



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa  
Office for North Africa

Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental  
Committee of Experts (ICE)

The Industrialization for a Sustainable and Inclusive  
Development in North Africa

## MEETING REPORT



Rabat, Morocco, 4–6 March 2014

Distr.: GENERAL  
ECA-NA/ICE/XXIX/\*  
March 2014

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH



**United Nations**  
**Economic Commission for Africa**

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## I- ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION

1. The twenty-ninth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Office for North Africa took place in Rabat, Morocco, from 4 to 6 March 2014. The opening ceremony was presided over by the head of the Algerian delegation, on behalf of the outgoing Bureau, and was graced by the presence of His Excellency Mr. Driss El Azami El Idrissi, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy and Finance for the Budget of Morocco, His Excellency Mr. Mehdi Ghania, Planning Minister of Libya, and Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA).
2. Representatives of the seven member States (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, the Sudan and Tunisia) were present at the meeting.
3. The following institutions were also represented at the meeting:
  - United Nations bodies:
    - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Office for Morocco
    - International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office for Morocco
    - United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Office for Austria
    - UNIDO Office for Morocco
    - World Trade Organization (WTO)
    - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
    - UNESCO regional office
    - Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO)
    - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
    - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
  - Regional economic communities:
    - Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)
  - International and regional organizations:
    - Association of African organizations for the promotion of trade (AOAPC)
    - Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (CIDC)
    - African Development Bank (AfDB) Office for Morocco
    - European Commission
  - Diplomatic corps:
    - Embassy of Saudi Arabia
    - Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium
    - Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon
    - Embassy of Burkina Faso Faso
    - Embassy of the Republic of Benin
    - Embassy of the Republic of The Gambia
    - Embassy of Spain
    - Embassy of the People's Republic of China
    - Embassy of India
    - Embassy of Italy
    - Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
    - Embassy of the Republic of Guinea
    - Embassy of the Gabonese Republic
    - Embassy of France

- Embassy of the Republic of Senegal
  - Embassy of the Russian Federation
  - Royal Norwegian Embassy
  - Embassy of the Republic of Niger
  - Embassy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
  - Embassy of the State of Kuwait
  - Embassy of the United States of America
  - Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
  - Embassy of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
  - Embassy of Finland
  - Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Public institutions and universities:
    - Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology
    - University Mohammed V - Agdal, Faculty of Law and Economic and Social Sciences, Morocco
    - University Mohammed V - Souissi, Faculty of Law and Economic and Social Sciences, Morocco
- Civil society organizations:
    - International Road Transport Union (IRU), Geneva
    - L'Espace Associatif, Morocco
    - Cercle d'Action et de Réflexion autour de l'Entreprise (CARE), Algeria
    - Terjaoui international scientific institute of good governance and strategic planning for sustainable human development (ISTIGOP)
    - Union of Libyan industry
- Private sector
    - AHC Consulting
    - Alternative Capital Partners
    - CJD-MAROC
    - Capital Consulting group
    - IEMEP
    - BiodiverCités NGO

The complete list of participants can be found in the Annex of the present report.

## **I. OPENING OF THE MEETING** *(item 1 of the Agenda)*

4. In his opening remarks, the representative of the outgoing ICE Bureau thanked the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for all the work they had done since the twenty-eighth meeting.

5. The Director of the ECA Office for North Africa, Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, welcomed all the participants and thanked His Excellency Mr. Driss El Azami El Idrissi, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy and Finance for the Budget Budget Minister of Morocco, His Excellency Mr. Mehdi Ghania, Planning Minister of Libya, and Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) for their presence at the meeting.

6. She said that the analysis of the economic and social conditions had shown that global economic growth had slowed, with a growth rate of 2.1 per cent versus 2.4 per cent in 2012, and relatively high unemployment. For North Africa, the sluggish global economy combined with

lengthy periods of political transition in certain countries and a rise in security threats had resulted in a sharp contraction of regional gross domestic product (GDP). Growth stood at 2.5 per cent in 2013, against 6.6 per cent in 2012.

7. In certain countries, the political climate was continuing to have a negative effect on various sectors of the economy, including tourism, fuel exports and foreign direct investment (FDI). In 2013, the combined exports of the seven countries of the subregion fell by 13 per cent. For the subregion as a whole, the deficit in the trade balance grew by 307.5 per cent, going from US\$ 10.6 billion in 2012 to \$43.2 billion in 2013. This was the result of a sharp contraction in the surpluses of net oil exporting countries (Algeria and Libya) and continued high levels of trade deficits in the other countries, particularly Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

8. Regarding social development, and despite the diversity of national situations, the efforts of States should enable most of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets to be achieved, including those related to the eradication of extreme poverty, education for all and access to safe drinking water. However, the pace in the reduction of human development deficits had slowed over the past decade, showing the limits of the development models. In the past, investment had primarily been focused on Human Development Index indicators unrelated to income, such as health and education.

9. The recovery of global growth during the fourth quarter of 2013 suggests that the prospects for North Africa could be more favourable, with growth expected to reach 4.2 per cent in 2014. She detailed the strengths of North Africa, such as its expanding network of infrastructure; its central geostrategic position at the crossroads of Europe, Africa and the Arab world; and the medium-term growth prospects of Africa as a whole, especially the untapped potential of its intraregional market.

10. To address these issues and respond to one of the recommendations of the Committee, the agenda of the twenty-ninth ICE meeting included a round table on “Developing regional value chains to accelerate the diversification and sophistication of North African economies”.

11. She reminded participants that the outcome of the discussions and the Committee’s recommendations would be the subject of a report to be submitted to the Seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, which would be held from 25 to 30 March 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria.

12. Lastly, on behalf of the ECA Office for North Africa, she expressed her sincere gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and to the Government and people of Morocco for the interest shown in the work of the Office and the warm welcome given to participants.

13. His Excellency Mr. Driss El Azami El Idrissi, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy and Finance for the Budget of Morocco, took the floor and thanked ECA for organizing the meeting. He commended the Director on her presentation and careful analysis of the situation of the subregion in 2013. He welcomed all the participants and thanked His Excellency Mr. Mehdi Ghania, Minister of Planning of Libya and Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union, for attending the twenty-ninth ICE meeting.

14. He noted the importance of the theme of the twenty-ninth ICE meeting for development in the subregion. For the second year running, the theme related to industrialization, thereby reflecting the importance that member States attached to it. He reiterated industrialization’s crucial role as an engine for the diversification and structural transformation of economies, for not only sustainable and inclusive growth and development but also for job creation.

15. He was confident that the round table on “Developing regional value chains for the acceleration of diversification and sophistication of North African economies” would provide avenues of response to these issues and to the challenge of integrating North Africa into global value chains. To further accelerate industrialization in the region, he called for the improvement and strengthening of the business environment in general and the institutional mechanisms responsible for promoting the anchoring of the countries of the subregion into the regional and global value chains. Private sector involvement in that process was crucial because public-private partnerships would guide the institutional changes needed to promote production and employment. It was also important to strengthen intra-regional cooperation in the area of human resources, where capacities were complementary but not used optimally.

16. Lastly, he underlined Morocco’s desire to strengthen regional cooperation. He again welcomed the participants and wished them fruitful deliberations.

17. His Excellency Mr. Mehdi Ghania, Planning Minister of Libya, thanked the Budget Minister of Morocco and the Director of the ECA Office for North Africa for inviting him to the important ICE meeting on greater industrialization for countries in the subregion. In that regard, he proposed a few avenues for discussion including:

- Establishing a reliable database on key indicators of economic and social development to improve and deepen short-term analyses of the economies of the subregion;
- Training the workforce in line with regional demand in the labour market;
- Strengthening good governance at the economic level and developing the culture of belonging to a company;
- Encouraging foreign investment by improving the business environment;
- Encouraging scientific research to improve the performance and productivity of the economy;
- Promoting areas of comparative advantage in the light of the resources available to the subregion;
- Promoting an industrial model capable of promoting sustainable development.

18. He concluded by underlining that Libya was developing its vision 2030, in which industrial policy would play an important role, and expressed his hope that the present meeting would result in industrial policy recommendations for promoting the growth of the economies of the subregion.

19. The Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, commended the excellent relationship between ECA, particularly the Office for North Africa, and the UMA Secretariat. He highlighted the continued support provided by the Office since the signing on 27 December 1994 of a cooperation agreement between the ECA Executive Secretariat and the UMA Secretariat to facilitate the efforts of the Arab Maghreb Union in improving the mechanisms of regional integration as well as the many joint activities undertaken in areas such as trade, investment, renewable energies and gender issues.

20. Referring to the theme of the ICE, he emphasized the central role of industrialization in job creation (particularly for young people), the creation of wealth, and Maghreb integration. The introduction of a Maghreb strategy of industrialization was one of the objectives of the UMA Treaty. Such a strategy should enable the development of regional value chains and the establishment of effective integrated industrial sectors. In that context, he referred to the opportunities offered by the renewable energy sector and provided an overview of the key recommendations of the UMA workshop on development of industrialization in that sector. The recommendations included accelerating the implementation of a Maghreb strategy on renewable energies, policy coordination for the industrialization of the sector, the development of a regional cluster to bring together expertise in specialized technopoles and ultimately reduce technological dependence, and the establishment of a joint cooperation project based on regional complementarities.

21. He was confident that the ICE meeting would produce key recommendations for enhancing regional integration and wished the participants success in their work.

## **II. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU** *(item 2 of the Agenda)*

22. After discussions between the heads of delegation, the Committee elected the following persons to the Bureau:

- President: Egypt
- Vice-President: Libya
- Rapporteur: Mauritania

## **III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORK***(item 3 of the Agenda)*

23. In his introductory statement, the President of the 2014 ICE Bureau thanked the members of the Committee for the trust they had placed in his country and welcomed the participants. He congratulated the outgoing ICE Bureau and the ECA Office for North Africa for all their hard work throughout the previous year.

24. After these introductory remarks, the Committee adopted the Agenda ((CEA-AN/CIE/XXIX/1)) and the Programme of Work (CEA-AN/CIE/XXIX/1/Add. 2)

## **IV. REPORT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN NORTH AFRICA IN 2013***(item 4 of the Agenda)*

25. The Secretariat set out the main conclusions of the document entitled “Economic and social conditions in North Africa in 2013” (CEA-AN/CIE/XXIX/8). The related report looks at recent changes in macroeconomic and social aggregates and perspectives for the subregion and member States for 2014. The report provides an analysis of the main economic policy measures adopted in 2013 and highlights short-term policies intended to support efforts to revitalize the economy following the global economic and financial crisis, including reforms to ensure the structural transformation of North Africa’s economies.

26. The Secretariat took the opportunity to thank the member States that had provided responses to the questionnaire sent out by the Bureau to help draft the report.

27. The report was structured around the following points:

- International and regional outlook;
- Economic performances of North African countries;
- Social development and employment.

28. At the international level, the year 2013 was characterized by a slowdown in growth in the context of continuing budgetary restraint policies in the majority of developed countries, high unemployment and a downturn in overall external demand, which translated into slower growth for many developing countries. World oil prices remained high, thereby increasing the pressure on the balance of trade of countries reliant on imports of oil and food. Despite slackening worldwide growth, economic growth in Africa remained relatively strong in 2013, with growth rates close to double the global average, although they remained slightly below the average for developing countries.

29. In North Africa, political instabilities and disrupted oil production continued to hamper growth, particularly in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. As a result, subregional growth rates fell from 6.6 per cent in 2012 to 2.5 per cent in 2013. Nevertheless, growth of 4.2 per cent is expected in 2014, as long as there is a return to stability in the countries currently going through political transitions.

30. Trade indicators were poor as a result of a 38 per cent drop in Libyan exports and, to a lesser degree, a 5.1 per cent drop in exports from Algeria. Continuing political instability and security threats in a number of countries, weak growth in the eurozone and the drop in world oil prices have all, to differing extents, affected the performance of North African economies and their exports. This downward trend looks set to continue in 2014 for the region as a whole, with a new contraction of about 0.2 per cent expected owing to persistent uncertainties over fuel exports from Libya and the fall-off in oil prices.

31. In the short term, the main challenge that the countries of the subregion will face is the limited funds for supporting and consolidating growth. The ability of member States to introduce countercyclical macroeconomic policies with a view to lessening the impact of fluctuations in the price of basic goods and capital inflows remains limited, and the question of how to mobilize sources of funding for the economy remains topical.

32. The social situation remains dependent on the economic and political climate and its impact on the rolling out and implementation of reforms already under way.

33. In terms of human development, the member States have made considerable progress, particularly in the fields of health and education. However, around the year 2005, the pace of progress in reducing human development deficits began to slow and show the limits of the development model then in place, which was largely based on investment in components of the Human Development Index not related to the financial or economic sectors, such health and education.

34. Unemployment in the subregion remains relatively high at 11 per cent; by comparison, the global unemployment rate stands at 5.9 per cent. The subregion's main problem is that economic structures are not sufficiently diverse, thereby limiting employment opportunities. This is in spite of the fact that growth rates were relatively good prior to the global economic crisis. National production systems do not create enough added value to be able to support large numbers of high-quality jobs. The issue of employment remains, therefore, at the heart of development policy agendas. What is needed are pragmatic economic policies designed to create stable, well-paid jobs, thereby strengthening the beneficial link between economic growth and human development. Social policies intended to distribute more fairly the benefits of growth must also be introduced with a view to combating other problems currently facing the subregion such as gender and regional inequalities and, more generally, differences in opportunity.

35. The demographic transition of North African countries as a result of improved healthcare is leading to the beginnings of an ageing population. The member States are starting to feel the consequences of this and are trying to measure the impact in three areas: covering the cost of pension systems and making sure that they are sustainable; health expenditure; and ensuring labour markets are balanced.

36. The rising incidence of chronic illnesses (such as cancer, high blood pressure and diabetes) as a result of an ageing population, combined with illnesses related to being overweight – which mainly concerns young people and people of working age – are very costly for society. All of these issues will force up health spending, thereby putting more pressure on national budgets.

37. Following the presentation, the Committee thanked and congratulated the Secretariat on the quality and breadth of the presentations and stressed the need to work closely with the countries to update the statistical data available.

38. The Committee noted the significant progress made by the North African countries in recent decades with regard to human development (MDGs) and their commitment to the discussions on the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. The Committee stressed that economic growth was not an end in itself but a means of promoting human development.
39. The Committee noted that the social uprisings that occurred in the subregion in 2011 demonstrated the urgent need to promote inclusive and harmonious development.
40. The Committee also said that the political transitions had structurally changed the economic growth potential of North African countries, particularly those affected by the political crisis. It therefore suggested to the ECA Office for North Africa that the indicators used in the production of the report should be reviewed in order to reflect the statistical data and latest sectoral studies that would be provided by the countries to the Office.
41. The Committee noted that growth projections for 2014 at the subregional and national levels were heavily dependent on the swiftness with which the countries concerned completed their respective political transitions.
42. It was also pointed out that the report did not include any analysis of regional cooperation instruments such as GAFTA and Agadir; the governance dimension as the main thread in the development of the subregion; and other dimensions such as (i) the continued reduction of the digital gap; (ii) the green economy; (iii) the inclusion of the informal sector.
43. With regard to the trade deficit of the countries of the subregion, the Committee said that it was difficult to deepen integration during an economic crisis in which States felt bound to defend their own immediate interests. Nevertheless, the Committee recognized that the trade potential of the subregion could be fulfilled by introducing trade facilitation and economic diversification measures by means of effective industrialization and the development of regional value chains. It also noted that the low level of trade in the subregion was hiding the problem of parallel trade and the informal sector in general, which had not been taken into account in the report.
44. The Committee stressed that promoting economic development in the subregion would depend on the availability of three factors: capital, technology and trade. Complementarity in the availability of these factors between different countries should promote intra-regional trade and investment promotion. Transport and logistical services were also crucial for the development of industrialization and the promotion of regional integration.
45. Following the discussions, the Committee endorsed the Secretariat's recommendations.
46. In his presentation on the country profiles, the Secretariat explained that the decision to produce such profiles was part of a broader vision of Africa's development in which the countries themselves took ownership of their own development agendas.
47. The proposal was approved at the Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, which was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2013. Indeed, the initiative was strengthened as a major strategic thrust of the mandate of ECA. To that end, ECA was asked to develop a methodological framework to make the country profiles a tool for producing and disseminating analysis and national and regional policy recommendations. Specifically, the aims were to promote growth and sustainable social development; strengthen regional integration, development planning and economic governance; and mitigate the potential risks. The process requires the harmonization of methodologies for data collection and reporting.
48. As a result, the Secretariat emphasized the need for a partnership with the different institutions of the member States on the basis of a formal commitment to cooperation and information exchange. It was also pointed out that ECA would work in partnership with the

regional economic communities and other United Nations agencies to collate and prepare the country profiles.

49. Following the presentation, the Committee recognized the difficulty in collecting, producing and disseminating statistical data. It therefore welcomed the willingness of ECA to integrate the development of country profiles into a programme for the building of the capacities of national statistical offices.

#### **V. Round table on “Developing regional value chains to accelerate the diversification and sophistication of North African economies” (item 5 of the Agenda)**

50. The round table was attended by His Excellency Mr. Mehdi Ghania, Planning Minister of Libya. The Chair said that the theme of the round table was very much in keeping with previous topics and would look more closely at the general issue of diversification for the structural transformation of the economies of the subregion. The round table was intended to:

- Facilitate an exchange of experiences and views on the issue of developing regional value chains in North Africa in order to facilitate the acceleration of the diversification and sophistication of productive processes and better integration into global value chains;
- Identify the key elements for establishing an operational strategy for the development of regional value chains in North Africa, which would play a leading role in the structural transformation of the subregion’s economies;
- Make specific recommendations that would enable the terms of reference for a study to be conducted at a later date to be well delineated.

51. Five presentations, grouped into two sessions, focused on the following issues. The first session focused on “What sort of cooperative approach is needed among the North African countries to develop regional value chains?” Three presentations were given by ECA, the World Trade Organization and the European Union on, respectively, an introduction to thematic value chains, the role of statistics in economic planning tools and the establishment of sustainable and inclusive development, and the challenges of developing regional value chains as a lever of regional integration. The second session focused on “What operational strategy should be adopted in North Africa to develop regional value chains?”. Presentations were given by ESCAP on the Asian experience of developing regional value chains; UNIDO on the conceptual framework for analysing and developing regional value chains; and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) on the role of road transport in the process of industrialization and economic integration.

52. Following the discussions, the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Secretariat and made additional recommendations, which are reflected in the report of the round table.

#### **VII. REPORT ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (item 6 of the Agenda)**

53. The session on the progress made regarding the post-2015 development agenda was articulated in four additional presentations.

##### **Post-2015 development agenda**

54. After providing an overview of the state of international negotiations regarding the post-2015 development agenda, the Secretariat described the process that had led to the formulation of the common African position as agreed on at the 2010 African Union Summit and adopted in January 2014. The Secretariat reviewed the situation of the MDGs in Africa, highlighting the

good performances of certain countries regarding gender, education, economic growth and the fight against poverty, but also stressing challenges such as youth unemployment, the fight against inequality, and climate change. On the basis of what is at stake at global, regional and national levels, the common African position covers the following six priority areas: (i) structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; (ii) science, technology and innovation; (iii) human-centred development; (iv) the sustainable management of natural resources and natural disasters; (v) funding and partnerships; (vi) peace and security.

55. This regional process is part of global negotiations which should culminate in 2015 with the final adoption of the post-2015 development agenda by the United Nations General Assembly.

### **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

56. The Secretariat introduced the report on the SDGs for North Africa, which were developed in 2013 during the preparatory process on a common African position on the SDGs launched by ECA. The report takes into account the comments made by experts at the African regional consultative meeting organized by ECA in Addis Ababa in November 2013, which was attended by all the countries of the subregion.

57. The presentation focused on five major issues: (i) the background and methodological approach; (ii) the subregional priorities for sustainable development; (iii) the integration of these priorities into the themes and topics of the post-2015 development agenda; (iv) a draft matrix of goals, targets and indicators; (v) lessons learned and recommendations.

58. On the basis of an analysis of the main priorities of the subregion – economic, social, environmental and cross-cutting (balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, the green economy, regional integration, governance, and the mobilization of funding) – thematic priorities for the subregion have been identified. They include topics that were not taken into account in the MDGs and that make a vital contribution to achieving sustainable development, such as governance, the fight against corruption, climate change, the green economy, employment and regional disparities. The issues identified were compared with those identified by member States during national consultations on the post-2015 agenda, which led to the identification of four overall objectives, 36 targets and 54 indicators. The four objectives are:

- to reduce poverty and the social exclusion of vulnerable populations;
- to set off the structural transformation of the economies of member States and achieve inclusive green growth;
- to ensure universal access to basic services;
- to build a lasting peace on a transparent basis.

59. The report also highlights the existence of a number of risks that could affect the implementation of the goals and makes the following recommendations: (i) adopt a coherent planning process based on ongoing dialogue, technical and institutional coordination among countries, sharing of experiences and good practices, awareness-raising, regular information updates, and strong synergy with subregional institutions; (ii) strengthen national systems for data production and analysis; (iii) build capacity for greater ownership of the SDGs and the systematic approach underlying them; (iv) introduce training and awareness-raising campaigns on the green economy (approach, principles, tools, benefits in terms of sustainable development); (v); mobilize financial resources, including from domestic sources; (vi) establish a system of regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs.

## **Presentation of the proposed development of an information portal on climate change adaptation for North Africa**

60. The Secretariat gave a presentation on the proposed development of an information portal on climate change adaptation for North Africa. The project would respond to the real need for databases and information-sharing tools on climate change adaptation, as articulated by experts during various meetings. The main objective would be to link data on vulnerability and risks in certain areas or sectors to adaptation options and strategies. The portal would pool and share ECA information. It would be open and free, both in terms of the data and in terms of user interface and tools. A prototype would be developed and presented at a workshop of experts before summer 2014. The pilot portal would take into account recommendations made by experts and potential users could expect to see it in the fourth quarter of 2014. The first official version is expected to be launched during the first quarter of 2015.

### **Vision 2063**

61. The Secretariat presented Vision 2063, which provides a strategic continental framework for the promotion of human-centred inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Secretariat recalled the context in which Agenda 2063 was shaped, including the integration of uncertainties associated with changes in the global environment (financial crisis, security threats, digital development) and challenges and opportunities specific to the continent (demographic change, urbanization, democratic consolidation, youth unemployment, existence of strong regional institutions, etc.). These challenges pushed the continent to increase its resilience and change its economic growth path in the framework of a long-term development strategy aimed at maintaining stability on the continent, demographic consolidation and economic growth to reduce poverty, create jobs, increase access to basic services, ensure good governance and respect for human rights, and accelerate economic integration.

62. The approach adopted in the preparation of Vision 2063 is based on results and building on successful experiences, as well as wider consultation with all actors (ministries, experts, regional organizations, think tanks, the private sector, the diaspora, civil society, colleges, etc.). It is aimed at improving the coherence of existing national and regional plans and frameworks, including the post-2015 agenda.

63. The Secretariat concluded by stressing that efforts would continue to develop a framework for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Vision 2063, a resource mobilization strategy, a ten-year implementation plan and an advocacy strategy.

64. The Committee took note of the four presentations, and stressed the importance of learning lessons from the MDGs and defining the development priorities of the subregion in an endogenous manner, all while strengthening the position of the continent as a partner and participant of the negotiation process. Countries must ensure that indicators are measurable and that qualitative indicators are not overshadowed. Statistical systems would have to be strengthened in order to produce reliable statistics to measure indicators. In addition, although the SDGs were universal, they should take into account the specificities and differentiated progress made in each country. Indeed, some MDGs had already been achieved by certain countries but major sustainable development challenges remained for others (e.g. eradicating extreme poverty).

65. Specifically, the Committee raised the following points:

- The importance of industrialization in the structural transformation of economies, job creation, responsible production and technological progress. The 2013 Lima Declaration adopted by all member States of UNIDO sees industrial development as an important pillar of sustainable and inclusive development;

- sustainable development must become part of a new approach that places business and private actors at the heart of changes and favours “win-win” solutions to promote more efficient use of natural resources and new technology for sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Corporate social responsibility is an important tool for implementing sustainable development goals. Efforts are under way in some countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt) and could be shared and strengthened in the framework of an African corporate social responsibility project;
- The role of local communities in the formulation and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda is essential and should incorporate lessons learned from the implementation of Agenda 21 (local agenda);
- Issues related to deforestation and desertification should be identified as overall objectives given their importance;
- The omission of any mention of migration and the mobility of persons in the post-2015 development agenda was brought up in view of the importance of this issue given the globalization of flows.

66. The Secretariat informed the Committee of the work of ECA on the African development goals and called for their adoption.

#### **VIII. REPORT ON THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS AND OTHER SPECIAL INITIATIVES IN NORTH AFRICA (ECA-NA) *(item 7 of the Agenda)***

67. The Secretariat reiterated the finality of the report on the implementation of regional and international development agendas and special initiatives in North Africa. The report would support States in monitoring progress made with regard to international and regional commitments and ensure the mainstreaming of the subregion’s priorities in the negotiating processes at the international and regional levels. It was structured around the pillars of the African consultative process for the elaboration of the post-2015 agenda (SDGs), the state of climate negotiations, the ICPD +20 preparatory process, the second High-level dialogue on international migration, the monitoring of the implementation of CEDAF in Africa, the results of the Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia, on the Doha Development Round (WTO) and the ICT4All Forum 2013. The report also outlined the activities undertaken by ECA and the Office for North Africa in support of the preparation of North African countries for such conferences and the monitoring of the implementation of key commitments.

#### **Sustainable Development Goals**

68. Following the launch of consultations in January 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly with a view to developing global SDGs to be adopted at its sixty-ninth session in 2014, working groups were established to define a conceptual approach to the new goals and review a number of priority areas and cross-cutting issues affecting development. With regard to the African continent, the Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance held in March 2013 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, called on ECA, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to ensure that the priorities of Africa were well reflected in the SDGs and to translate the common position of the continent into concrete targets, indicators and targets. It also emphasized the need for greater convergence between the post-2015 development agenda process and the SDGs. In this context, ECA, together with AUC and AfDB, led the African process of consultation on the SDGs. This process was intended to make sure that the SDGs were in keeping with Africa’s development priorities and subsequently ensure their ownership and implementation. It led to the development of five subregional reports and one African regional report, which were submitted

and discussed at the African regional consultative meeting on SDGs held in Addis Ababa in November 2013.

69. The Secretariat informed the meeting participants that consultations on the SDGs would continue in 2014, taking into account the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda, which was currently being finalized. The Secretariat called on member States to maintain their commitment to the process and to promote greater involvement of all national stakeholders, all while ensuring consistency between the positions agreed on in the various policy forums, including African and Arab ones.

### **Climate change**

70. On the climate negotiations, the Warsaw Climate Change Conference held in November 2013 upheld the original purpose of the Durban platform regarding a legally binding agreement for all Parties by 2020, which must be signed by 2015. The outcome document adopted at Warsaw calls on all countries to prepare and submit national goals during the first quarter of 2015. The many issues that remain will be addressed towards the end of 2014 in Lima, at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 20). The African group of negotiators is better and better prepared and receives increasing amounts of help from pan-African and international institutions in the run-up to conferences on climate change. The common African position is now clearer, giving the continent a stronger voice in negotiations. However, Africa needs to continue to work on key issues such as adaptation, agriculture, financing, losses and damages in order to make Paris 2015 a successful COP for the post-2020 period.

### **Population**

71. In accordance with the terms of resolution 65/234 (April 2011), which noted that the International Conference on Population and Development Plan of Action remained valid, and considering the delay in its implementation since 1994, the General Assembly decided to extend its implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up to ensure that the goals and targets would be met. At the same time, the resolution emphasized the need for countries to reiterate their commitment at the highest political level to not only achieving the goals but also to monitoring progress and challenges encountered. The same resolution called on the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in consultation with the member States and in cooperation with the United Nations system and other organizations, to undertake a technical review of the implementation of the action plan based on the collection and analysis of high-quality data on the development situation of the general public.

72. The Secretariat informed the meeting participants of the establishment by the Office of a coordinated mechanism with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the UNFPA regional office to ensure that all North African countries received the necessary assistance to produce the national assessment reports. The three institutions established a system of information sharing and collaboration that allowed for an effective and productive partnership. Six out of the seven countries submitted high-quality national reports. The information from the questionnaires and the country reports served as the basis for the preparation of the regional assessment report on Africa. The report, entitled “Harnessing the demographic dividend: the future we want for Africa”, highlighted the need for State and non-State actors to recommit themselves at the highest level to fully implementing the Programme of Action.

73. The African Ministerial Conference on Population and Development took place in Addis Ababa on 3 and 4 October 2013 to review the regional assessment report. At the Conference, the ministers recognized that, despite major progress in human rights during the past two decades, additional efforts were needed to combat poverty and achieve the fundamental freedoms, without distinction, that enable people to participate fully in social, economic and technological advancement. In addition, the ministers undertook to develop, strengthen and implement appropriate legislation, national policies and programmes that would ensure human rights for the inclusive and sustainable economic and social development of all sectors.

## **Migration**

74. In connection with the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Secretariat informed the meeting participants that, in its resolution A/RES/65/170 2011, the General Assembly had invited the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in cooperation with the regional commissions and other relevant entities of the United Nations system, to participate in the preparations for the second High-level Dialogue in 2013 and coordinate the regional consultative processes on migration. In preparation for the High-level Dialogue, ECA, in partnership with IOM, undertook several activities. The first of these was the African Regional Dialogue on International Migration, held in Addis Ababa in August 2013, in consultation with member States, regional economic communities and other United Nations organizations, on the theme “Cooperation and policy dialogue for regional integration”.

75. The ECA Office for North Africa and IOM produced a joint study on the integration of migration issues into development policies and strategies in the countries of North Africa, including UMA member States. The study was developed on the basis of information and data collected through a questionnaire sent to six countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The study, which is an important source of information, analyses the policy decisions taken at national level by certain countries of the subregion to assess how migration issues are taken into account. The second objective of the study is to serve as a tool for advocacy to increase the political commitment of North African States to promoting the contribution of migration to economic and social development.

76. The main recommendations that emerged from the analysis carried out throughout the survey period was that the management of migration should be addressed within a coherent, multisectoral strategic framework that sets out the goals, directions and policy instruments. A number of areas still require greater clarity in the definition of action to be taken and more active intervention programmes. The study was subject to approval and review at an expert workshop held in Rabat on 20 and 21 November 2013.

## **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

77. In close collaboration with UN-Women, and as part of its contribution to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in 1979, the Secretariat produced the African Women’s Report 2013, the theme of which was “Socioeconomic costs of violence against women”. The report was intended to highlight the fact that violence is a serious problem in African countries in terms of economic costs. Violence against women has an economic cost in the form of increased expenditure on health and social services; loss of productivity and production; absenteeism; and increased workloads for the criminal and civil justice systems. The socioeconomic costs may be direct or indirect.

78. The findings and recommendations contained in the report with a view to fighting violence against women focus on a number of areas including the establishment of an adequate legal basis for the fight against all forms of violence, and the enforcement of existing laws. In addition, the report stresses that the effectiveness of the fight against violence is limited by inadequate and insufficient statistical data to quantify the nature, extent and implications for the continent’s socioeconomic development of violence against women. The report also emphasizes the urgent need to devote more resources to prevention and public awareness, as sometimes societies, in the name of culture and tradition, tolerate such violence. The report was reviewed and improved by experts at a workshop held from 25 to 27 September 2013.

## **International trade**

79. The Secretariat also informed meeting participants of the results of the Bali Ministerial Conference on the negotiations of the Doha Round (WTO). All 159 WTO member States managed to reach agreement at the Conference, which was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 4 to 7 December 2013. The agreement represents less than 10 per cent of the entire reform programme launched at Doha, but at stake were the very future of WTO and multilateralism in general in the event of the failure of the Conference. The agreement includes wider issues than what was covered under the Doha Round, and covers three areas: agriculture (with a commitment to reducing export subsidies); development assistance (provision for enhanced tariff exemptions for products from least developed countries); and trade facilitation (reduction of bureaucracy and red tape at borders). The Bali package is modest, although it is considered the first comprehensive agreement among WTO members since the establishment of the organization in 1995.

80. For African countries, trade facilitation is an important issue. Indeed, transaction costs within the continent are considerably higher than those related to trade with non-African partners. A significant improvement should strengthen intra-African trade and trade between various regional economic communities, which for the most part already have far-reaching trade facilitation programmes. More fundamentally, and as demonstrated by the ECA study presented at the 2013 ICE on the continental free trade agreement, trade facilitation promotes the development of trade in manufactured goods over and above other types of trade, and this is also true for North Africa. The ease of movement of inputs should accelerate the sophistication and diversification of economies, facilitate better integration into global value chains, and help to create regional value chains.

## **Information society**

81. The Secretariat introduced the report of the ICT4All Forum, which was held in Tunis from 11 to 14 November 2013 on the theme “From an information society to a knowledge society”. The Forum was organized in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, World Bank, AfDB, African Union, League of Arab States, ESCWA and ECA.

82. The Forum provided an opportunity to begin signposting the African and Arab preparation processes in time for ITU/2014 and UN/2015, and to assess the achievements and accomplishments of the Tunis Agenda in order to make proposals for the post-2015 development agenda.

83. The Forum stressed the importance of coherence within the development of an enabling domestic environment with a view to facilitating Internet access for all through the development of a digital economy. The participants agreed on the need to make broadband networks universal.

84. With regard to the Agenda of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the monitoring of its implementation, the Forum reviewed the developments in the building of an information society, in line with the Tunis Agenda of 2005, with: (i) the presentation of the overall results of the WSIS outcomes, particularly the milestones for the preparation of a report to be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in 2015; (ii) a review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes, including the 2003 Geneva Plan of Action and 2005 Tunis Agenda, with an assessment of existing African and Arab-wide progress; (iii) a proposed outline for the development of Arab and African perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda.

85. The Secretariat stressed the need for the member States to engage effectively in the process in order to better integrate themselves into the global process of implementation of the WSIS plan of action, with a view to benefiting from the opportunities it offers all while preparing for

the new direction of ICT in the decades to come, in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda and integrated and sustainable development.

86. The Secretariat recommended that States continue to become more involved in the implementation of the various regional and international agendas and better take into account the specificities and priorities of the subregion in the formulation of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

## **IX. REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECA OFFICE FOR NORTH AFRICA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2014** *(item 8 of the Agenda)*

87. The Secretariat presented the report on the activities of the Office for the period from March 2013 to February 2014. The outputs produced by the Office were reviewed, including studies and publications, expert meetings, advisory services, workshops and seminars.

88. The activities were carried out under ECA subprogramme 7 entitled “Support for subregional development activities” and in a strategic framework focused on greater technical support for member States and the regional economic communities with a view to strengthening their capacities for regional integration in areas that are a priority for North Africa. The Office has continued to help UMA through the implementation of the multi-year joint programme, as well as other internationally agreed programmes, including the Millennium Development Goals. Emphasis was also placed on the development and maintenance of knowledge networks and good practices in member States

89. The implementation strategy included capacity-building activities by means of technical assistance, training workshops and policy studies aimed at addressing development challenges specific to North Africa, with particular emphasis on advocacy for regional integration.

90. Key thematic areas on which the Office has been working during the period under review include a variety of fields such as gender and rural development, the development of innovative and integrated policies for green and sustainable growth, social protection and regional integration. The Office also responded to a number requests submitted by its member States and facilitated their participation, as well as that of UMA, in the preparatory process for various international meetings.

91. The Secretariat thanked the member States for their cooperation in relation to the data collection questionnaires and stressed the importance of the data, which had contributed to improving the quality of the report on economic and social conditions. The Secretariat encouraged the member States to continue their efforts to provide the Office with relevant information, including at the sectoral level, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 programme of work, before setting out the activities scheduled for the year 2014. These include the revival and acceleration of regional integration by supporting the effective implementation of certain fundamental initiatives. In the field of sustainable development, the Office was also planning activities intended to support the implementation of the subregional programme of action against desertification and help follow-up Rio +20. The Office plans to continue the activities of reflection and analysis on the sophistication and diversification of North African economies by means of studies and meetings on regional value chains and the facilitation of intra-Maghreb trade. The Office is also hoping to provide improved monitoring of economic transformation in North Africa through the publication of country profiles, which will be based on high-quality data collected by the Office from national sources.

92. The Committee took note of the report and the work objectives for 2014 and commended the Secretariat on the quality and relevance of the activities undertaken and the efforts made to meet the needs of member States, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to implement the 2014 activities.

93. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the high-quality work produced by the Office. A number of Committee members thanked the Office for the technical assistance it had provided over the course of 2013.

#### **X. SESSION ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION** (*item 9 of the Agenda*)

94. The Secretariat presented the activities of the ECA Office for North Africa in the context of its cooperation with UMA throughout the year 2013. Such cooperation was formalized by the multi-year programme of cooperation signed between the Office and UMA.

95. For the year 2013, which was a transition year for ECA programmes, activities were pursued in furtherance of the objectives identified for the period 2010–2012. Emphasis was placed on issues of common concern to the countries of the Maghreb and ways in which to make them global themes, in order to provide regional responses to the challenges faced by North African countries.

96. The activities implemented dealt with a variety of strategic areas of regional cooperation, especially issues of energy transition, migration, social security, trade development and UMA capacity-building.

97. In the context of cooperation with UMA, ECA launched a consultation on the drafting of a regional policy document for the development of renewable energies. In partnership with the International Organization of Migration, ECA also carried out a study on the integration of migration issues into development policies and strategies in North African countries, on the basis of a country questionnaire. The primary objectives were (i) to analyse political decisions taken at the national level and in UMA in order to assess how migration issues are taken into account; (ii) to provide a tool for advocacy to increase the political commitment of the North African States to optimizing the benefits of migration for economic and social development. In November 2013, the Secretariat and UMA organized an expert group meeting in Rabat to reflect on the updated terms and conditions of the UMA Convention on Social Security. Another activity in the context of such cooperation was the carrying out of a feasibility study on a self-financing mechanism for UMA. On 8 October 2013, the Secretariat and the Maghreb Economic Forum held a round table in Rabat on the theme “Financial integration and functional cooperation in North Africa: the role of private actors”. Regarding the implementation of the Boosting Intra-African Trade and the Continental Free Trade Area initiatives, the Secretariat, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, placed a resource assistant at the disposal of UMA to support the Union in the development of strategies and action plans to boost intra-regional and intra-African trade.

98. The Office and the Secretariat-General of UMA also organized an evaluation meeting in May 2013 in order to carry out a comprehensive review of the achievements of the multi-year programme for 2010–2013. The meeting provided an opportunity both to confirm the relevance of the strategic areas of intervention and to identify new priorities in view of the developments of 2012, within the two institutions themselves, and at regional and member State level. In the medium term, cooperation should focus on priority areas such as food security, trade, infrastructure, employment, and economic affairs.

99. The Secretariat recommended that member States adopt the results of the study on an autonomous financing mechanism for the UMA institutions and take the necessary measures to put it into operation.

100. The Committee underlined the importance for UMA of a regular and efficient financing mechanism for ensuring continuity in regional integration efforts.

## **XI. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations of the round table on “Developing regional value chains to accelerate the diversification and sophistication of North African economies” (item 10 of the Agenda)**

101. The recommendations of the round table on “Developing regional value chains to accelerate the diversification and sophistication of North African economies” were put forward for the Committee’s consideration, which amended and adopted them as contained in the Annex to the present report.

## **XII. Consideration and adoption of the report of the twenty-ninth ICE meeting (item 11 of the Agenda)**

102. The Committee considered and adopted the recommendations of the twenty-ninth meeting, as contained in the Annex to the present report.

103. The Committee subsequently adopted the present report containing the amendments made during the consideration period and requested the Secretariat to transmit it to the Conference of Ministers.

## **XIII. Date and venue of the thirtieth ICE meeting (item 12 of the Agenda)**

104. It was agreed that the thirtieth ICE meeting would be held prior to the 2015 Conference of Ministers. It would be held in Rabat, unless another member State informed the Secretariat of its wish to host the meeting.

## **XIV. Any other business (item 13 of the Agenda)**

Representative UMA reaffirmed the importance of the partnership between UMA and ECA to achieve the objective of regional integration in North Africa.

## **XV. Closing of the meeting (item 14 of the Agenda)**

105. A Motion of Thanks expressing appreciation to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the Government of Morocco was put forward, the full text of which can be found in the Annex to the present report.

106. The President of the ICE Bureau commended the ECA Office for North Africa, in particular its Director, Ms. Karima Bounemra Bin Sultan, for the quality of documents submitted and the drafting of the report of the meeting.

107. In her closing remarks, Ms. Karima Bounemra Bin Sultan welcomed the quality of the discussions, which had provided an opportunity to discuss in detail the theme of the ICE from various angles. She also welcomed the continued support provided to ECA by the Government of Morocco.

108. She recalled that during the meeting the focus was mainly put on the economic aspects of this transformation, calling for the development of a more diversified industrial sector, which generates added value and creates more stable jobs and decent . But we must bear in mind that ultimately all these efforts should lead to an acceleration of social development, in the framework of policies and programs that focus on the human person and that decisions should be made with a view constant preservation of the environment and natural resources of our country. She also added that the roundtable has identified the issues you have identified as priorities to recommend to deepen our country the best way to develop regional value chains and thus contribute to their agenda of cooperation and integration , agenda of utmost importance . The intense debates on the development agenda of the continent and North Africa in particular, gave a long- term vision with the 2063 Africa and closer and able to be applied perspective , with the post 2015 agenda and setting objectives for Sustainable Development.

109. The Director thanked His Excellency Mr. Driss El Azami El Idrissi, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy and Finance for the Budget Budget Minister of Morocco, His Excellency Mr. Mehdi Ghania, Planning Minister of Libya, and Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) for their presence at the meeting.

110. She thanked the participants for the interest they had given to reviewing statutory matters brought to their attention. The recommendations and the report of the meeting would be transmitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers, as instructed by the ICE.

111. Lastly, she thanked all the participants for their contribution to the success of the ICE meeting, including the member States, civil society, the private sector, the ICE Bureau, the various institutions, members of staff, colleagues from Headquarters, interpreters, hostesses and those in charge of logistics.

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

Following the discussions, the Board made the following recommendations and requested the Office to transmit them to the Conference of Ministers:

#### **Economic and social performance**

##### *To the member States*

1. Build / restore investor confidence, by means of greater institutional stability, ambitious reforms of the business environment and the promotion of entrepreneurship;
2. Promote greater dynamism in the manufacturing sector with a view to increasing the regional supply of goods and services and strengthening higher value-added industries;
3. Accelerate the diversification of external trading partners, with two priorities – North Africa and the rest of the continent – in order to reduce vulnerability to shocks resulting from downturns in the economies of the main current trading partners;
4. strengthen trade facilitation measures provided for in international agreements, including the Kyoto Protocol;;
5. Promote the integration of the informal sector through the establishment of transitional mechanisms to ensure compliance, and strengthen regional cooperation with a view to combating cross-border parallel trade;
6. Undertake comprehensive reforms of subsidy schemes with a view to ensuring that they increasingly benefit the most vulnerable individuals and households and through better targeting, for greater efficiency. These mechanisms must be complemented by up-to-date data and a new governance system.

##### *To ECA*

7. Enhance the governance dimension in the ECA North Africa's Economic and Social Report in view of its importance for the development of the subregion;
8. Integrate environmental concerns into the analysis and assessment of the economic and social conditions and the country profiles in order to give due weight to the different dimensions of structural transformation.

#### **Country profiles**

##### *To the member States*

9. Provide ECA with timely data and the information needed to produce country profiles;

##### *To ECA*

10. Use official data sources produced by public authorities, including national statistical offices and public accounts, as the principal source for country profiles;
11. When collecting data, consider using data produced by civil society organizations in addition to official data;, introduce an analysis of countries' vulnerability to climate change and an assessment of the economic and social impact of natural disasters into the country profiles.

## Regional value chains

### *To the member States*

11. Adopt the outcomes and recommendations of the round table and communicate them to the relevant national departments;

### *To ECA*

12. In the basis of the present recommendations, launch the study on regional value chains together with the relevant institutions.

## Post-2015 development agenda

### *To the member States*

13. Ensure that the common African position on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is clearly reflected in the proposal of the intergovernmental working group on SDGs and in the post-2015 development agenda at the regional and global levels.
14. Promote through the launch of national debate, ownership of the SDGs by civil society in addition to Governments in order to follow up and monitor more effectively national commitments and progress made, in the framework of a more inclusive approach;
15. Take into account the different levels of development of countries when formulating the post-2015 development goals including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities ;
16. Set national targets for the development of intermediate implementation of the 2063 African vision ;
17. Promote the use of common public governance frameworks that integrate political commitment, the transparency of public policies and accountability;
18. Integrate the green economy into the economic development processes of countries and into sectoral strategies;
19. Advocate for the inclusion of the issue of migration into the post-2015 development agenda and into national policies and programmes for social and economic development;
20. Contribute to the establishment of a subregional fund for the financing of SDGs, funded by States, national and regional banks, and international bodies;
21. Adapt statistical systems and make them more efficient in order to improve forecasting, monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms and provide regular updates on countries' efforts acknowledge achievements and remedy shortcomings.

## Regional and international agendas and other special initiatives

### *To the member States*

22. Draw up and submit national targets, in accordance with the agreement of the Warsaw conference on climate change to show their voluntary efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gas emissions for the 2015 Conference contributions; Continue consolidation of the common position Africa under the climate negotiations to include in the negotiations are the key issues of adaptation, agriculture , finance and loss and damage.
23. Strengthen national dialogue on the issue of violence against women and ensure a effective application of laws and agreements related thereto, adopted by countries ;
24. Improve the availability of data to measure the nature, extent and implications for the socio - economic development of the continent , violence against women;
25. Continue efforts to better integrate into the global dynamics for the implementation of the WSIS in order to take advantage of its opportunities , while preparing new orientations of ICT for the coming decades within the post-2015 and integrated sustainable development . frameworks

*To ECA*

26. Continue to help countries coordinate their efforts within the framework of regional and international agendas to strengthen their common positions and keep them informed of progress.

**Regional integration**

*To the member States*

27. Continue efforts for regional integration by implementing trade facilitation measures, the promotion of regional value chains , the operationalization of the free- trade and free movement of persons;
28. Adopt an integration strategy that includes capacity building production, promotion and development of the private sector in the countries of the region;
29. Take account of the results of the study on an autonomous financing mechanism for the institutions of the Arab Maghreb Union and take the necessary measures to implement such a mechanism.

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROUND TABLE ON “DEVELOPING REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS TO ACCELERATE THE DIVERSIFICATION AND SOPHISTICATION OF NORTH AFRICAN ECONOMIES”

The round table on theme “the development of regional value chains in North Africa” held as a first step towards defining the parameters of a study on the topic in the framework of the Expert Group Meeting that the Office intends to hold in the course of 2014, provided a number of findings and recommendations that should guide the work of the study and the choice of issues to be discussed at the Expert Group Meeting.

- Recognizing that industrialization is central to fostering effective structural transformation;
- Proceeding from the fact that the countries of the subregion are only marginally active in world trade, that they are hampered by growing structural deficits, in large part as a result of limited diversification of their production systems, and that they face many challenges requiring stronger and more sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Noting that the participation of countries in world trade increasingly takes place within global value chains and that access to these chains involves many prerequisites, particularly in terms of logistics and the institutional and legal environment, which requires significant human, financial and public policy investments;
- Regretting that regional trade makes up only 4.8 per cent of overall North African trade and that the share of manufactured goods in trade flows is falling;
- Recognizing that the development of regional value chains can be an important lever for addressing challenges such as:
  - o Accelerating the sophistication and diversification of economies;
  - o Promoting the development of new dynamic comparative advantages;
  - o Facilitating participation in higher added-value segments of global value chains;

The round table made the following recommendations:

***With regard to cross-cutting reforms, it is essential to:***

1. Improve and strengthen the business environment in general and the institutional mechanisms intended to anchor the countries of the subregion in regional and global value chains;
2. Promote the involvement of the private sector and civil society in the process through dialogue and a strategic partnership, which would guide the institutional changes needed to boost production and, as a result, employment, by:
  - o formulating policies and ensuring their effective implementation;
  - o drawing up and implementing programmes by regional task forces on global value chains, with financing from a fund for priority projects;
3. Strengthen intra-regional cooperation in the areas of human resources, research and development, and innovation, where capacities were complementary but not used optimally, and increase the financial resources allocated to such cooperation;
4. Remove the constraints to participation in value chains, such as infrastructure (physical and normative frameworks), access to external trade financing, and ensuring compliance with international norms and standards, including through capacity-building programmes;
5. Mobilize adequate funding, which is a real challenge because of restrictions in terms of exchange control. The weakness of existing tools calls for significant efforts to improve the range of financial products aimed at investment in global value chains and the development of regional financing institutions, such as regional banks;

6. Promote the growth of large retailers in view of their impact on value chains (in particular, boosting agricultural and industrial sectors and making way for the development of new sectors), by pushing for standardization and enhancing the competitiveness of local actors by integrating them into successful logistics chains;
7. Improve inclusion and risk-sharing mechanisms throughout global value chains.

***With regard to short- and medium-term priorities in research, it is important to:***

8. Identify the growth sectors in regional value chains by “mapping” the strengths and comparative advantages of each country in the subregion and identifying the levers and challenges to be overcome in order to set in motion truly effective regional cooperation;
9. Adopt a systematic approach that will establish priorities between the various value chains, identify the various actors and their linkages and interactions, analyse the technological capabilities and economic performance, and formulate a strategy for the upgrading of selected value chains, while considering the regulatory and institutional dimensions;
10. Develop partnerships between ECA and other international and regional organizations in order to improve the availability of statistical information and to increase the real impact of efforts to create and manage knowledge and formulate programmes and projects.

***With regard to support services and infrastructure, the development of regional value chains should take into account the trade facilitation component, logistics and transport, which are vital for developing the competitiveness of North African economies. This calls for:***

11. The acceleration of trade facilitation reforms at regional level, including the implementation of the Electronic Data Interchange; system and one-stop office.
12. The development of cross-border Special Economic Zones;
13. The drawing up of a policy aimed at harmonizing the economic, financial and legal conditions for operators, including with regard to competition, with a view to promoting investment, the free movement of people, goods and information across North Africa;
14. Support for and completion of the Maghreb highway project, including its horizontal component in the area of facilitation and extending it to other countries in North Africa;
15. Accession to and/or implementation of major international conventions on trade and transport facilitation of the United Nations, in particular the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods and the TIR Convention, with a view to ensuring:
  - the interconnectedness of North African economies between one another;
  - their interconnectedness with major world markets;
16. The establishment of a harmonized policy aimed at making the road transport sector more professional, based on the internationally recognized (Academy of the International Road Transport Union) and harmonized standards, in order to gradually reintegrate the informal sector into the productive economy.

Lastly, the development of regional value chains in the context of sustainable and inclusive development highlights the issue of equality, at local, regional and national levels. It is only by adopting an approach that takes account of this dimension that the sustainability of regional value chains will be assured.



## ANNEX III

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### AGENDA

1. Opening ceremony
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work
4. Economic and social conditions
  - 4.1 Economic and social report 2012-2013
  - 4.2 Conceptual approach, structure and methodology of the country profiles
5. Round Table: « *Developing regional value chains to accelerate the diversification and sophistication of North African economies* »
6. Post-2015 Development Agenda
  - 6.1 MDGs and Post-2015 Prospects
  - 6.2 SDGs
  - 6.3 2063 Vision
7. Regional and International Agendas and other special initiatives
8. Statutory issues
  - 8.1 Report on the activities of the Bureau (March 2013 – February 2014) and presentation of the ECA-NA programme of activities for 2014
  - 8.2 Report on the activities of ECA
9. Session on the regional integration
  - 9.1 Report on the sub-regional initiatives
  - 9.2 Concept and methodology for the measurement of integration in Africa
10. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations of the round table "*Developing regional value chains to accelerate the diversification and sophistication of North African economies*"
11. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations and of the ICE report
12. Date and venue of the next ICE meeting
13. Any other business
14. Closing of the meeting



## ANNEX IV

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## ANNEX V

### MOTION OF THANKS

#### رسالة شكر وامتنان مرفوعة إلى حضرة صاحب الجلالة الملك محمد السادس

نحن المشاركون في أشغال الدورة التاسعة والعشرين للجنة الخبراء الحكومية الدولية لمكتب شمال أفريقيا التابع للجنة الأمم المتحدة الاقتصادية لأفريقيا، المنعقد في الرباط، في الفترة ما بين 4 و 6 آذار/مارس 2014، وعلى إثر انتهاء أشغال هذا الاجتماع، نرفع إلى مقامكم العالي عبارات الشكر والامتنان على الحفاوة التي أحاطتنا بها المملكة المغربية بمناسبة هذا اللقاء.

ويشرفنا أن ننهي إلى علم جلالتم أن هذا الاجتماع ناقش الظروف الاقتصادية والاجتماعية التي سادت في المنطقة خلال سنة 2013. وفي هذا الصدد تطرق الاجتماع لتطورات البيئة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية كما تناول حصيلة إنجاز برنامج عمل المكتب في سنة 2013 ومخطط عمله خلال سنة 2014 وأجندات التنمية ما بعد 2015 وأهداف التنمية المستدامة. كما تطرق أيضا إلى رؤية أفريقيا في أفق 2063.

وتمحور موضوع اجتماع هذه السنة حول "التصنيع من أجل تحقيق التنمية المستدامة والشاملة في شمال أفريقيا"، على شكل طاولة مستديرة، تطرقت لمختلف أبعاده، خصوصا منها تنمية سلاسل القيمة على الصعيد الإقليمي في سبيل تنويع اقتصادات شمال أفريقيا وتطويرها من أجل إحداث مزايا تنافسية جديدة في هذا الإطار.

وقد أصدر الاجتماع توصيات عملية هامة ترمي إلى التصدي إلى كافة التحديات التي تواجه المنطقة بما فيها حالات الانتقال السياسي والمؤسسي الراهنة، ودعم نمو مدر للمزيد من فرص العمل والازدهار الاقتصادي، والحد من جميع أشكال التفاوتات، والتقليص من وقع المصدمات الخارجية، والتكيف مع تغير المناخ، وكذلك تعزيز التكامل الإقليمي.

وإذ نعبر لجلالتكم عن شكرنا وامتناننا على العناية الفائقة التي أحاطتنا بها الحكومة المغربية والتي ما فتئت تشمل بها مكتب شمال أفريقيا التابع للجنة الأمم المتحدة الاقتصادية لأفريقيا، فإننا ندعو الله عز وجل أن يحفظكم ويرعاكم ويسدد خطاكم ويجعلكم ذخرا لبلدكم المضيف بمزيد من التقدم والازدهار تحت رعاية جلالتم السامية.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته.

الرباط، 6 آذار/مارس 2014

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