

Regional Commissions NY Office Bulletin

Global Challenges...Regional Solutions



Year-end message

As we bid farewell to 2023, we take a moment to reflect on the work of the Regional Commissions in devising regional solutions to global challenges. This year, the world faced complex and intertwined challenges of geopolitical tensions, political instability and conflicts, persisting negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, deepening climate disaster, high inflation and commodity prices, energy insecurity, surging debt distress and shrinking growth prospects – with disproportionate impact on countries in special situations.

Against this backdrop, the Regional Commissions brought to bear their cutting-edge analytical work and convening power around regional and national priorities in such areas as financing for development, climate action, digital connectivity, trade, data and statistics, social protection, gender equality and human mobility. Their advocacy, capacity-building and technical advisory services tailored to the needs of member States, regional organizations as well as to UN country teams provided critical support to turn the tide on SDG implementation.

The Regional Commissions also played a key role in supporting the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the lead up to the 2023 High-Level Political Forum and the SDG Summit. Jointly they produced a policy brief on debt and convened a dialogue on rethinking public debt policies for the SDGs. They also issued a joint report on SDG progress and transformative pathways for selected countries and contributed to the Secretary-General's policy brief on the reform of the International Financial Architecture. In addition, they contributed

to shaping policy discourse in several high-level meetings such as the SDG Summit, High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development 2023, the 2023 UN Water Conference and the Climate Ambition Summit.

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As in previous years, we take pride in having supported the Regional Commissions in amplifying their voices on the global stage, reinforcing their partnerships, and further increasing the visibility and impact of their work.

This edition of our newsletter provides a snapshot of the Regional Commissions joint activities during the last quarter of 2023. We invite you to read and circulate the newsletter in your networks.

In 2024, ESCAP will pass the baton of the Regional Commissions' coordination to ECLAC. As we commence the New Year, we wish you a peaceful and healthy 2024 and look forward to strengthening our partnerships for a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world. Happy 2024!

opment: regional experiences to accelerate progress on the SDGs".

The Chair of the Second Committee, Ambassador Carlos Daniel Amorín Tenconi, opened the dialogue, noting the challenges of accelerating SDG investments in a very complex global context. The Executive Secretaries took the floor in turns to share insights and perspectives on solution pathways developed by the five Regional Commissions.

The Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Rola Dashti, provided an overview on challenges encountered by countries of the Arab region and the support ESCWA delivered, which included over 100 advisory services, 15 topical policy briefs and 44 capacity-development events in 2023, benefiting about 1,000 policymakers and practitioners. She also cited a recent partnership

DIALOGUE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS WITH THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
UN Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Secretary of ESCAP
Current Coordinator of the UN
Regional Commissions

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs
UN Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Secretary of ECLAC

Antonio Pedro
Acting
Executive Secretary of ECA

Rola Dashti
UN Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Secretary of ESCWA

Tatiana Molcean
UN Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Secretary of UNECE

**"Catalyzing transformative actions and integrated approaches to sustainable development:
regional experiences to accelerate progress on the SDGs"**

**78th session of the UN General Assembly
Monday, 16 October 2023
10 AM – 12 PM EST**



Flyer prepared for the Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries with the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly

Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries with the Second Committee of the General Assembly

This year's Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries with the Second Committee, which took place on 16 October 2023, focused on the theme "Catalysing transformative actions and integrated approaches to sustainable devel-

with the Union of Arab Banks which had resulted in a commitment to mobilize \$1 trillion from Arab financial institutions between 2024 and 2030 for SDG financing in the region. The Executive Secretary of UNECE, Tatiana Molcean, shared her assessment of the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts and persistent economic uncertainty on

sustainable development prospects in the region. She highlighted UNECE efforts to increase the uptake of renewables, to decarbonize the transport sector and to improve energy efficiency of buildings in the region. UNECE, through the Aarhus Convention on access to environmental information and the Espoo Convention on environmental impact assessment, was working with regional development banks and other actors to inform investment decisions. The Executive Secretary also provided examples of the application of transport conventions and trade facilitation tools administered by ECE and how that helped significantly lower costs, open new economic opportunities and boost connectivity as drivers for sustainable development in the region.

The Acting Executive Secretary of ECA, Antonio Pedro, stressed that the African Continental Free Trade Area represents Africa's Marshall Plan and ECA's support to its full implementation. The Free Trade Area, when fully implemented, would allow for the development of regional value chains and boost intra-Africa trade by more than 30 per cent by 2045, promoting industrialization, economic diversification and job creation. Mr Pedro also noted ECA support to the development of a competitive battery, electric vehicle and renewable energy value chain and to the Great Blue Wall Initiative seeking to increase marine-protected areas. On the global financial architecture, he emphasized that rising interest rates were prohibiting many African countries from accessing international financial markets and called for regional multilateral development banks to strengthen their role in directly lending to Governments at affordable rates, and on debt relief, voiced support for the Secretary-General's proposed SDG Stimulus.

Noting the slow economic growth in the LAC region over the past decade, the persistent gender gaps in unemployment levels, high informal labour rates, low investment levels and high levels of debt, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Raúl García-Buchaca, spotlighted some of the regional initiatives ECLAC was spearheading in the region. These included development of value chains and productive linkages of lithium, establishment of the

Permanent Technical Dialogue Forum on Lithium Innovation, Technological Development, and Value Addition, the operationalization of the concept of the care society, and ECLAC support to the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2024).

The Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Armida Salisjahbana, provided an overview of the challenges faced by the region, notably rising vulnerabilities and socioeconomic inequalities and the persistent digital divide. She highlighted areas where ESCAP was supporting climate action in the region, including promoting the use of renewable energy, regional power system connectivity and low emission mobility and unlocking finance for sustainable development. She also highlighted ESCAP initiative on the Green Bond Framework in Sri Lanka and Bhutan, the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway to help bridge the digital divide across and within countries in the region and the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection aimed at building and strengthening inclusive social protection systems.

Visit [RCNYO website](#) for more information, including statements and Concept Note. A full wrap up of the event is available [here](#).

Appointment and swearing-in ceremonies for the Executive Secretaries of ECA and ECE



Ms Tatiana Molcean taking the Oath of Office

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, Ms Tatiana Molcean, and

the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Claver Gatete, took the United Nations Oath of Office and were sworn on 8 November 2023 by the UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres at a swearing-in ceremony held at UN Headquarters. Ms. Molcean assumed Office on 1 September 2023 as the fifteenth Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.



Mr Claver Gatete taking the Oath of Office

Mr. Gatete took office on 1 November 2023 as the tenth Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with five sub-regional offices spread across the continent. For more information:

• [Official announcement of Ms. Tatiana Molcean's appointment by the Secretary-General](#)

• [Official announcement of Mr. Claver Gatete's appointment by the Secretary-General](#)

Commemoration of World Sustainable Transport Day in the regions

In recognition of the important role of sustainable transport systems, the 77th session of the UN General Assembly declared 26 November as World Sustainable Transport Day. In line with their mandate, the five Regional Commissions marked the first World Sustainable Transport Day through events and activities aimed at raising awareness on sustainable transport, promoting partnerships and showcasing trans-

formative initiatives.

In observance of the Day, the Regional Commissions published a joint brochure, **Messages from the United Nations Regional Commissions on Sustainable Transport**, providing an overview of the priorities of the respective regions and highlighting common messages and opportunities for action.

Below is an overview of the events organised by the Regional Commissions in commemoration of the World transport Day.

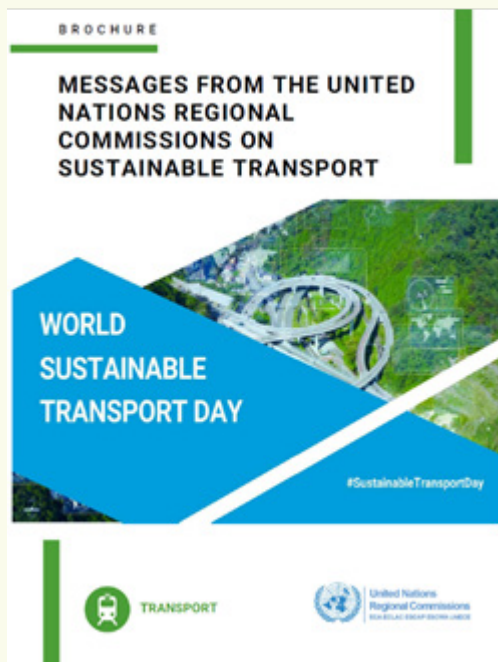
Africa region: [Sustainable Transport in Africa: Externalities, Trends and Select Action by ECA](#) held on 15 November 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Asia and the Pacific: 1) Side Event on the topic of "Transforming Commitments to Action: Low Carbon Transport Mechanisms and Initiatives" held on 15 November 2023 in Johor Bahru, Malaysia during Asia Pacific Climate Week. 2) Global Road Safety Initiative: One Earth, One Family, One Future, a 3-day meeting focusing on Vulnerable Road Users, Multi-Disciplinary Crash Investigation and Driver Licensing hosted by Institute of Road Traffic Education, in partnerships with UNECE and the Indian Ministry of Road Transport and Highways held from 4-6 December 2023 in Faridabad, India. ESCAP also launched a [series of publications](#) including seven policy briefs on transport related topics.

Arab region: Advocacy for Sustainable Transport (on the margins of the 24th session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics) to be held from 10 -11 January 2024 in Cairo, Egypt.

UNECE region: Special high-level event in commemoration of the first World Sustainable Transport Day (in cooperation with DESA) held on 24 November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Latin America and the Caribbean region: Roundtable on "Towards Inclusive, Sustainable, and Smart Cities: A National-Local Dialogue" held on 8 November 2023 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Cover page of the joint brochure, Messages from the Regional Commissions on Sustainable Transport

For more information on the Regional Commissions' work on transport in general and events and activities marking the first World Sustainable Transport Day, visit their respective websites: [ECA](#), [ECLAC](#), [ESCAP](#), [ESCWA](#) and [UNECE](#).

Thirty-Ninth Session of the ECLAC Committee of the Whole held in New York”

The 37th session of the Committee of the Whole of the ECLAC was held on 17 October 2023 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The session was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN, H.E María del Carmen Squeff, whose country is serving as the Chair of ECLAC during the period 2022-2024.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Squeff recognized the work of ECLAC since its founding 75 years ago, noting that it has been an inspiring force for various transformations in the Latin America and the Caribbean region through its innovative frameworks and evidence-based reports.

The Executive Secretary, Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, provided a comprehensive presentation to the Committee on the socioeconomic context and provided a status update on the implementation of the SDGs in the region. The Executive Secretary highlighted priority areas that must be pursued to tackle the region's structural challenges and achieve sustained and include economic growth and transformation. The priority areas included: macroeconomics for development; inequality and social mobility; regional economic integration; gaps in social protection; migration; education and vocational training; the digital transformation; gender equality and the care society; and sustainability and climate change.

The Committee of the Whole reviewed the Commissions' 2022 report and shared perspectives and constructive feedback on the work of ECLAC. At the end of the session, the Committee of the Whole approved a draft resolution adopting the Commission's programme of work for 2025.

The session was attended by representatives of 34 member countries of ECLAC, along with staff from the Commission's Secretariat.



ECLAC Executive Secretary addressing the Committee of the WholeTransport



UNECE Executive Secretary, Ms Molcean, briefing members of SPECA countries.

Briefings to the Group of Eastern European (EEG) States and the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) countries by the Executive Secretary of UNECE

The Executive Secretary of UNECE, Ms. Tatiana Molcean held her first briefings to New York-based Permanent Representatives of UNECE member States that are part of the Group of Eastern European States and SPECA (UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia) countries on 9 and 10 November 2023 respectively. In her briefing, Ms Molcean provided a comprehensive overview of the normative and standard setting work of the Economic Commission for Europe, its organizational structure, intergovernmental architecture and convening platforms for multi-stakeholder dialogue in the region and beyond. She also updated the representatives on the status of SDG implementation in the UNECE region, current priorities, opportunities, and challenges in the work of the UNECE and highlighted the Commission's key achievements with examples in the areas of reducing air pollution, sustainable transport, and forest management.

Ms. Molcean also shared her vision to make the work and broad range of normative instruments developed in UNECE more widely known and utilized for the greater good of all and that UNECE remains fit for purpose in a world of changing demands and new challenges. Representatives of SPECA members expressed appreciation for UNECE support in several areas, including trade, resilient energy systems, urban development, forest, transport and digital and green transformations. They exchanged on SPECA partnership with other regional organizations, thanks UNECE for its support to the inaugural celebration of the World Sustainable

Transport Day and welcomed a weekly bulletin from UNECE to Missions.

Representatives of EEG States welcomed the UNECE initiative to engage and expressed support to the idea of building bridges between Geneva and NY-based Permanent Missions, particularly in the context of the preparatory process to the Summit for the Future and the intergovernmental negotiations on the Pact for the Future.

Arab SMEs Summit 2023 concluded in Marrakech with \$177m pledged in support of SMEs

The 2023 edition of the Arab SMEs Summit, organised by ESCWA, in collaboration with the Kingdom of Morocco, in Marrakech from 12-14 December 2023 under the theme, "From Resilience to Prosperity", was held from 12-14 December 2023 in Marrakech, Morocco.

An annual regional platform for the empowerment of SMEs in the Arab region and beyond, the Summit created access to opportunities and strategic partnerships to drive SMEs' growth and mobilized funding commitments and support services to improve SMEs performance and expand their potential beyond borders. It also facilitated exchange of knowledge and experience among policymakers in the region with a view to strengthening the business-enabling environment for SMEs.

As part of the Summit, ESCWA, ECA and the Moroccan Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills convened a High-Level Policy Dialogue on the theme "Empowering Entrepreneurship in the Arab Region". The Dialogue focused on streamlining registration and formalization processes for

SMEs, enhancing the inclusivity of entrepreneurial opportunities and exploring prospects for regional and international cooperation.

At the closing of the Summit that was attended by about 1300 participants, ESCWA announced commitments to providing funding and support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) exceeding \$177 million. Other commitments included digitizing 200 enterprises that have not yet embraced e-commerce; and providing training for 55,000 young men and women to develop their skills.



ESCWA Executive Secretary, Ms Rola Dashti, addressing the Summit © ESCWA, 2023

For more on the Summit, visit [here](#). The Summit proceedings can be viewed at the following [link](#).

2023 African Economic Conference held in Addis Ababa

The 2023 African Economic Conference jointly organized by ECA, the African Development Bank and UNDP was held under the theme, "The Imperatives for Sustainable Industrial Development in Africa" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 16 to 18 November 2023.

The Conference provided a platform for established academics and young researchers to present their solution-oriented research to policymakers and decision-makers, and dialogue with other researchers, representatives of civil society and of the private sector

to reach consensus on strategies and policies to accelerate the inclusive and sustainable development of Africa.

The plenary session on Fostering African Industrialization Through Linkages of Small and Medium Enterprises to Global Value Chains, debated how African SMEs could shift from exporting primary commodities to engaging in global manufacturing networks, the necessary enabling environment and the benefits of horizontal integration, including sourcing locally. Experts from academia, the private sector and development finance institutions agreed that African countries must leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area and expand intra-continental trade to provide critical support for SMEs and drive the continent's industrialization.

The findings of five studies presented during the Conference showed that Africa's participation in global manufacturing value chains remained low and dominated by exports of raw materials and involvement in relatively unskilled tasks. The studies urged African countries to seize opportunities to engage more in international trade, by promoting added-value manufacturing and investing more in human capital. This will allow them to exploit the potential of industrialization, which has the power to stimulate inclusive growth in Africa.

In the margins of the Conference, the joint report, Benchmark Macroeconomic Models for Effective Policy Management in Africa, was launched by the African Development Bank Group's African Development Institute. Based



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
16-18 November 2023

on a survey of 31 African countries and to address the capacity gaps in macroeconomic modeling faced by African countries, the report provided an inventory of macroeconomic models with detailed examination of their rel-

evance to development realities. The Conference concluded with a strong call to African countries to invest in regional value chains and develop regional value chains to stimulate industrialization.

For more, visit [ECA website](https://eca.un.org/).

COP28 Special Event: Regional Platforms for Climate Finance: Unlocking climate finance flows through project acceleration

The tripartite partnership in 2022 between the five UN Regional Commissions, the COP27 Presidency and the High-Level Champions for COP26 and COP27 in 2022 involved co-organising roundtables in the five regions to source and promote quality climate projects and debating how best to build an ecosystem to scale-up project pipelines. The roundtables

Champions and the Regional Commissions have been undertaking follow-ups with proponents of the projects featured in the Compendium and potential financiers. A special event on Regional Platforms for Climate Finance was held on 4 December 2023 in Dubai took stock of progress made and discussed key learnings and successes.

The Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr Claver Gatete, the Executive Secretary of UNECE, Ms. Tatiana Molcean and the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Ms Rola Dashti spoke during the event providing perspectives barriers and solutions for scaling-up project pipelines and lessons learned from the partnership with the High-Level Champions and opportunities for acceleration post COP28.

The event brought together leaders from private financial institutions, the UN system, High Level Climate Champions for the COP27 and COP28 Presidencies.

2023 REGIONAL PLATFORMS FOR CLIMATE PROJECTS

LOCATIONS AND TIMING			
REGION	LOCATION	EVENT DATE	UN REGIONAL COMMISSION
Asia Pacific	Bangkok, Thailand	17 May 2023	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
Africa	Abidjan, Ivory Coast Nairobi, Kenya ^a	05 June 2023 04 September 2023	Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA)
Europe	Frankfurt, Germany	04 July 2023	Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago, Chile	28 September 2023	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC)
West Asia and North Africa	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	06 November 2023	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)

also facilitated “matchmaking” sessions, where project proponents present their projects and climate related initiatives to relevant financiers and investors with capital to deploy. The resulting [Compendium of Climate Related Initiatives: Opportunities for climate finance and investments on the SDGs was presented at COP27](#). In the lead up to COP28, the High-Level Climate



Regional Commissions side events and activities at COP28

- ESCWA: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/escwa-cop-28>
- ECA: <https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/cop28>
- ESCAP: <https://www.unescap.org/cop28>
- ECLAC: <https://www.cepal.org/en/info-graphics/eclac-takes-part-cop-28>
- UNECE: <https://unece.org/cop28>

Join the conversation at the 2024 Regional Forums on Sustainable Development

Organized by the five Regional Economic Commissions in collaboration with the UN development system and a wide range of partners for each region, the annual multistakeholder platforms aim to provide the space for an in-depth review of the Goals to be reviewed by the HLPF in 2024, namely SDG 1 (no poverty); SDG 2 (zero hunger); SDG 13 (climate action); SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions); and SDG 17 (partnership for the Goals). The Forums will also facilitate exchange of knowledge, best practices, and policy solutions to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with regional priorities. The 2024 editions are set to take place as follows.

Asia Pacific Region: [Eleventh session of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#)
Bangkok, Thailand from 20 - 23 February 2024

Arab region: [Tenth session of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development](#)
Beirut, Lebanon from 5-7 March 2024

UNECE region: [Eighth session of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#)
Geneva, Switzerland from 13 - 14 March 2024

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region: Seventh meeting of the LAC Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Santiago, Chile from 15–19 April 2024

Africa region: Tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Venue: To be confirmed, Week of 22 April 2024

News From Around the Regions

Supercharging Africa's Battery and Electric Vehicles Ambitions

A global transition towards green energy and rapid decarbonization has exponentially increased demand for Electric Vehicles (EVs) as well as investment in battery-powered storage systems. To advance Africa's role in meeting this demand, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Africa Finance Corporation (AFC),

and the African Union Commission (AUC) will jointly convene a high-level panel discussion on the theme Supercharging Africa's Battery and Electric Vehicle ambitions on Sunday, 3rd December at the Africa Pavilion in the Blue Zone at COP28 in Dubai.

Please visit ECA [website](#) for more Info

At Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries UNECE stresses that UN transport conventions and trade facilitation tools can help achieve better connectivity

Due to their geographical location, the world's 32 Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are facing common problems that negatively affect their economic engagement with the rest of the world. Long distances from the nearest seaports, inadequate transport and transit systems multiple border crossing and cumbersome transit procedures cause the LLDCs to incur higher transport and transit costs when compared to coastal countries.

Please visit UNECE [website](#) for more Info

Decisive action needed to harness digital trade and investment for inclusive sustainable development, finds new UN report

Digital trade and investment are driving forces of the modern economy, and growth in the Asia-Pacific region has exceeded the global average, with the region now accounting for a quarter of the US\$ 4 trillion trade in digitally deliverable products.

However, digital trade and investment remain highly uneven, according to the new Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2023/2024: Unleashing Digital Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development, produced by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Please visit ESCAP [website](#) for more Info

ECLAC Launched Platform for Cluster and Other Territorial Productive Articulation Initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) launched a Platform for cluster and other territorial productive articulation initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean, which seeks to give visibility to, enhance reciprocal cooperation between and strengthen the multiple productive articulation initiatives that are underway in the region, in addition to increasing their numbers and their contribution to Latin American and Caribbean countries' productive development.

Please visit ECLAC [website](#) for more Info

Launch of the “Arab Vision 2045” during ESCWA’s 31st Ministerial Session

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) concluded its 31st ministerial session in Cairo today. Inaugurated with a segment for senior officials, the session delved into discussions on governance challenges in the Arab region. The war on Gaza and its socioeconomic repercussions were also in focus. The “Arab Vision 2045”, jointly prepared by ESCWA and the League of Arab States (LAS), was launched during the ministerial segment that followed on the third day, with the participation of LAS Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit, ESCWA Executive Secretary Rola Dashti, Arab ministers and delegations from the Commission's member States.

Please visit ESCWA [website](#) for more Info

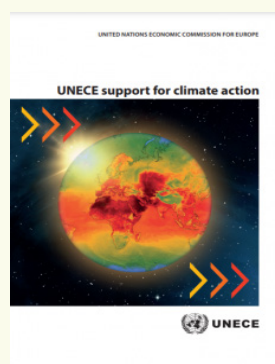
Hot off the Presses - Recent Publications



Economic Report on Africa 2023: Building Africa's resilience to global economic shocks

The theme of the 2023 Economic Report on Africa is “Building Africa's Resilience to Global Economic Shocks.” The report

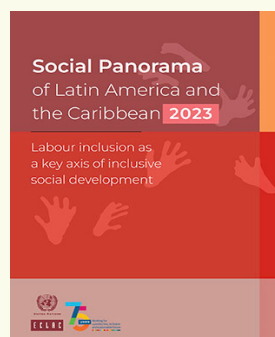
focuses on the impact of multiple and recurring global shocks on African economies. It examines how these shocks impede Africa's prospects of reaching the targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), how to achieve inclusive economic transformation and how to build resilience. The analytical and conceptual framework used in the report outlines a typology based on the magnitude of the shocks and on the resilience or preparedness of economies to withstand and buffer the shocks and identify pathways for sustainable recovery. ([DOWNLOAD](#))



UNECE support for climate action

The UNECE region is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for 34% of the world's CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion. The people of the region are increasingly feeling the impacts of climate change - from

wildfires to flooding, heatwaves and drought. ([DOWNLOAD](#))



Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2023: labour inclusion as a key axis of inclusive social development

This edition of the Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean addresses the challenges of labour inclusion as a

key axis for inclusive social development. Despite a recovery in social indicators in 2022 (reduction of poverty and inequality, recovery of employment), the region faces a double trap of low growth and high levels of poverty and inequality. Labour inclusion is key to combating poverty, reducing informality and inequality and moving towards inclusive social development. ([DOWNLOAD](#))



The Middle Class in Arab Countries

Over the past few decades, concerns have escalated about the fate and fortune of the middle class worldwide. The middle class in Arab countries has been grappling with political instability and conflict, rising informality, lack of decent work opportunities, inactive social protection schemes, and unrelenting poverty. ([DOWNLOAD](#))



Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2023/24 unleashing digital trade and investment for sustainable development

The Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) is a biennial publication prepared by the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to provide insights into the impact of recent emerging developments in trade and foreign direct investment on countries' abilities to meet the challenges of achieving sustainable development.I. ([DOWNLOAD](#))

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