 5th Session of the Africa Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD-5) in October 2007. The Committee reviewed implementation progress in the thematic cluster covering agriculture and rural development; land, drought and desertification; and Africa. ACSD-5 also provided a platform for advocacy on key issues pertaining to Africa's sustainable development. The meeting adopted Africa's Regional Statement, which informed CSD-16 on the main regional challenges and way forward for accelerating implementation of sustainable development measures related to the thematic cluster of issues.

ECA's Executive Secretary and the Director of the International Land Coalition (ILC) co-chaired a Roundtable on Land Policy at the ECOSOC Ministerial meetings in 2007. This resulted in an issues paper on Land Policy in Africa: Securing Rights, Enhancing Productivity and Improving Livelihoods. Advocacy among African governments and other partners on the need to secure land rights in order to achieve the MDGs and other developmental targets was also achieved.