

STATEMENT ON THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE ECA
by
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

The repositioning of ECA has placed the population and development activities in the Human and Social Development Section in the African Centre for Gender and Social Development from 1 September 2006. Currently, the Commission focusses on achieving results in two related and mutually supportive areas: 1) Promoting integration in support of the African Union vision and priorities; and 2) Meeting Africa's special needs and emerging challenges.

Based on the two areas of strategic focus, the Commission's work and staff capacity has been organized in seven programme clusters: 1) MDGs, gender and social development; 2) Food security and sustainable development; 3) Economic policy analysis, trade, finance and industry; 4) ICT, science and technology; 5) Governance and development administration; 6) NEPAD, regional integration and infrastructure; and 7) Statistics and statistical capacity.

In cluster one, among other things, the Commission will focus on monitoring and tracking progress made by member States on selected major international commitments, including those on population and development.

ECA continued to implement its activities related to the HIV/AIDS Treatment Acceleration Programme (TAP) covering Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mozambique, as well as activities related to the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa (CHGA). These activities have led to policy and programmatic impacts. In particular, through regional advisory panels (RAPs) organized every six months for the TAP countries and partners, knowledge sharing has contributed to: (i) improved management of PLWAs; (ii) greater collaboration among Associations and public health institutions; (iii) scaling up access and adherence to ART; (iv) increased promotion and strengthening of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in treatment acceleration; and (v) strengthened capacity of entire health systems. In addition, advocacy activities on HIV/AIDS prevention continue to be important components of the Commission's programme.

ECA participated actively in the High Level Dialogue (HLD) on international migration and development. It participated in the preparatory activities to the HLD, and prepared a regional report on international migration and development. This report looks at the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in Africa, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in Africa; the effects of the movements of highly skilled African

migrant workers; migration and human and global security. In addition to preparing this report, ECA participated in several regional consultative processes on international migration and development.

During debates in the HLD, ECA emphasized a number of key messages. First, that international migration is a growing phenomenon in Africa and is a key component of development in both developing and developed countries if harnessed constructively. The financial and human capital of African migrants, especially remittances, can reduce poverty substantially by increasing access to education and healthcare, thus filtering directly into the achievement of the MDGs. Second, that international migration can be a positive force for development in countries of origin and countries of destination provided it is supported by the right set of policies. Third, that it is important to strengthen international cooperation on international migration, bilaterally, regionally and globally. Fourth, that respect for human rights is the necessary foundation for the beneficial effects of migration on development to accrue. ECA also used the High Level Dialogue to launch its Report on *International Migration and Development: Implications for Africa*.

On aging, ECA participated in activities aimed at preparing for the international review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing. One such activity was organized by DESA for DESA and the regional commissions to chart out the modalities for the review and appraisal.

More recently, ECA held the African Development Forum on Youth (ADF V) on the theme *Youth and Leadership in the 21st Century*. Challenges were identified in the areas of social, economic, political and cultural issues. Girls and young women in particular continue to suffer numerous disadvantages. Subsequently, the Forum drafted an action plan to drive activities directed at dealing with challenges facing the youth forward.

Work Programmes 2006-2007 and 2008-2009.

In 2007, activities started in 2006 (within programme period 2006-2007) will continue. These will include activities on HIV/AIDS, ageing and youth. On HIV/AIDS, activities on advocacy and knowledge sharing shall be strengthened; on ageing, a comprehensive report shall be produced on aging in Africa; and on the youth, focus will be put on conducting analysis of social development issues as they relate to African youth at the regional and national levels, undertaking empirical research and analysis of trends and developments and related policy issues relevant to the ECA post-ADF-V Action Plan, and preparing a report on the

African Youth Report 2007 and the Report on Youth and Employment in Africa 2007.

In 2008-2009, planned activities will be focused at generating the following outputs:

(a) Substantive servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) Substantive servicing of the first session of the Committee on Human and Social Development (2008);

(ii) **Parliamentary documentation:** report to the Committee on Human and Social Development on recent social developments in Africa (2008); annual progress report on the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategies in Africa (2008, 2009); progress report on the International Conference on Population and Development + 15 (2008);

(iii) **Five ad hoc expert group meetings:** youth employment opportunities in Africa (2009); assessing and monitoring progress of human and social development in African countries (2008, 2009); and regional meeting to review progress towards the MDGs in African countries (2009).

(iv) Functional support to the Conference of Ministers of the follow-up committee on Dakar/Ngor Declaration and International Conference on Population and Development (2008);

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Recurrent publications: The African Human and Social Development Report (2009); Report on International Migration (2008); Report on Youth Employment Opportunities in Africa (2009);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications (1): ICPD Plus 15 – African Regional Review Report (2009).

- (iii) Functional support to the Conference of Ministers on the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the International Conference on Population and Development (2009);
- (c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extrabudgetary):
- (i) Fellowships: five visiting scholars, fellows and interns to enhance capacity in poverty, social policy, population and housing census analyses;
- (ii) Field projects:
- knowledge network to create, manage and share information on HIV/AIDS, using priorities established and activities conducted by the ECA, AU and other partners (e.g. Treatment Accelerated Programme) (2008,2009).
 - Strengthening integration of population, and social policy issues in development planning.