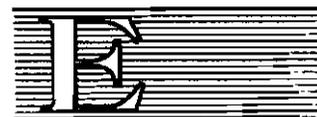


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Third Meeting of the Committee on
Sustainable Development (CSD-3)**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
7-10 October 2003**

**THE STATUS OF AWARENESS OF THE NEXUS ISSUES OF
POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE
IN SELECTED AFRICAN MEMBER STATES¹**

¹ Paper prepared through survey by SDD in ten African Countries



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I. SUMMARY

1. Many international conferences held in the 1990s acknowledged the linkages of population, food security and environment and the need to integrate them in the overall development planning to achieve sustainable development. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), through conferences, workshops and research has made significant contribution to the creation of awareness of the nexus issues. The Commission spearheaded the development of the Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture (PEDA) model which is an interactive computer model, which demonstrates the long-term impacts of alternative policies on the food security status of populations. The ECA has organized training workshops on PEDA in Addis Ababa and in two Sub Regional Offices of the ECA.
2. After almost five years of advocacy and awareness creation on the nexus issues, the Commission was charged by the second meeting of the CSD to evaluate and take stock of the impact of its activities at the level of Member States. In this regard, the Commission conducted a study on the progress made in raising awareness on the nexus issues in Africa. Ten African countries were selected on the basis of geographical and linguistic representation to evaluate the impact. The countries were Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Mauritius, South Africa and Madagascar.
3. In view of the number of different actors in the development field that have been operating in ECA Member States at various levels, it was noted that this study will only provide a relative indication of ECA's contribution to the incorporation of the nexus issues in policies in these countries. A Questionnaire was administered to institutions in member States that have a primary objective of promoting the nexus issues of sustainable development and/or those that could impact significantly on the nexus issues though they may not have sustainable development as their primary focus.
4. Analysis of the results of the questionnaire, examination of policy documents and discussions held with members of the policy-making institutions, shows that the policy making institutions and their staff are aware of the need to address sectoral issues related to population, environment and development in a holistic manner. Most documents indicate that sectoral issues are addressed in a multi-sectoral manner in policy and strategy documents. In almost all cases, participatory approaches were used in the process of policy formulation given that staff from other sectors as well as other stakeholders were involved. Although there exists a high level body that coordinates sustainable development issues at the national level, it is unclear how well the implementation of these policies continues to occur in a multisectoral manner, despite the fact that most strategies also call for a multidisciplinary approach.
5. PEDA as a planning tool, is known in half of the countries surveyed yet this is not widespread in the ministries. An effort should be made by ECA to disseminate the tool in Member States and make sure that it is used to enhance the planning process. The use of other analytical tools such as Geographic Information Systems and Environmental /Natural Resources Accounting in creating awareness on the nexus issues and for planning purposes is gaining importance.

II. INTRODUCTION

6. The international conferences held in the 1990s including the Conference on Environment and Development that adopted Agenda 21 (1992), the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the World Summit on Social Development (1995), the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) and the World Food Summit (1996) acknowledged the linkages of population, food security and environment and the need to integrate them in the overall development planning to achieve sustainable development.

7. The contribution of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in terms of conferences and workshops for member countries has been significant. For example, using the African Common Position at Rio as a framework, the ECA developed strategies for implementing Agenda 21 which were later adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1993. Similarly, the ECA spearheaded the adoption of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration (DND) at the Third African Population Conference (APC3) in 1992 where the concept of sustainable development was emphasized and the need to integrate population, environment and technological applications into the development planning was strongly voiced. Besides adopting the DND, APC3 also provided conditions for ensuring sustainable harmonious relationships between population, environment and development.

8. The year 1998 marked efforts made by the Commission to enhance knowledge of the complex issues involved in analyzing the linkages of the nexus issues. The activities of that year culminated in the convening of a meeting (in December 1998) of stakeholders comprising high-level experts to constitute a panel (High Level Panel of Experts) to discuss a continent-wide perspective on key nexus issues. In January 1999, the First Meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD) was convened to further discuss and consider the issues. The second biennial meeting of the CSD was held in November 2001 and the third, where this report will be presented, is expected to be held by the end of 2003.

9. Complementary to the expert group meetings, the Commission explored other ways to address the strong interrelationships among population, food production and the environment within the framework of sustainable development through advocacy and the creation of awareness among high-level policy makers. In this context, the Commission spearheaded the development of the **Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture (PEDA)** model. The model is an interactive computer model, which demonstrates the long-term impacts of alternative policies on the food security status of populations. The model raised a lot of interest at the two CSD meetings and requests have continuously been made to disseminate it as widely as possible among Member States. In order to build human and institutional capacities for the use of the PEDA model to manage the nexus issues, the ECA organized a training workshop on PEDA in Addis Ababa in 1999 at which about 20 experts participated. The Model has also been presented in two of the five Sub Regional Offices of the ECA (East Africa in 2000 and West Africa in 2002).

10. After almost five years of advocacy and awareness creation on the nexus issues, the Commission was charged by the second meeting of the CSD to evaluate and take stock of the impact of its activities at the level of Member States. In this regard, the Commission conducted a study on the progress made in raising awareness on the nexus issues in Africa. The study used 1998 as the base year. The evaluation was considered at three levels:

- First level- the rate of attendance at meetings etc;
- Second level – the level of ECA’s awareness raising and advocacy activities on the nexus issues and the extent to which they have influenced policies developed by member states and;
- Third Level – the impact of the work of ECA on the people of Africa as it relates, for instance, to the improvements in the food security situation over the years.

Given the short time of ECA’s intervention in the nexus issues, the second level indicator was used for this study.

11. In view of the number of different actors in the development field that have been operating in ECA Member States at various levels, this study will only provide a relative indication of ECA’s contribution to the incorporation of the nexus issues in policies in these countries. Furthermore, countries incorporate nexus issues in their planning, policy making and programming for various reasons. These factors need to be taken into account and it is our aim to capture these as best as possible through this questionnaire.

12. To undertake the analysis, information was sought from institutions in member States that:

- **Have a primary objective of promoting the nexus issues of sustainable development; and/or**
- **Could impact significantly on the nexus issues though they may not have sustainable development as their primary focus.**

Examples of the first type of institutions include those relating to agriculture, environment and population sectors. The second type of institutions includes finance and/or planning and science and technology institutions. The information was acquired through a questionnaire and relevant documents.

13. Ten African countries were selected on the basis of geographical and linguistic representation. Also, some countries which had received some training on PEDDA Model were included. The countries were Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Mauritius, South Africa and Madagascar. The main Ministries and Institutions that were interviewed in all the countries include

Ministry of Finance and/or Planning

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Environment/Natural Resources and/or Environmental Protection Agency

Ministry of Science and Technology

National Population Council

In addition, in some countries a few institutions that were recognised as involved in the nexus issues such as the Ministry of Education, the offices of the President and Vice-Presidents were interviewed.

14. The focus of analysis was the level and extent of awareness of the nexus issues, method of awareness creation and the extent to which policies have been influenced thereby. The nature of policy making and institutional arrangements that could have arisen as a result of the awareness of the nexus issues were also explored.

III. Extent of Awareness

15. A good level of awareness and the need to address the inter-linkages between population, environment and agriculture (nexus issues) in policy formulation and their incorporation in national policies exists in all the countries. In fact, apart from one institution in Kenya that indicated that they were not aware of the nexus issues, all ministries and institutions in the ten countries were aware of these issues. In Mauritius, the awareness exists but the need to address the nexus issues was not that obvious. There is also awareness of the incorporation of the nexus issues in national policies except for Mauritius where only the Ministry of Environment and Population Council were convinced of this need. This awareness came about through international conferences as well as regional/national conferences, workshops/training; and in some cases, through literature review, policy making and international/national news media. About 90 per cent of all respondents indicated that the greater media for the creation of awareness were conferences and workshops/training. Strangely, NGOs are rarely involved in nexus awareness creation with only about 2% of respondents affirming.

IV. Institutions raising awareness

16. Many government Agencies, UN Agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors are involved in creating awareness about the nexus issues. However, government agencies are in the majority. The agencies are mostly line ministries/government agencies and research organizations. The ministries of agriculture and environment/environment agencies and Population Councils are mainly were cited in all countries as being involved in awareness creation. These institutions/agencies use training, policy briefs, workshops and electronic media to create awareness of the nexus issues. The awareness creation programme of the government agencies and the research institutions are targeted mainly at policy makers, technical experts and the general population. In some cases, the education focuses on civil society organizations including community based organizations, traditional leaders and NGOs.

V. Tools of Nexus Analysis

17. Although some ministries (especially Finance and Economic Planning) use some model to analyze policy issues, there were very few of them. Only South Africa, Madagascar, Rwanda and Ghana have used such tools. The University of Natal and the Department of Social Development use the SPECTRUM (EPI model) to create awareness on the nexus issues. The most popular tools used in the four countries are Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Environmental /Natural Resources Accounting (E/NR). Ghana, Mauritius, South Africa and Rwanda are either aware or gone ahead to prepare their Natural Resources Account. In Ghana, for instance Natural Resources Accounts have been prepared for the years, 1991-3. What is needed in some of these countries is an integration and/or update of the Accounts. ECA was instrumental in creating the E/NR awareness with a workshop for the East African Region of the ECA in 2001.

18. Madagascar, however, seems to be the country that has tried to utilize more tools for the nexus issues. Some of the Agencies used tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and E/NR accounting in 1999/2000 to create awareness on the nexus issues. The use of GIS by National Environment Agency was very instrumental in the production of the "Tableau de bord Environnemental" which provides information on the state of the environment and associated resources.

19. Since 1994, the National Statistics Institute has been using an econometric model to predict the responses of households to varying levels of financial fluxes injected into the economy. This model was used as an evaluation tool during the process of formulating the third phase of the National Environment Plan. The Ministry of Population indicated the use of a Software (KPOPDEV) developed by an expert from International Labor Organization (ILO) and used between 1995 and 1999 to demonstrate the link between Population and Development.

The PEDA Model

20. Three main workshops have been organized by ECA on the PEDA Model. The first one was at the ECA in 1999 at which about 20 experts participated. The experts' objective was to extend the Model to their countries but the survey showed that this never happened. The next two workshops took place in Kigali and Accra in 2000 and 2002, respectively. Countries that took part in the Accra workshop were Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia Sierra Leone and Liberia. Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda took part in the Kigali workshop.

21. PEDA model is not known by people in the ministries except those who have attended PEDA workshops or institutions that have sent people to ECA-sponsored PEDA workshops. Unfortunately, there has not been a follow-up in-country training by ECA or further country training by trainees. Although ECA has not undertaken any training in Mauritius, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economic Development in collaboration with the University of Mauritius had initiated the development of a PEDA-related model in 1986/87. Some preliminary work was carried out but the model was never finalized.

22. The only significant exception where the PEDA model is used successful is in South Africa. Even here, while the ministries are not aware of the model, the University of Natal has been using PEDA. A significant lesson from this is that it is important to include training institutions in the popularization of the PEDA model in countries since there is a multiplier effect in students and researchers using and improving it.

VI. Policies

23. All the countries surveyed have national development policies, economic policies and other sectoral policies. The development policies of the countries, and indeed, for Africa has shifted decade upon decade. In the 1960s and 1970s, national development plans were the order of the day and all sectors of the economy were considered together. Although the nexus issues were not explicitly stated, development plans took them into account. Most African economies deteriorated in the late 1970s and 1980s partly as a result of both external unfavourable economic environment and internal inadequate policies.

24. In the mid 1980s and 1990s, African Countries, with financial and programme support from the multilateral agencies, notably the World Bank and the IMF, undertook Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs). The policies of these programmes were mainly economic and were intended to stabilize the African economies and spur growth. These programmes were significantly different from the development plans of the 1960s and 1970s in that they were mainly sectoral. In the 1990s, it became clear that the SAPs were not achieving the goals set and development plans, popularly called Vision 2020 in most countries were evolved to embrace all sectors of the economy.

25. By the late 1990s, it was obvious that poverty in most countries had worsened from those of the 1970s and many countries had become debt-ridden. The World Bank shifted gears and encouraged African countries to undertake poverty reduction programmes, called Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). About 80% of all African countries and all the surveyed countries are now using the PRSPs as the main document of development. In some countries, like Ghana, the PRSPs have taken over from Vision 2020 by incorporating some aspects of the Vision. Other countries have maintained the PRSPs together with other development plans.

26. Apart from the main development plans, several other sectoral policies and strategies are adopted in the countries surveyed. However, very few important ones cut across all countries. These include agricultural policy, population policy, environment policy as well as science and technology policy.

VII. Policy-Making and Nexus Issues

27. Indicators of the incorporation of the nexus issues into policies include the process of policy-making in terms of stakeholder consultation, the policies themselves, workshops and speeches from politicians. The first two are the most important indicators of whether the nexus issues are considered in policies. If the policy-making is participatory and the policies themselves impact the most important sectors of the economy, then it can be said that the nexus issues have been adequately taken into consideration.

VIII. Stakeholder Participation in Policy-making

28. The survey revealed that in all countries and ministries, policy-making process was very participatory. All relevant ministries were involved in the main policy documents of various sectoral ministries. Through this process, relevant sectoral issues were incorporated into all major policies of particular ministries/agencies. Table 1 below indicates an example of a wide consultation with the relevant stakeholders in the policy-making process for some main policies in Kenya.

Table 1. Stakeholder Participation in the Policy Formulation in Kenya

Policy	Stakeholders
National Population Policy for Sustainable Development	Ministries of Planning, Social Services, Sports and Gender, Education, Cooperatives, NGOs, Religious organizations, CBOs
Kenya Rural Development Strategy, 2002	Farmers, donors, government departments, private sector, NGOs, Research Institutes, Rural Sector Experts (international and local)

Poverty Reduction Strategy; 2000; National Food Policy; 1994, National Agricultural Export Policy, 2000	Farmers, donors, government departments, private sector, NGOs, Research Institutes, Rural Sector Experts (international and local), Ministry of Agriculture; (limited consultation); Ministry of Agriculture, farmers and development partners
Forestry; water; wildlife, Environment and Development; 1999	Government ministries, universities, donors, NGOs, CBOs, Private Sector, Religious Organizations, Environment, water, agriculture. office of the President ...; local authorities
Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2000; National Poverty Eradication Plan, 2000; Kenya Rural Development Strategy Development	Broad spectrum of stakeholder; government development partners, private sector, civil society; government, pastoralists, ranchers, religious orgs, NGOs, donors, etc.
FSP, 2001/2; National Development Plan (A medium Policy Development Strategy Plan).	All ministries, NGOS, Development Partners (Donors), CBOS, Professional Associations, Kenyans in General, All Government Ministries and quasi-public agencies, private sector organizations, NGOs, universities, development partner
Fiscal Strategy Paper; 2002	Ministry of Finance and Planning; Central; Bank of Kenya, Kenya Revenue Authority, Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research for Analysis (KIPPRA) (as member of the macro-working group)

Beyond Kenya, stakeholder participation in policy-making was also a feature in all the other countries surveyed.

IX. Nexus Issues in Policies

29. All ministries indicated that they had considered the nexus issues in their main policies. Many respondents even indicated that due to the awareness of the nexus issues in the last 10 years, some policies have been reviewed to incorporate them while new legislations have been enacted to take care of the nexus issues. For instance in Kenya, about half of the respondents interviewed indicated that there have been some policy changes due to the awareness of the nexus issues in the last 10 years.

30. The following examples from Kenya show policy changes resulting from awareness of the nexus issues. Liberalization, structural adjustment and the need to integrate environmental concerns were among the factors that led to the change in 1994 of the 1984 food policy. Some of the strategies that were included in integrating policies include infrastructural development (31%), agricultural intensification (23%), literacy (15%) and natural management strategies (15%). Policy changes and new policies have led to new legislation. About 68% of the respondents indicated that there have been legislative changes in the recent past. The sectors that have been cited as having had some legislative changes include: forestry, wildlife, water and environment. The respondents indicated that all stakeholders were included in the processes to change legislation in all these sectors.

31. At least 90 persons of all respondents indicated that seminars and workshops were participatory, involving relevant stakeholders while some political speeches stressed the need to factor the nexus issues in both policies and the activities of people.

X. Review of Policies

32. Although the survey revealed that ministries had incorporated the nexus issues into their policies, several policy documents were collected from the ministries and analyzed. The documents from the countries contained the relevant linkage issues in various sectors. Sometimes the analysis showing the linkages were a little weak but in most cases the obvious ones were outlined. A review of some of the major policies and their objectives confirmed the awareness of the linkages and the integration into the policies.

33. Box 1 shows the main objective of the Tanzanian Vision 2025 indicating the focus and incorporation of the nexus issues. It is not only the development policy of Tanzania that considers all sectors, and hence the nexus issues, but also the development strategies from the other countries. For instance, Box 2 of the PRSP of Ethiopia equally considers the nexus issues and other components of development.

Box 1. The Tanzania Development Vision 2025

The Tanzania Development Vision 2025 is a national development plan that was formulated in 1999 to guide economic and social development in Tanzania until 2025. The main focus areas include: increasing high quality livelihood through addressing issues such as food insecurity, education, gender equality, healthcare, reproductive health, mortality, water, life-expectancy, poverty reduction; enhancing good governance and the rule of law through encouraging moral and cultural uprightness, adherence to the rule of law, reducing corruption and other vices; and building a strong competitive economy (through industrialization, reducing inflation, increasing the growth rate, increasing infrastructural capacity, expanding access to regional and world markets).

The Planning Commission in the then Ministry of State and Vice Chairman was responsible for overseeing its development with stakeholder participation. Some of the stakeholders involved were: Permanent Secretaries in Ministries, political parties, religious leaders, women and youth organizations, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, farmers, professional associations and ordinary Tanzanians.

Box 2: The major thrust of the Ethiopia's strategy during the sustainable development and poverty reduction programme period:

- Overriding and intentional focus on agriculture as a sector;
- Strengthening private sector growth and development especially in industry as means of achieving off-farm employment and output growth (including investment in necessary infrastructure);
- Rapid export growth through production of high value agricultural products and increased support to export oriented manufacturing sectors particularly intensified processing of high quality skin/leather and textile garment;
- Undertake major investment in education and strengthen the ongoing effort on capacity building to overcome critical constraints to implementation of development programmes;
- Deepen and strength the decentralization process to shift decision-making closer to the grass-root population, to improve responsiveness and service delivery;
- Improvements in governance to move forward in the transformation of society, improve empowerment of the poor and set framework/provide-enabling environment for private sector growth and development;
- Agricultural research, water harvesting and small scale irrigation; and
- Focus on increased water resource utilization to ensure food security.

(Source: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Programme, July 2002, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.)

34. Although one could indicate that *main development* policies are meant to consider all sectors of the economy and consistently incorporate the nexus issues, a review of the *sectoral policies* also reveals the incorporation of the nexus issues. The policy thrust of the Tanzanian Agricultural Policy (Box 3) indicates this. Similarly, the vision of the South African population policy as well as their environment policy in Box 4 and Box 5, respectively, clearly reveals the incorporation of the nexus issues. These illustrations confirm that the nexus issues are reflected in all the main policies as surveys revealed.

Box 3. Agricultural and Livestock Policy in Tanzania, 1997

One of the reasons behind a new policy was the need to revise the 1983 policy in order to reflect the merging of the agriculture and livestock sectors, which were in separate ministries at the time the 1983 policy was formulated. These two sectors have now been split again however, with livestock joining the water ministry. Other reasons for the current policy include the economic changes that occurred since 1986 with structural adjustment programs and the need to incorporate goals outlined in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

The overall goal of the policy is to improve the livelihoods of those who depend on agriculture, to commercialize agriculture and hence increase incomes. The specific sectoral issues addressed by the policy include: extension research, training, regulatory services, technical services, marketing, animal health. The policy also addresses issues in other sectors that are related to the nexus such as land, environment, gender, infrastructure and industry. The policy, for instance, calls for the implementation of the land policy in order to improve tenure security for customary and statutory landholders, and to improve access to land by women. Regarding the environment, the policy calls for the promotion of practices that encourage agricultural intensification, soil erosion control and soil fertility management, agro-forestry, minimization of encroachment into protected public lands and agrochemical monitoring.

Box 4. Population Policy Vision and Policy Objectives for South Africa

The policy vision emphasizes the attainment of a high and equitable quality of life for all South Africans, as well as a balance between population trends, sustainable socio-economic development and the environment. The goal of the policy is to bring changes in the determinants of the country's population trends in order to promote sustainable human development.

The objectives reflect the two main pillars on which the policy rests. One pillar is the systematic integration of population factors into all policies, plans, programmes and strategies aimed at enhancing the quality of life of the people at all levels and within all sectors and institutions of government. The other pillar is a coordinated, multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary and integrated approach in designing and implementing programmes and interventions that affect major national population concerns. Underpinning these two pillars is the need for reliable and up to-date information on population and human development to inform policy-making and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Source: The Republic of South Africa, Department of Social Development, Population Policy for South Africa, March 1998

Box 5. Vision of The Environmental Management Policy

The vision is of a society that is in harmony with its environment based on an integrated and holistic environmental management system that aims to achieve sustainable development. To achieve this vision, the government addresses peoples' environmental rights and their development needs at the same time.

Source: Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, White Paper on Environmental Management Policy, April 1999.

XI. Institutional arrangements

35. Another indicator of awareness and incorporation of the nexus issues in countries is the nature of institutional arrangements. It has been indicated above that policy making, workshops and seminars are conducted participatorily. An important machinery to make sure such participation continues is the existence of conducive institutional arrangements.

36. In all countries, there exists a high level body which coordinates sustainable development issues at the national level and at least about 80 percent of respondents were aware of this body. The agency that hosts this body varies from country to country but in a majority of countries, the Ministry of Environment is the coordinating body. The actual functioning of such a body is not clear in most countries and others are at the infancy stage of putting such a body into place.

37. Various government Ministries and Agencies have established or are at an advanced stage of establishing coordinating bodies and mechanisms to enhance policy formulation and implementation processes.

XII. Conclusion

38. Analysis of the results of the questionnaire, examination of policy documents and discussions held with members of the policy making institutions, show that the policy making institutions and their staff are aware of the need to address sectoral issues related to population, environment and development in a holistic manner. Most documents indicate that sectoral issues are addressed in a multi-sectoral manner in policy and strategy documents. In almost all cases, participatory approaches were used in the process of policy formulation given that staff from other sectors as well as other stakeholders were involved. Although there exists a high level body that coordinates sustainable development issues at the national level, it is unclear how well the implementation of these policies continues in a multisectoral manner.

39. PEDAs as a planning tool, is known in half of countries surveyed yet this is not widespread in the ministries. Efforts should be made by ECA to disseminate the tool in Member States and make sure that it is used to enhance the planning process. The use of other analytical tools such as E/NR and GIS in creating awareness on the nexus issues and for planning purposes is gaining importance.

XIII. Recommendations

40. Given the level of awareness of member States of the nexus issues, PEDAs can only add value if updated periodically to incorporate new and emerging issues of sustainable development to further enhance this awareness creation and policy analysis. To this end training should include Universities and other Institutes to improve PEDAs' analytical features. There should also be training of core people who would be used as trainers for the various countries while constant contact and support from ECA must go to the countries.

41. Regarding awareness creation, advocacy and planning *vis-à-vis* the application of environmental/natural resource accounting, and bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission, ECA could take its activities a step further and develop training modules in this discipline for in-country delivery. This could be done in collaboration with Universities and Training Institutions. GIS is a very effective advocacy and planning tool, and given the work of the Development

Information Services Division (DISD) of ECA in this area, close collaboration between the SDD and the DISD in its use for nexus- related work would be highly beneficial to member States.

42. It is a welcome fact that main development plans are incorporating the nexus issues. As the PRSPs become the development tool for African countries, care must be taken not to lose sight of the nexus issues so that in the end, sustainable development is achieved for Africa.