



Economic Commission for Africa

The contribution of the
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
to NEPAD

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I. ECA's role in the birth of NEPAD

At the OAU Extraordinary Summit held in Sirte, Libya in September 1999, President Mbeki of South Africa and President Bouteflika of Algeria were mandated to mobilize the support of Africa's creditors towards the cancellation of Africa's excruciating external debt. Subsequently, the South Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement and the G-77, held in Havana, Cuba in April 2000 added its voice to the appeal for debt cancellation and also mandated President Mbeki and President Obasanjo of Nigeria to convey the concerns of the South to the G-8 and the Bretton Woods institutions.

To promote a concerted approach on these two mandates and realizing that the debt issue constituted only one critical aspect of Africa's huge development challenges, the OAU Summit, which was held in Togo in July 2000 mandated the three Presidents to lead a campaign towards developing a new vista of cooperation and partnership between Africa and the developed world in favor of Africa's transformation. To this end, the three Presidents participated in the Summit of the G-8 in Japan during July 2000 during which they raised this issue.

Subsequently in September 2000, the United Nations devoted its General Assembly—termed as the United Nations Millennium Summit—to discussing the special needs of Africa. The Assembly adopted the Millennium Declaration, which placed particular emphasis on supporting Africa in the areas of consolidation of democracy; encouraging and sustaining regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability; addressing the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced ODA; and helping Africa develop its capacity to tackle the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.

As part of ECA's response to operationalizing this Declaration, ECA, under the leadership and supervision of its Executive Secretary, K.Y. Amoako, set out to develop a program known as "The Compact for Africa's Recovery". In a speech to the Eighth Session of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance held in Addis Ababa in November 2000, the ECA Executive Secretary presented this Compact idea as a basis for mobilizing the support of the developed countries in terms of investing the necessary resources through aid, debt relief and market access to give African economies the jump-start

they needed. Africa was expected to honor its part of the bargain by putting in place the necessary political and economic reforms towards fulfilling the objectives of the Millennium Declaration.

The Conference of Ministers endorsed the Compact proposal and adopted a resolution requesting ECA to develop the details of the Compact for consideration by the Joint ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Economic Development and Planning to be held in Algiers in May 2001. To this end, the resolution mandated the Executive Secretary to undertake consultations with individuals, institutions, including the United Nations and Africa's development partners. In the course of the consultations to help deepen the Compact, it emerged that Presidents Mbeki of South Africa, Obasanjo of Nigeria and Bouteflika of Algeria were also developing an initiative known as the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Program (MAP).

The MAP sought to build on the momentum that the Millennium Declaration had created in terms of focusing attention on Africa's development challenges and of the emerging wind of change in the continent reflected in the adoption of economic reforms, consolidation of democracy and a resolve to dealing with conflicts. The MAP recognized that a new and effective partnership with the international community was essential to its success. But it also emphasized the imperative of having African governments and people assume primary responsibility for their own destiny. Subsequently, the ECA Compact took on a different role as a technical input to the elaboration and implementation of the MAP.

At about the same time, President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal announced his OMEGA Plan for Africa. The Plan emphasized the need to develop physical and human capital as key prerequisites for sustained and balanced growth. The OMEGA Plan essentially had the same vision as the MAP. Both were inspired by the imperative need to launch Africa on a path of sustained growth and development. They were as well based on the premise of Africa assuming primary responsibility for that effort.

During the 5th Extraordinary Summit of the OAU held in Sirte, Libya from 1 to 2 March 2001, President Obasanjo made a presentation on MAP, while President Wade of Senegal presented the OMEGA Plan. The work being done by the four Presidents, i.e. Presidents Mbeki, Obasanjo, Bouteflika and Wade, was endorsed and it was decided that every effort should be made to integrate all the initiatives being pursued towards Africa's recovery and

development, including the ECA's Compact initiative. In reaching this decision, the Summit acknowledged the synergy and linkages that existed amongst these various initiatives.

Subsequently, a process to integrate them was put in motion. In July 2001, a combined program called the New African Initiative (NAI) emerged and was endorsed by the OAU Summit of Heads of State and Government in Lusaka, Zambia. NAI was eventually renamed as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

NEPAD is a pledge anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world. The poverty and underdevelopment of Africa stand in stark contrast to the prosperity of the developed world. The continued marginalization of Africa from the globalization process and the social exclusion of the vast majority of its peoples constitute a serious threat to global stability.

NEPAD calls for the reversal of this abnormal situation by changing the relationship that underpins it. Africans are appealing neither for the further entrenchment of dependency through aid, nor for marginal concessions. It is a call for a new relationship of partnership between Africa and the international community, especially the highly industrialized countries, to overcome the development chasm that has widened over centuries of unequal relations.

The main strategies adopted in the NEPAD including: promoting conditions for long-term peace, security, democracy and political governance, by building capacity for early warning, addressing political and social vulnerability, combating illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, institutional reforms in the public services; promoting regional and sub-regional public goods, such as water, transport, energy, environmental management and other infrastructure, notably ICT; promoting education in human resource development

at all levels, and in particular accelerate the role of ICT in education and training, induce a new "brain gain" for Africa, and eliminate gender disparities in education enrolment; promoting the inflow and effective utilization of official development assistance to support the provision of international public goods in Africa through the reform of the ODA delivery and evaluation system; support UNECA effort to strengthen the PRSP learning Group.

In brief, it is expected that these strategies would lead to the following achievement:

- An averaged GDP growth rate of above 7 per cent per annum for the next 15 years;
- Reduction in the incidence of extreme poverty by half by 2015;
- 100 per cent enrolment ratio among all children of school-going age by 2015;
- Substantial progress towards gender equality.

Hence, NEPAD is now accepted as Africa's principal agenda for development, providing a comprehensive and an integrated strategic framework for the socio-economic development of the continent, expected to be pursued as an integral component of the vision to establish the African Union.

It can therefore be observed that from the beginning, the ECA has been very active in providing its technical expertise and services in furtherance of the goals of NEPAD, including assisting in the preparation of the New African Initiative (NAI) – the NEPAD forerunner – by the merging of the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Program (MAP) and the OMEGA Plan for Africa; and the preparation of the NEPAD Initial Action Plan.

II. ECA's contribution to NEPAD objectives through its regular work programs

ECA's *raison d'être* is to implement activities to promote and accelerate Africa's development. These include analytical studies, advisory services, policy advocacy, capacity-building programs, and operational activities. ECA's convening power also allows it to mobilize stakeholders including member States, development partners, the civil society and the private sector etc. to discuss, make decisions, and implement actions in relation to Africa's development agenda. The essential elements of this agenda are as stipulated in various blueprints including the MDGs, NEPAD, and the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and the Constitutive Act of the African Union. At the core of the objectives enshrined in these blueprints are poverty reduction, promotion of peace and security and good economic and political governance as a *sine-qua-non* for development. And last but not the least, the promotion of regional integration and contribution to reversing Africa's marginalization in the global trade and economic mainstream.

Elements of ECA's work which inform and are informed by NEPAD's agenda include monitoring and analysis of macroeconomic policies in Africa for poverty reduction, poverty and its causes, private sector development, and the health sector, as assessment of Africa's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, trade policy and promotion of regional integration.

1. Monitoring and analysis of macro-economic Policy for policy reduction

This work is linked to NEPAD's objectives and strategies through its aim of strengthening the policy-making capacities of African governments. Work in the areas of macroeconomic policy and poverty analysis addresses NEPAD's long term objective of eradicating poverty, achieving long term development and halting Africa's marginalization in the globalization process, through the achievement of the MDGs.

This analytical work is closely related to certain components of NEPAD's strategy for achieving these outcomes:

- Under NEPAD's *human capital development* component ECA's contribution through the work

of its Economic and Social Policy Division (ESPD) has addressed issues of poverty reduction through its work on PRSPs and pro-poor growth; reversing Africa's brain drain through analysis currently being carried out for a policy research report on the private sector; and improving Africa's health status through a recent report which assesses progress on leaders' commitments on HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB.

- Under the *mobilizing resources component*, ESPD's macroeconomic work addresses a number of relevant areas. These include analysis of domestic resource mobilization and private capital flows as well as looking at ways of making ODA more effective. Issues of debt relief and the problems of HIPC feature prominently in ESPD's written outputs; in addition an experts' group meeting was held on the subject in 2003.
- Previous ESPD work has also focused on Africa's tourism potential as a means of diversification. Current research being carried out for a forthcoming policy research report identifies ways for governments to strengthen the private sector.

2. Trade and Regional Integration

The promotion of trade and regional integration geared toward sustainable growth has been one of top development agenda of Africa for significant poverty reduction and enhancing living standards in the continent. ECA's work program in this area is carried out through its Trade and Regional Integration Division (TRID). It has aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States in their effective participation in the global economy through promoting intra-regional and international trade and enhancing regional cooperation in Africa, focusing mainly on policy issues as well as infrastructure development including transportation sector.

Area of Trade Promotion

The NEPAD includes market access and trade support objectives within the context of the Doha Ministerial Conference, which is designed to ensure that trade contributes more to growth in Africa. In this line, ECA has exerted efforts to enhance capacity for effective participation in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations, strengthen the negotiating position of African countries, develop policies and strategies to improve competitiveness, and mainstreaming trade in development policies at national and sub-regional level.

Major Initiatives on Trade and Market Access

ECA has assisted African countries by suggesting means to improve market access including agricultural products, and supporting capacity building in trade analysis and negotiations. To ensure better market access to African exports, ECA established the African Trade Policy Center (ATPC) and Inter-Regional Advisory Service (IRAS) in Geneva.

Establishment of the Africa Trade Policy Center:

ECA successfully established *The African Trade Policy Center (ATPC)* in cooperation with a strategic partner (Canada as a G8 action program of NEPAD). The goal of the ATPC is to increase Africa's share of international trade, creating the conditions for economic growth that will contribute to poverty reduction. More specifically, the Center is to develop trade research, training and information dissemination; spearhead mainstreaming of trade issues in member States' development policies and programs; promote intra-African trade; and provide trade-related advisory services and technical support. The programs of the ATPC cover five key areas: Developing the trade research, training and information dissemination capacity of African countries; Promoting intra-African trade; Promoting the mainstreaming of trade issues into national development policies and programs; Providing responsive trade-related advisory services and technical support; and Facilitating African consensus on trade positions. These activities not only serve directly the NEPAD goal of capacity building but also advocate and protect interests of African countries at the global level.

Geneva Interregional Advisory Services to Strengthening Trade Negotiation Capacity

The ECA Inter-Regional Advisory Service (IRAS) in Geneva was recently established as a response to a declaration adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers during their meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2002. To reap benefits from existing and potential future opportunities in the global trading system, it is critical for Africa to enhance the capacity of the WTO Geneva Africa Group. In this line, ECA is providing demand-driven technical assistances through Advisory Services to assist the WTO Geneva Africa Group in *day-to-day negotiation processes* within the WTO and to provide them with the most recent findings from informed research to help them in their work. The Advisory Services also monitor developments in international trade negotiations in Geneva and Brussels and advises on their potential implications for Africa, and advises ECA on urgent areas for research.

Meetings of African Trade Negotiators, and Technical Assistance

High Level Brainstorming Meeting of African Trade Negotiators: ECA and AU organized two High Level Brainstorming Meetings, and preparing the third Meeting in response to African countries' expressed concerns about their weak capacity to participate effectively in the multilateral trade negotiation process. The first High-Level Brainstorming Meeting of African Trade Negotiators (June 2001) provided an opportunity for African countries to form negotiating objectives and strategies on trade issues discussed at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar. Due to the positive impact that the first Brainstorming Meeting had on Africa's capacity to participate effectively in the Doha Ministerial Conference, there was a demand for a similar event from African countries before the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference (Cancun, Mexico September 2003). Recommendations from the second High-Level Brainstorming Meeting (June 2003) were submitted for consideration by the AU's Conference of African Ministers of Trade, and formed the basis for the African Common Position adopted for the Cancun WTO Conference.

Experts Group Meeting on Post-Cancun Negotiations Strategies: ECA organized a Post Cancun Experts Group Meeting for Trade Negotiators and Officials in collaboration with the AU and Government of Ghana (November 2003). The purpose of the meeting was to review events of the Cancun WTO Ministerial meeting and outline strategies for reviving the stalled Doha development agenda talks. The meeting outlined a future strategy, which is being used by the Africa Group in Geneva WTO.

Negotiation on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs): Given challenges in EPAs negotiations, ECA is addressing these issues through organizing expert group meetings and group training (in Tunis), with a

comprehensive study on impact analysis of EPAs.¹ This study examines and identifies welfare gains and losses based on the impacts on GDP, employment and other macroeconomic aggregates from the bilateral trade liberalization between the REC and the EU in the EPA, as well as welfare implications in sectoral issues. It also examines the impacts of EPAs on trade creation and trade diversion effects, and fiscal implications of the EPAs.

Technical Assistance on EPAs and Training Courses: For capacity building at sub-regional and national level, ECA has established a technical assistance framework by

consolidating all requests from RECs and member States in collaboration with RECs and other relevant partners. Technical assistance on the EPAs includes launching of a project on the impact assessment of EPAs; providing a Workshop on the EPAs (February 2004); delivering advisory service on the EPAs negotiations for all African Ambassadors accredited to the African Union. Other continued technical assistance to RECs include: Free Trade Area in the ECCAS Sub-region; and UEMOA Trade Liberalization. Training course and workshop include: Training Course on Agricultural Subsidy for Capacity Enhancing in Trade Negotiation (April 2004 in Tunisia); The Second WTO/ADB/ECA Trade Policy Course (October 2003 in Ghana); UMA Workshop on Multilateral Trade Negotiations and its impact on Maghreb countries (March 2004 in Morocco).

Area of Promoting Regional Integration

In the area of promoting regional integration, ECA has aimed at promoting regional cooperation and economic integration in the region, focusing mainly on policy issues and development of transport infrastructure and facilitation of transport operations. These are the specific areas/issues that impose challenges, and thus impede the development of Africa. NEPAD provides a strategic framework for addressing these pertinent challenges. One of the priorities undertaken under the NEPAD falls directly under the mandate of the ECA work program: *accelerating regional integration*.

Assessment of Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA)

ECA produced and published a comprehensive report titled ARIA I (July 2004). ARIA takes an innovative approach to looking at progress made in the field of integration in Africa. It helps fill an important void manifested in the apparent lack of coherently holistic data on Africa's integration status at any given point in time. The report thoroughly appraises the status of Africa's integration process in totality, so that a clearer, comparative and an overall picture emerges as to the pace at which the integration agenda within the various RECs and at the continental level is moving since 1994 when the Abuja Treaty came into force. ARIA is using indicators to measure performance that is an innovative approach to analyzing progress achieved from year to year-through appropriate benchmarks.² Benchmarks were developed for key sectors and crosscutting issues in which integration objectives have been defined either in treaties or protocols. A report of this nature and scope will no doubt provide African leaders and policy makers with a useful tool for planning and formulating policies for the new African Union.

Financing Regional Integration in Africa

ECA has assisted the RECs in designing a self-financing and compensation mechanisms. ECA's proposals have been implemented or being considered for implementation by SADC, COMESA, CEMAC and ECCAS. These measures will help to mitigate the financial difficulties faced by RECs. ECA also organized a brainstorming meeting on "Financing Regional Integration." (March 2004). The session drew experts from in and outside the continent. A book based on the papers presented at the workshop would be published soon by ECA.

Research Studies

To facilitate and enhance the process of regional integration, ECA has undertaken and continues to carry out activities, including research studies, that identify and analyze constraints and other factors affecting the integration process, and help member States articulate and implement policies and strategies to help advance it both at the sub-regional and regional levels. It should be emphasized that many of the studies carried out in this context have helped to generate factual and analytical findings, enhanced the knowledge-base and perspectives of the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their member States, in particular, and other stakeholders in general, on many of the challenges and burning issues confronting Africa's integration process.

The above series of activities contribute to deepening regional integration on the continent, a cornerstone of NEPAD. Through research, workshops and participation in meeting on the continent, ECA has assisted countries in making more informed policies. Our actions have also contributed effectively in the building of capacity for the RECs. Our work also helps document sectors that are crucial for the advancement of regional integration on the continent. All these important work have a direct impact on NEPAD's objectives in the field of regional integration. Furthermore, as NEPAD is supposed to form part of the program of the new African Union dispensation, ECA will continue the process of working hard towards the achievement of the objectives of NEPAD.

3. Transportation and communications

ECA's work in the area in the area of transport and communications is also carried out through TRID. Activities have aimed at promoting the physical integration of the continent through the establishment of an efficient, safe, reliable and affordable transport and communications system. The secretariat of ECA

organized, and contributed to, several policy-relevant meetings and seminars, and also prepared a number of policy framework documents. The mandate of the ECA's work program in this area has direct linkage with NEPAD since one of its top priorities is *improving and building infrastructure* in areas such as energy and transport.

The Conference of Transport Ministers

ECA organized the 12th Transport Ministerial Conference (March 2002). The Conference adopted "The Way Forward" as a strategy for the development of the transport sector in Africa. The ministers empowered Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to take the leadership in a number of corridor based trade and transport facilitation initiatives. The meeting therefore contributed to NEPAD's priorities, particularly its *Short Term Action Plan for Infrastructure and Capacity Building*.

Yamoussoukro Decision for Air Transport Liberalization

ECA is the secretariat for the monitoring and implementation of Yamoussoukro Decision that calls for the liberalization of air transport. The implementation of Yamoussoukro Decision is one of the NEPAD Short Term Action Plan (STAP) flagship project. ECA has been instrumental in the preparation and adoption of competition rules for air transport liberalization in COMESA, SADC, and EAC. As the secretariat, ECA also assisted RECs in organizing meetings and workshops to implement the decision. It also gave assistance to Mali and Swaziland to develop their national plans. These activities were undertaken as part of an overall strategy of capacity building and infrastructure development, which are essential parts of the goals of NEPAD.

Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Programme (SSATP)

With the aim of enhancing the capacity of the Sub-Saharan countries and to contribute to NEPAD's agenda on infrastructure, ECA is working with the **SSATP** to encourage many countries to adopt sound transport policies and strategies as well as institutional and financial reforms. These reforms have promoted the establishment of road funds, the transformation of road management arrangements, and the adoption of clear rural transport policies. In light of this goal, in September 2004, RIT helped organize the annual meeting of SSATP in Addis Ababa.

In the context of *Transport, Infrastructure and Capacity-Building* priorities of NEPAD, the conference stressed the importance of transport in social, economic and

political integration, in keeping a country together beyond geographic disparities, in overcoming potential disputes over access to resources, and in defusing the seeds of conflict sometimes arising out of the feeling of isolation. In a similar vein, a clear consensus emerged at the conference on the role of transport in providing access to external markets, thereby playing a major role in regional and international integration.

Multi-modal Transport and Transit Transport Cooperation in Africa

ECA organized a workshop on the development of multi-modal transport in Africa (October 2003). The conference stressed that an efficient method of trade facilitation and reduced cost is for Africa to embark on multi-modal transport system. ECA also organized a meeting on the transit transport cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). In the spirit of the framework of NEPAD, the meeting calls on landlocked and transit developing countries to continue to develop physical infrastructure and improve operational efficiency of existing facilities. It was emphasized that strong leadership was needed for the full implementation of the *Almaty Program of Action*, a program that calls for closed linkages between efficient transit transport systems and the development of landlocked developing countries.

In addition, ECA organized jointly with ADB a workshop to review the implementation of the Trans-African Highways (TAH) and the missing links. The meeting came up with a way forward for the implementation of the TAH network. ECA also led the finalization and final evaluation of the UNTACDA II program – the Second Transport and Communications Decade.

These activities, which contribute to NEPAD's agenda of *Transport and Infrastructure*, stressed the importance of strengthening the linkages between African countries. Such actions would lead to an increase in intra-African trade, a key priority of NEPAD. The TAH and the multi-modal transport system would also help deepen regional integration on the continent, which is also an objective of NEPAD.

4. Sustainable development

Through its Sustainable Development Division, ECA is playing an active role in sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy, science and technology and issues relating to the environment all of which have a significant bearing in advancing the goals of NEPAD.

Agriculture

ECA partnered with other UN agencies to support the preparation and the delivery capacity of NEPAD in the area of agriculture and food security. ECA has undertaken policy analytical work on the crucial issue of agricultural transformation for structural economic transformation, broad-based growth, employment and poverty reduction in Africa. This work focuses on the policy, institutional and legal requirements for promoting the mobilization and investment of private investment in the food and agricultural commodity chains within a framework of strengthened regional integration in terms of both market space and investment space. A major study is also underway with a view to assisting African States in the formulation and implementation of land policies and reforms.

Water

The instrument of support, coordination, collaboration and joint action in support of the development and implementation of the NEPAD water agenda has been the UN Water/Africa (formerly Inter-Agency Group on Water in Africa (IGWA)) whose Secretariat is provided by the Economic Commission for Africa. This Agenda has the **African Water Vision 2025** as its foundation on which the other policy instruments such as the achieving the MDGs and the JPOI of the World Summit on Sustainable Development are anchored. The African Water Vision was developed by all stakeholders led by the ECA, African Development Bank and the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union) in 2000 prior to the formulation of the NEPAD. All the NEPAD water elements are based on this comprehensive Vision

Among the major activities undertaken by ECA as Secretariat of the UN Water/Africa in support of NEPAD include: **Monitoring the implementation of the African Water Vision 2025 through** the publication of a bi-annual African Water Development Report (AWDR) that provides recent and comprehensive information of water resources in Africa; **Promoting the adoption of the Principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the Sub-Regional level.** A series of Sub-Regional Workshops on Implementing IWRM, geared towards Policy makers and planners, was initiated by UN Water/Africa in 2001 and continued with Workshops in North Africa (2002) and Central Africa (2003); **Organizing the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON).**

The most visible advocacy event of the NEPAD Water agenda to date is the successful organization of the Pan

African Implementation and Partnership Conference (PANAFCON). With a focus on Implementation and Partnership, UN Water/Africa and the African Development Bank (AfDB) under the aegis of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) organized this unique Conference. The major Outcomes/initiatives launched included:

- The African Water Facility, an innovative financing mechanism to be housed at AfDB. The ECA has been a major player in the development of the AWF and lobbied successfully for a permanent seat on the Governing Council for UN Water/Africa.
- The regional “Portfolio of Projects/Programmes” developed by AMCOW with support by ECA and other UN Agency members of UN Water/Africa.
- The African Water Journal initiated by the UN Water Secretariat of ECA
- The 2nd Phase of the Water for African Cities program by UN HABITAT.
- The African Water Information Clearing House developed by ECA (www.uneca.org/awich). This is an ongoing activity with capacity building at the sub regional level completed in West, East and Central Africa completed in 2004.
- The Regional Civil Society Network for Water.

Energy

ECA has spearheaded the UN agencies efforts to establish a UN collaborative mechanism in the energy sector in support of NEPAD. This mechanism launched on May 28, 2004 is called **UN-Energy/Africa (UNEA)**. UNEA provides the framework for technical discussions with and support to NEPAD with the participation of all relevant UN and non-UN organizations active in Africa in the energy sector. At the request of UNDP/GEF, IEPF and 11 countries in Africa (Mali, Togo, Benin, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo-Brazzaville, Cameroon, DRC, RCA, Rwanda and Burundi), ECA is participating in the steering committee of this the first phase of which is estimated to cost \$50 million, with an important co-financing by the ADB, which is intervening in this project under its infrastructure program in support of NEPAD. Nine additional African countries are preparing to join this effort in the second phase of the project. The official launching of the project is scheduled for the first trimester of 2005.

Population issues

In May 2002, after the first consultative group, ECA collaborated with UNFPA, FAO, and ILO (with ECA as coordinator) in an Ad-Hoc Inter-Agency Group on Population and Employment to identify the priority issues and actions for UN Inter-Agency intervention in the implementation of the NEPAD in the areas of population and development. In October of the same year, ECA in cooperation with UNFPA, prepared an advocacy paper on "Population, poverty and the NEPAD" to advocate for incorporation of population issues in poverty reduction policies, strategies and programs during the Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning, held from 16 to 21 October 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Science and Technology

NEPAD Science and Technology Plan of Action: ECA has assisted in establishing the NEPAD Science and Technology Plan of Action, its governing organs led by the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) and its steering committee, by helping to commission expert inputs and organize the preparatory meeting. ECA continues to monitor the progress of this Plan through consultations with members of the steering committee.

Launch of UN S&T Cluster for the support of NEPAD: Under the leadership of UNESCO as convener and ECA as co-convener, this initiative has concretized concerted and coordinated UN support of NEPAD's S&T Action Plan.

Environment

Elaboration of the Environment Action Plan of NEPAD: ECA is member of the Steering Committee on the development and implementation of the Environment component of the NEPAD and composed, among others, by UNEP, AU, ADB and NEPAD-Secretariat. The Steering Committee came out with a Plan of Action, which was adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment and endorsed by the AU Head of States Summit. Subsequently, a partner's/donor's conference was held in Algiers, Algeria, 15-16 of December 2003. Moreover, ECA is a coordinator of the Cluster of the UN system-wide support to the NEPAD on Environment, urbanization and population. Major achievements of this cluster include the following:

- The development of an action plan for the implementation of the environmental initiative of the NEPAD.

- The development of the Sustainable NEPAD Cities initiative. This initiative includes seven cities (Bamako, Douala, Durban, Lagos, Lusaka, Nairobi, Rabat) that were selected and endorsed by Heads of State and Governments Implementation Committee. The first NEPAD cities Consultative Forum was held in Lagos in May 2004 and attended by all mayors of the cities and partners (280 participants). A roundtable on sustainable NEPAD Cities was held during the Africities 3 Conference in Yaounde in Dec 2003. Finally, a Committee of NEPAD Cities is already established chaired by Mayor of Durban.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is one of a series of policy instruments being promoted by ECA with a view to enhancing the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in Africa. The Commission is preparing a publication on the "Review of the Application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Selected Member States: Identification of Best Practices". This Review examines the status of implementation of environmental assessment in member States at the project, policy, plan and program levels and makes policy recommendations for enhanced implementation. The aim of the Review is to share lessons learnt, knowledge and best practices, promote networking and increase advocacy for the enhanced application of EIA as a policy tool in integrating environment and social concerns in development policy.

5. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT is a sub cluster of the NEPAD Short Term Action Plan (STAP) on Infrastructure. The major activities carried out by ECA deal with the NEPAD STAP Section on "Program to Enhance Africa's Participation in the Global ICT Policy and Decision Making Fora". In this regard, ECA convened and facilitated several meetings of the sub-cluster, in October 2002 (Addis Ababa), May 2003 (Addis Ababa), July and September 2003 (Geneva), July 2004 (Addis Ababa). ECA also set up an on-line discussion list for members of the sub-cluster to share information, exchange ideas and coordinate activities on NEPAD ICT issues.

However the most substantive activity was the support to Africa throughout the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process. This culminated in ECA sponsoring or/and coordinating several conferences, including the African Regional Preparatory

Conference for the WSIS, organized by President Konare and held in Bamako from 26-30 May 2002, and the African Ministerial Conference on the follow up of the WSIS held in Dakar from 19 to 20 April 2004. The latter was convened by President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, Coordinator of the NEPAD Infrastructure Cluster, as a follow up to the meeting of the NEPAD Heads of States Implementation Committee, which was held in Kigali on 13 February 2004. The objectives of the Dakar meeting were to update participants on the WSIS process, discuss harmonization of African positions on the outputs of the Summit and the preparation of the Tunis phase.

In addition, ECA facilitated various negotiations amongst the African Group and between the African Group and other continents on WSIS contentious issues. This resulted in commitments and cohesion of the African Group in thinking together and speaking in one voice during the various WSIS Preparatory Committees.

One of the concrete results of ECA's facilitation and involvement under this theme is the establishment of the African Ministerial Oversight Committee on ICT in April 2004 in Dakar and adoption by the African Union of the Decision on the Digital Solidarity Fund in July 2004 in Addis Ababa.

III. ECA'S support to NEPAD through its Sub-regional offices

ECA Subregional Office in Lusaka (ECA-Southern Africa)

The support to NEPAD focused first on responding to the call of the leaders to mobilize support for NEPAD and secondly on making substantive contributions to the strategic areas for the implementation of NEPAD, namely (i) peace, security and political governance, (ii) the sectoral priorities and (iii) mobilization of resources.

Interventions at popularizing NEPAD included issuance of annual development bulletins targeted at as diverse a population as possible – and ensured that students, civil society, policy and decision makers in government and the business community were all reached. Contributions to the strategic program areas focused on advocacy, capacity building, and networking.

The activities implemented addressed policy issues pertaining to gender and development, poverty eradication, land policies and administration, sustainable development, governance and infrastructure development for the promotion of trade and regional integration. Instruments used included publications, intergovernmental meetings, ad hoc expert group meetings, workshops and seminars.

Support to the RECs was and remains a major means of implementing NEPAD. In that context ECA-SA participated in NEPAD meetings of Chief Executives of the RECs and provided technical support to each of the RECS. Other activities in support of NEPAD particularly those relating to the international development goals were implemented within the context of the United Nations Country Team.

It is believed that objectives of the interventions were achieved. This is evident from the large number of requests for ECA-SA's publications, requests to organize more workshops and the decisions arising from the intergovernmental meetings as well as the recommendations from the workshops and ad hoc expert group meetings some of which were incorporated in ministerial meetings and adopted by the regional economic communities. Further, some issues were also taken up in national fora for implementation at that level.

The dollar value of ECA-SA support to NEPAD is estimated at US\$935,000. However, a money value may be far much less than the value of the actual impact of the interventions.

Specific Details

Response to the call to popularise NEPAD

Sub-regional Advocacy

The following bulletins were prepared: No. 10 focusing on Sustainable Development in Southern Africa, in December 2001, No. 11 devoted to “NEPAD: A Framework for Africa’s Development in the 21st Century” in December 2002 and No. 13 on Gender and Development, in December 2003. Further, ECA-SA participated in a series of activities aimed at popularizing MDGs within the framework of the UNCT.

National Level Activities

In 2002 ECA-SA participated in the first Zambian National Workshop on NEPAD and made a presentation on “Economic and Corporate Governance in the Context of NEPAD” on request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Zambia. In 2004, ECA-SA and UNDP supported the government of Zambia in organizing and servicing a NEPAD sensitization workshop. The follow-up program entails the development of a national Action Plan.

Intergovernmental Consensus Building

The Eighth ECA-SA ICE, 24 – 26 April 2002 in Lusaka, Zambia focused on NEPAD with regard to progress on governance, infrastructure, environment; information and communications technology. The Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for Southern Africa held in Lesotho (24 – 26 February 2003) had the theme of “Challenges in Implementing NEPAD”. The agenda included the “Status of Governance in Southern African countries” and food security. The ICE was followed by a workshop on ICT for Governance in Southern Africa. The Tenth ICE meeting was held in Lusaka, Zambia from 3 – 5 May 2004 and focused on the “Challenges of Private Sector Development”

Addressing the Strategic focus of NEPAD

Peace, Security, Democracy and Political Governance

ECA-SA was invited to address a workshop for Members

of Parliament in Uganda in August 2002 on Regional Peace, Development and Economic Integration. The ECA-SA and ECA-EA jointly organized a Workshop Preparatory to ADF, IV on Governance for a Progressing Africa, 24 – 26 November 2003 in Lusaka, Zambia. ECA-SA is co-chair with UNDP of the Governance and NEPAD theme group with the UNCT framework.

Sectoral Priorities

Infrastructure Development: In line with NEPAD's focus on efforts at lowering costs, improving the reliability of services, and, promoting regional integration, ECA-SA's support covered the following areas:

- Assistance to COMESA in the preparation of project documents for inclusion the NEPAD Short Term Action Plan and also in the refinement of the Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework.
- Participation in SSATP activities and preparation of a framework for developing an axle overload control programme for COMESA and SADC.
- Participation in the International Symposium on ICT Policy Implementation Strategy in October 2001, in Mozambique, Tripartite Workshop on ICT on the world of work in May 2002, in Zambia.

- Advisory services to Women's Land and Water Rights in Southern Africa on web design and maintenance in October 2003, and launching of the website and training on website operations and maintenance in Zimbabwe in 2004.
- Providing advisory services to the Ministry of Commerce and Trade of the government of Zambia, 2003 and 2004.

Poverty Eradication: (i) An International Conference on "Poverty Reduction Strategy in Africa – A new imposed conditionality or a chance for a meaningful development policy?" Lusaka, Zambia, organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 17 – 18 June 2002. The ECA-SA organized a Workshop on Growth Strategies for Poverty Reduction in Southern Africa in Lusaka, Zambia, 15 – 17 December 2003; and an Adhoc Expert Group Meeting on Labor Markets and Employment in Southern Africa (3 – 6 February 2003); (ii) The ILO Southern Africa Sub-regional Tripartite Consultative Meeting on ILO Recommendation 189 on Job Creation in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Zambia in March 2004; (iii) On the Human Resource Development aspects of NEPAD, ECA-SA participated at an Expert Group Meeting on Human Resources Development in the Great Lakes Region held in Kampala, Uganda, 19 – 22 April 2004, organized by the ECA-EA.

Costing of Activities

Activity	Estimated Cost (USD)
(A) Response to the call to popularise NEPAD	
a) Sub-regional advocacy	105000
b) National level activities	60000
c) Intergovernmental consensus building	120000
(B) Addressing the Strategic Focus of NEPAD	
Peace, security, democracy, and political governance	55000
Infrastructure development	120000
Poverty eradication	200000
Reversing the brain drain	5000
Health	20000
Agriculture	75000
(C) Cross-cutting issues on Gender, HIV and AIDS	175000
Total	935000

Reversing the Brain Drain: The ECA-SA also participated at the IOM workshop on Migration and Development held in Zanzibar from 17 – 19 March 2004 and presented a paper on “Human Resource Shortages: Short-term Assistance for Long-term Needs”. The issues addressed in the paper were with reference to education and health in relation to brain drain.

Agriculture: In the area of agriculture, ECA-SA supported the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) through:

- (i) Organized an Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Land Tenure Systems and Sustainable Development in Southern Africa, 1 – 3 October 2003 in Lusaka, Zambia;
- (ii) Participated in the SADC Extraordinary Summit on Agriculture and Food Security, held in Dar-es-Salaam, 9 – 15 May 2004; and
- (iii) Drafted a project document on promoting the green revolution in southern Africa and shared it with the NEPAD secretariat and other partners for possible funding.

Gender and HIV/AIDS are crosscutting. In this regard ECA-SA: Assisted SADC in gender mainstreaming into the various sectors; (i) Organized a workshop on Gender mainstreaming and Human Rights into the SADC HIV and AIDS strategic Framework and program 2002 - 2004 focusing on the SADC mining, employment and labor sectors in Lusaka, Zambia in May 2002; (ii) Organized in collaboration with SADC, the sub-regional Decade Review Meeting on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+10) in Lusaka, Zambia in April 2004; (iii) Provided advisory services on gender mainstreaming to Zambia and Namibia in 2003; (iv) Actively participated in UNCT activities on the HIV and AIDS theme group.

ECA Subregional Office in Yaounde (ECA-Central Africa)

Sensitization of NEPAD

- i) Through the annual meetings of the intergovernmental committee of experts of the ECA sub-regional officer in Yaounde during which developments under NEPAD within the sub-region are presented. This helps enhance literacy about NEPAD within the sub-region.

- ii) Through workshops and seminars: e.g. NEPAD, Women and Leadership (7 to 8 March 2003); NEPAD and the civil society organizations/NGOs (24 to 29 March 2003); High level National Colloquium on NEPAD and the media (12 to 14 May 2003)-jointly organized with the High Commissioner of Canada and an NGO (Young Association Press).

Coordination and Mobilization of support for NEPAD

- i) In Yaoundé, the UN-system coordination and consultative framework has set up a cluster on NEPAD with the ECA Office as its focal point to help exchange views and share ideas on UN involvement in the NEPAD process within the sub-region. A detailed plan of action to this end is under preparation.
- ii) The ECA Office in Yaounde is also a member of a multi-stakeholder Sub-regional Implementing Committee established by the Heads of State and Government in the context of the central role entrusted to the African Regional Economic Communities in the implementation of NEPAD.

Technical assistance and advisory services

The republic of Congo has requested the ECA Office in Central Africa for technical assistance in the popularization of NEPAD among the citizens. The Office is trying to involve the UN-system in the implementation of this request through the UN-system coordination framework referred to above.

Contributions to specific/sectoral programs

- i) In collaboration with ECCAS and CEMAC, the Office has prepared a consensus plan of regional integration infrastructure, which was adopted by the Heads of State of ECCAS during their last Summit in Brazzaville in January 2004. The plan is modeled according to the guidelines and objectives of NEPAD in the area of infrastructure.
- ii) The ECA Office with the support of some Ministers and the BDEAC are playing a lead role in the implementation of plan. A series of seminars and workshops and sensitization missions are programmed to promote the plan among development partners.

ECA Subregional Office in Kigali (ECA-Eastern Africa)

EA/SRO activities related to NEPAD have been carried out within the framework of subregional initiatives/programmes in the following areas of focus of NEPAD:

Infrastructure development

The following activities were undertaken as part of the Great Lakes Initiative:

- Launching of a subregional standing Group of Experts on infrastructure development with membership extended to all Great Lakes Countries.
- Preparation of analytical documents and programme compendiums for transport and communications, energy and water infrastructures. These were subsequently communicated to ADB (NEPAD focal point for infrastructure development) and will be part of the working documents of the forthcoming UN/AU sponsored International Conference on the Great Lakes (phase II, Nov.2004 – May 2005).
- Providing support to the Northern Corridor Transit Transport Agreement (e.g. proposals for re-structuring of the Secretariat and the revision of the Treaty; completing a feasibility study for a Cargo Tracking System with a backbone information system (BIS) linking Rwanda to the current arrangement (ACIS Kenya -Uganda); various technical capacity building workshops and seminars; participation in Steering Committees on the Indian Ocean – Atlantic Ocean railway linking project. The proposed link via Kisangani (DRC) is intended to extend the East African network from Kasese, in Uganda to Kisangani with spur links to Goma and Bukavu (DRC), Kigali (Rwanda) and Bujumbura (Burundi).
- Support to COMESA in promoting the Southern Corridor Multimodal project (rail-inland waterways) linking Eastern and Southern Africa via Mpulungu (Zambia) with Kasama – Mpulungu (Zambia), Bujumbura – Cyangugu (Burundi – Rwanda), Kibuye – Bwera (Rwanda – Uganda), Kibuye – Kigali (Rwanda) and Kabatore – Kasese (Uganda) segments. This project stems from the old KBO – ECA railways project. The Office provided the pre-feasibility study of the latter and advisory services to the COMESA launching meeting.

Promoting ICT related projects including COMTEL by coordinating the COMESA Business Summit related workshop and the COMESA ICT high-level policy meeting. By the same token, the Office also contributed to the promotion of the East African Submarine Cable System project (E.A.S.S.Y.).

Human resources development (education and health)

Within the Great Lakes Initiative, a standing Group of Experts in Education has been established in cooperation with UNESCO and WHO which met in Kampala in June 2004 to review country case studies initiated by ECA, identified various programmes and formulated recommendation for the strengthening of the Health and Education systems of Great Lakes countries. The Office provided assistance to the Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/AIDS (GLIA) and its launching phase and formulated a subregional programme for eastern Africa with focus on institutional development, capacity building and cooperation among countries in the subregion.

Food security

The Office prepared reports and organised brief sessions at ICE's in cooperation with ICRAF (International Centre for Research in Agro forestry) to enhance awareness on soil fertility losses in eastern Africa and the need to promote alternative approaches including agro forestry to arrest it and mitigate the need for chemical fertilizers. Proposals for a food security programme have been prepared for the Great Lakes International Conference in collaboration with ICRAF and FAO (preliminary proposals). Workshops on the nexus – food security, population and environment – planning through PEDDA and on Natural Resources Accounting have been organized for the benefit of East African Experts.

Private sector development

Two proposals have been made for: The feasibility study of a private sector IGAD banks; a multi-card for IGAD Business executives. Both proposals aim at the development of the private sector in this community and enhanced cooperation among them.

Gender mainstreaming

A manual on Gender Budgeting has been completed and discussed by the East African Gender Budgeting Initiative.

Regional cooperation

The Office closely cooperates with COMESA, EAC, IGAD and CEPGL and their specialized agencies in furthering the regional integration processes. To this

end, reports have been prepared and assistance provided in various areas. Worth noting is the contribution to on-going initiatives for the re-launching of CEPGL and its bank, the Great Lakes Development Bank (on-going).

IV. ECA's Support to the NEPAD's APRM process

In view of its expertise, ECA was, at the inaugural meeting of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) held in Abuja requested to develop guidelines related to economic and corporate governance including an African Peer Review Mechanism. The ECA delivered this task and its report entitled *Guidelines for Enhancing Good Economic and Corporate Governance in Africa*, as well as its briefing paper entitled *Codes and Standards for Good Economic and Corporate Governance in Africa: Summary of Key Issues and Declaration of Principles*, were approved by the HSGIC at their Second Meeting held in Abuja on 26 March 2002.

Included in the Guidelines and Briefing Paper was an APR mechanism which was also approved by the HSGIC. However, it was then decided that a unitary APR mechanism should be developed to incorporate political governance issues and the ECA also assisted the NEPAD Steering Committee in that regard.

At their third meeting held in Rome on 11 June 2002, the HSGIC agreed that the Secretariat of the APR mechanism would be located in the ECA. However, at their fourth meeting held in Durban during the AU Summit in July 2002, the HSGIC reversed that decision, and concluded that ECA's role in the APR process would be limited to provision of technical analyses only.

Subsequent to that Durban decision, the Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee wrote to the Executive Secretary of the ECA, in July 2002 requesting the ECA to take the responsibility for conducting the professional investigations in economic governance and other areas to be agreed on. Pursuant to this, ECA set out its position and role vis-à-vis the APR process, and offered views on the content of the APR process.

More recently, in Kigali, on 13 – 14 February 2004, the HSGIC designated ECA as a Strategic Partner Institution, alongside the African Union; the African Development Bank; and the Africa Bureau of UNDP. Subsequent discussions between ECA and the APR Secretariat were held in Midrand on 11 –12 March 2004, and continued in Addis Ababa on 12 – 14 April 2004, aimed at clarifying the evolving role of ECA, the working relationships with the APR Secretariat, and the modalities of their collaboration.

Against this background ECA participated in the brainstorming session of the APR Panel with other Strategic Partner Institutions in Johannesburg, on 29 April 2004. At that meeting ECA restated its willingness and readiness to provide technical expertise and services in the implementation of APRM, consistent with the mandate of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at the 2002 session in Johannesburg.

Elements of the partnership between ECA and APR Panel and Secretariat are yet to be translated into the Memorandum of Understanding and the related Road Map, due to the evolving nature of the APR process and the relationship itself. That notwithstanding, ECA has participated in the preliminary phase of the APR process: country support missions to the first four countries.

For Ghana support mission (25 – 30 May 2004), ECA assigned 3 staff to be part of the APR team; for Rwanda (21 – 24 June 2004), ECA assigned 2 staff; for Mauritius (28 – 30 June 2004) ECA assigned 3 staff; and for Kenya (26 –28 July 2004), ECA assigned 2 staff, all. Arrangements are underway to continue to ensure adequate and substantive participation of ECA in the forthcoming support missions to Mali, Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda.

In addition, at the request of the APR Secretariat, ECA has been providing data and other information relevant to the APR process that would provide basis for informed dialogue and a credible assessment, particularly data related to key governance and development issues that include political representation; institutional effectiveness and accountability; economic management and corporate governance, including investment policies, tax systems and the impact of corruption; human rights and rule of law; civil society organizations, including their effectiveness, their independence and the operational environment; sustainability and economic policy stance indices, country studies; trade competitiveness indices; poverty and inequality data; macro-economic data; and PRSPs.

Through its African Women's Report, ECA is making arrangements to provide data collected through the African Gender and Development Index -- a measure of the performance of African member states -- in addressing gender equality, equity and women's empowerment and advancement. Pertinent background information has already been shared with the APR Secretariat. It relates to methodology and validation of data collection, including definition of the theoretical framework; validation of the AGDI, field trials; analysis of data; and review/peer review of the AWR and its validation.

V. Coordination of UN support to NEPAD

Following the adoption of the NEPAD Action Plan by the AU Summit in July 2002, and the independent evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the Committee for Program and Coordination underscored the need for UN agencies and organizations to support NEPAD. Furthermore, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed NEPAD as the strategic framework for cooperation, and urged the UN system to align its activities with the priorities of NEPAD and to foster a coherent response at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. At the regional level, under the leadership of ECA, the Regional Consultations of UN agencies working in Africa established seven thematic clusters that correspond broadly with the priorities of NEPAD in order to provide a common platform for greater interaction with NEPAD sectoral priorities. The overall purpose of the regional consultations is to promote synergies and coordination among the agencies and organizations of the UN system so as to improve the collective response of the UN system in addressing priority needs of Africa. The regional consultations of UN agencies working in Africa also identified the convening agencies as follows:

- Cluster on Infrastructure Development, including Water and Sanitation, Energy, Transport and ICTs, convened by ECA
- Cluster on Governance, Peace and Security, convened by UNDP;
- Cluster on Agriculture, Trade and Market Access, convened by FAO;
- Cluster on Environment, Population and Urbanization, convened by UN-Habitat;
- Cluster on Human Resource Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS, convened by UNICEF;
- Cluster on Science and Technology, convened by UNESCO;
- Cluster on Advocacy and Communication convened by OSAA

The clusters identified fast track activities for collective support of NEPAD. Notable progress has been made by the clusters, ranging from identifying areas of common concern in their work, to drawing up common plans of actions, to mobilizing resources, to working with African regional and sub-regional organizations within the context of the regional consultations, and to actual implementation of projects and activities

Participation in NEPAD conferences

International Conference on NEPAD and Issues affecting Youth: South - North Relations and the Digital Divide, held in Frankfurt, Germany, in June 2004. The African Youth Foundation organized the conference. It brought together youth and academia from Africa and in the Diaspora, as well as African ambassadors in Europe, and EU parliamentarians responsible for Africa. ECA made a presentation on ICT and Youth in Africa.

Endnotes

¹ The implementation of EPAs is deemed to impose a number of severe challenges for ACP countries that include: expected losses of fiscal revenue in some of the ACP countries; more competition under the principle of reciprocity of the EPAs; ascertain net benefits from the EPAs, especially in LDCs; and consistency between the negotiations under the EPAs and that under the Doha Work Programme (DWP) of WTO.

² In the report, it was noted that Africa was making some progress in its attempts to integrate. However, the results are mixed. Improvements have been made in the areas of trade, communications, macroeconomic policies, and transportation. The UEMOA and the COMESA have made significant progress in trade liberalization and facilitation. In the area of the movement of people, the ECOWAS has made remarkable strides. The SADC, and the EAC have progressed in the area of infrastructure. For peace and security, ECOWAS and SADC have to be commended for their gains.