
Economic Commission for Africa
Quarterly Briefing of African Ambassadors
19th session
Addis Ababa, 27 February 2018

Nineteenth quarterly briefing meeting with African Ambassadors

Briefing by the Executive Secretary

Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is convening the nineteenth quarterly briefing with African Ambassadors accredited to Ethiopia on 27 February 2018 in Addis Ababa, to exchange views on the work of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa. The report provides an overview of the substantive work carried out by the secretariat over the preceding three months (October – December 2017) in implementing its programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017. The activities are grouped under topics relating to key events, knowledge generation and information sharing, and capacity development, which includes extending technical support to member States and consensus building. It also highlights the key events that will be taking place over the next three months. In addition, the report presents some of the collaboration of the secretariat with key partners.

To begin, the Executive Secretary wishes to provide the African Ambassadors with some important updates on the ongoing United Nations system-wide management reforms and other matters relevant to the work of the secretariat.

The Secretary-General released his second report on “Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet” in December 2017. The report is a follow-up to the initial report released on 11 July 2017, “Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all”. Through the second report, the Secretary-General sets out the major changes required to ensure more coherent, accountable and effective support to the 2030 Agenda. Seven key areas of transformation are identified: the emergence of a new generation of United Nations Country Teams; a reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system that is impartial, independent and empowered; a regional approach that is coordinated, reprofiled and restructured; renewed spaces for Member States to guide system-wide actions and bring greater transparency and accountability for results; a stronger United Nations institutional response and approach to partnerships for the 2030 Agenda; system-wide alignment with the 2030 Agenda; and a Funding Compact for better quality, quantity and predictability of resources with increased accountability and transparency for results. The secretariat has been actively engaged in the consultations and discourse on enhancing the efficiency and capacity of the regional entities to respond to the new demands of the 2030 Agenda.

Further, following the conclusion of the programme of work of the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) on the regular budget and management reforms, the budgetary allocations of the Regional Commissions were ring-fenced from further cuts across the board that were proposed by the Fifth Committee. The Executive Secretary wishes to acknowledge the support of member States in advocating the safeguarding of the regular budget resources of the Commission that has contributed to this outcome.

The Executive Secretary also wishes to note the handover of the chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China to Egypt for 2018. As Chair of the Group, Egypt will lead on priority areas, including ongoing processes to reform the United Nations system, challenges of youth employment, implementation of sustainable development commitments, including Agenda 2063, economic empowerment of women, climate change negotiations and other issues of common interest. The chairmanship presents an invaluable opportunity, especially for ECA member States, whose stake in such priority areas remains critical to the global debate. The

secretariat has committed to supporting Egypt as Chair and the wider Africa group as it engages on the development agenda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Finally, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, work continues on the preparation of a revised version of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). The secretariat has been a central part of this process and has contributed to the completion of the following: reframing of the Integrated Strategy to ensure its alignment with the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063, and regional and national priorities; mapping of the United Nations system-wide interventions in the region to assist in identifying gaps; updating and integrating the contextual analysis through the inclusion of new data across a range of sectors, in order to tell the story more accurately and strengthen the implementation of responses; developing an agreement on a road map that, it is hoped, will lead to the preparation of a comprehensive UNISS2 by June 2018, entitled “UNISS Support Plan”. As part of this, a resource mobilization conference of the G5 Sahel (comprising Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger) is expected to be held in March 2018. The secretariat’s engagement, as part of this process, includes activities that have taken place at various times across the 10 UNISS countries (comprising Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal). This is in addition to its support to the secretariat of the Ministerial Coordination Platform and the technical groups on governance and development, respectively.

A. Key events

1. Supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations and trade policymaking in Africa

In the third quarter of 2017, the secretariat continued to provide support to the African Union Commission and African member States on the CFTA negotiations. The secretariat participated in the meetings that preceded the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT) meeting that was held in Niamey on 1 and 2 December 2017. This meeting included the technical working groups and the CFTA Negotiating Forum. African Ministers of Trade agreed on the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area together with the Protocol on Trade in Services. These will be submitted for consideration and adoption to an African Union Extraordinary Summit that will be held in the first half of 2018. ECA continued to provide technical support to member States and the African Union Commission in the CFTA negotiating institutions, which contributed to the positive results that were achieved during the negotiations.

2. Consultations on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The secretariat organized the Africa regional consultations on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration that took place in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 October 2017. The consultations sought to advance the aims and ambitions of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which sets out steps towards the achievement, in 2018, of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Discussions among member States and relevant stakeholders resulted in the identification of region-specific and actionable commitments and recommendations against the six thematic areas of the global compact.

3. African Economic Conference

The secretariat, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, organized the 2017 African Economic Conference that took place from 4 to 6 December 2017 in Addis Ababa. The Conference brought together more than 200 participants, including high-level experts, members of the academic community, policymakers in the region and researchers working on Africa from all over the world to contribute to the debate on the theme “Governance for structural transformation”. The presentations and high-level discussions at the Conference, which provided useful insights into addressing the core development issues that confront the continent, were delivered in plenary sessions, special sessions, and concurrent sessions. The African Economic Conference 2017 concluded with the presentation of the Best Paper Award.

4. Tenth Session of the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration (CRCI 10)

The tenth Session of the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration (CRCI 10) was held in Addis Ababa from 31 October to 2 November 2017 under the theme “Implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area and Shared Gains”. The Committee reviewed and deliberated on recent developments, risks and prospects in specific sectorial areas such as trade and investment policy, industrialization and infrastructure development, land policy and agriculture as they relate to the broad area of regional integration, and made recommendations that will guide the ongoing work of the secretariat in the 2018-2019 biennium. CRCI was held back to back with a number of Expert Group Meetings (see Annex I).

5. Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA-2017)

The secretariat organized a Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA-2017) from 14 to 17 November 2017 under the theme, “The Africa We Want: Achieving socioeconomic transformation through inclusive and equitable access to land by the youth”. The objective of the Conference was to deepen commitment and strengthen capacity for land policy development, implementation and monitoring in Africa through improved access to knowledge and information in support of evidence-based land policy. The conference showcased the work being done by ECA and its partners in different countries to improve land governance. The Conference was preceded by a number of events that included the Sixth Capitalization Meeting on the European Union Land Governance Programme, the LPI-IGAD-SDC regional dialogue, development partners and project steering committee meeting.

6. Visit of the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

On 15 December 2017, the secretariat welcomed the first visit of a sitting Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. In her special address, the Managing Director, Christine Lagarde, explored the theme, “Economic challenges and opportunities facing the African continent: the role of technology in supporting the region to achieve more inclusive growth”. The discussion focused on advancing technology and the opportunities and fears engendered by it. Highlights of innovation that were transforming lives across the continent were also discussed, including drone technology, financial integration and mobile banking. The visit culminated in the agreement of joint work between the secretariat and IMF in the following areas: (a) development of macroeconomic models that analyse the impact of population pressure on growth, and the kinds of policies needed to avoid a demographic trap; (b) the

macroeconomics of gender equality and distilling the macroeconomics for better support to countries; (c) joint advocacy in support of Africa's private sector at the global level for the development of macroeconomic models as mentioned in (a); (d) innovative sources of financing to generate investments on the continent; and (e) data collection, dissemination and strengthening of national statistical capacities.

7. Electronic investment guides (iGuides)

The secretariat continued with the preparation of electronic investment guides (iGuides) in partnership with the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The iGuides for four countries, namely Congo, Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia, were finalized and will be launched next year. The iGuides serve as a premier reference instrument that are envisaged to help African member States attract more investments and foster development and structural transformation.

8. Contribution to Project LINK Meeting

The secretariat participated in the Project LINK Fall Meeting 2017, which was held in Geneva from 3 to 5 October 2017. Project LINK is an international Expert Group Meeting on the world economy, held each year to discuss the world economic outlook. The ECA presentation on the 2017 Africa Economic Outlook showed recent economic and social trends in Africa.

9. Supporting Africa's Participation in Global Climate Governance, COP 23, Bonn, Germany - Africa Day at COP 23

Africa Day is a key feature of Africa's presence and participation at the various Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), having started at COP 17 in 2011. Africa Day is a joint initiative of the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the secretariat.

Africa Day at COP 23 was held on 15 November 2017, with the objective of providing a platform and opportunity to participate in dialogues and discuss the nature and effectiveness of partnerships needed for the accelerated effective and adequate means of implementation (finance, capacity-building, and technology development and transfer) of the Paris Agreement in Africa. The key outcomes of the Africa Day event were: (a) better understanding of the implications and prospects of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for sustainable and climate resilient development in Africa; (b) new approaches to partnerships for enhancing and accelerating means of implementation of the Paris Agreement in Africa; (c) commitment for enhanced Global Stocktake and coherence in the NDCs of African countries; and (d) elevation of regional approaches and initiatives as key conduits and instruments for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement in Africa. Annex I provides a comprehensive list of the events and activities undertaken by the secretariat, while Annex II presents the key upcoming events from January to March 2018.

B. Knowledge generation and information sharing

The secretariat continued its efforts to facilitate and support the shaping of continental perspectives on emerging and key issues of interests through the conduct of research on a range

of issues related to economic, social and sustainable development. The research studies, which were reviewed at ad hoc meetings of experts provided recommendations to policymakers and decision makers.

Annex III lists the research publications produced by the secretariat during the reporting period.

C. Capacity development

The secretariat's technical support to its member States over the past quarter primarily consisted of training, capacity development and technical advisory services across a range of thematic areas.

1. Training and capacity enhancement

(a) The Commission's training arm, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), delivered eight courses (see Annex IV) for the period from October to December 2017. Those benefiting from the courses included 199 officials, including 59 women from 40 African countries (see Annex V). The training addressed various thematic areas with the aim of strengthening the capacities of policymakers in the formulation of economic policies and national development plans. Overall, from end-of-training surveys, participants gave a satisfaction rating of 94 per cent. The surveys measured the relevance of all the modules, the quality of delivery and the quality of the course materials.

Further, an online training course tailored around the *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation* was delivered from 23 October to 24 November 2017. The course drew 156 participants, including 52 females from 43 countries.

In addition, a training workshop on measuring the total economic impact of tourism in Rwanda was held on 4 October 2017 in Kigali. A presentation was made on preliminary results of the second phase of strengthening tourism statistics in Rwanda, building on the tourism satellite accounts. As part of capacity-building, key stakeholders were trained on tools to measure the total economic impacts of tourism and how this can inform policy formulation.

(b) The secretariat's support to strengthen statistical capacities included the following initiatives:

- (i) Two specialized training workshops were conducted in Francistown and Gaborone, Botswana, on monitoring and reporting on human settlements indicators in Africa. The training was held from 4 to 12 December 2017. The objectives of the training courses were to enhance existing capacity in the monitoring and reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 11 (making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and to leverage existing partnerships, using various statistical tools and techniques;
- (ii) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Agricultural Statistics: As part of the implementation of the training component of the Global Strategy for Agricultural Statistics, the secretariat delivered various regional "training of trainers" activities. These were held in Dakar from 11 to 15 November 2017 and in Addis Ababa from 11 to 15 December 2017. The topics focused on

during this reporting quarter were Nomadic and Semi-nomadic (Transhumant) livestock statistics. Participants were targeted from Statistical Training Centres, universities and research institutions in Africa;

- (iii) Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) training of trainers: As part of the collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a “training of trainers” workshop on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was conducted from 11 to 15 December 2017. Participants represented the secretariat partner organizations, including International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP), and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI);
- (iv) e-Learning programme on Supply Use Tables: The secretariat, in collaboration with the World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Trade Organization, initiated and organized an e-Learning programme on Supply Use Tables from 14 September to 7 November 2017. This was done as part of the African Project on the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), to support countries in compiling, revising, updating, and applying Supply-Use Tables (SUTs) for economic policy research and analysis;
- (v) During the reporting period, the secretariat undertook advisory missions to Egypt, Gabon, Lesotho, Mali and Uganda on the use of mobile devices for statistical data collection as part of the secretariat’s Development Account project for statistical capacity-building;
- (vi) The secretariat conducted advisory missions to provide technical assistance on the use of mobile data and on the development of a road map for strengthening statistical institutional environments. Countries supported during the reporting period included Mauritania, Seychelles, the Sudan and Togo;
- (vii) Upon request, the secretariat provided support to Botswana and Zambia on the National Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics. This included an evaluation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics;
- (viii) As part of the support to the United Nations Country Team in the Niger, the secretariat convened two meetings of the Technical and Financial Partners’ Group on Statistics (GStat), which took place in Niamey on 4 and 6 October 2017. The meetings gathered representatives from different sectors, including senior officials in charge of statistics and studies. The overall aim was to support the mapping of statistical interventions currently undertaken by key stakeholders, with an expected outcome of boosting the statistical capacities of the national statistical system in production of timely and accurate indicators towards monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063;
- (ix) The secretariat supported the “Institut National de la Statistique” of Mali, as part of phase II of the Development Account 9 project. Support was provided in the area of using mobile technology to make statistical data

available and accessible to support evidence-based policymaking. Discussions included the use of the concept of “citizens as data collectors” to enhance the electronic collection of civil registration and vital statistics thus accelerating the process of data collection, reducing data errors and transaction costs.

2. Technical and advisory services

The Commission responded to several requests from member States. A summary of the technical and advisory services provided to member States during the reporting period is given below.

- (a) Natural resources, environmental issues and sustainable development**
 - (i) The secretariat continued to provide advisory and technical support to Chad as it moves to become the first country in Central Africa to complete and fully adopt a mining policy and mining Code that is fully aligned and harmonized with the African Mining Vision (AMV);
 - (ii) The secretariat supported the launch of the innovative “National Suppliers’ Development Programme (NSPD)”, which aims to secure a greater share of the one-billion-dollar mineral supply chain market for firms from Ghana. The programme, which was endorsed by the Government of Ghana, enables the alignment of the Government’s own priorities of private sector-led industrialization and economic transformation;
 - (iii) The secretariat organized the first consensus building workshop on the African Mineral Resource Classification (AMREC) system, which took place from 2 to 6 October 2017 in Cairo. The workshop resulted in the adoption of AMREC as a continental classification framework. The classification framework has been spearheaded by the secretariat to support African countries harmonize, adapt and develop the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009) in line with the principles of AMV. Participants at the workshop suggested that the secretariat should provide the necessary capacity-building support to countries on the use of AMREC;
 - (iv) The secretariat, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, organized a meeting of the leaders of the Chambers of Mines and other Mining Associations in Windhoek from 3 to 6 October 2017. The meeting provided an opportunity for participants to deliberate on a strategy to enhance private sector participation in the CFTA process and catalyse the development of regional value chains in the mineral resource sector. The leaders of the Chambers of Mines endorsed the AMV Private Sector Compact for shared value developed by the secretariat and also established a continental body, the Association of Chambers of Mines and other Mining Associations in Africa (ACMMAA), to support the engagement and implementation of the AMV Private Sector Compact;
 - (v) The secretariat organized the Third Annual Economic Agreements Negotiations Workshop, which took place in Accra from 3 to 8 December

2017. The workshop focused on Trade Agreements, Taxation Agreements, Natural Resources Contracts and Investment Agreements. The workshop saw the representation of 30 member States and regional economic communities (RECs). The annual workshop provided participants with techniques for proper economic negotiations within the African context;

- (vi) Weather Information Services (Wiser) Initiative: Under this ongoing initiative, the secretariat supported the completion of the following activities during the reporting period:
- A model for the application of the socioeconomic benefit (SEB) of investing in weather and climate information services and value for money (VFM) frameworks to various economic sectors including disaster risk reduction;
 - Training of trainers for national legislatures, civil society organizations, youth and media organizations across the five subregions;
 - A one-day awareness-raising session on Climate Information and Services (CIS) for African Ambassadors based in Addis Ababa;
 - Identification of priority user-driven applied climate research activities to be implemented in 2018 by the Climate Research for Development (CR4D), and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);
 - The constitution and launch of the Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICO) of CR4D, with an initial 30 African institutions working on climate change and development across the continent;
- (vii) Capacity-building for Young African Lawyers in COP Negotiations: The secretariat continued to support capacity development among young African negotiators in the COP process. The initiative focused on developing the legal skills in interpreting and negotiating the legal texts of the UNFCCC. At COP23, the secretariat, working with senior African legal experts, provided a week-long hands on exposure and training programme for young legal members of African delegations. The programme included a theoretical introduction to the COP process, as well as training sessions aimed at strengthening the capacity of African legal experts in the negotiation process and providing legal support for the African Group of Negotiators to effectively participate in shaping the outcomes of the “post-Paris” negotiations. As countries embarked on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the young lawyers training at COP23 also sought to highlight and enshrine the application of CIS for the implementation of the actions listed in Africa’s nationally determined contributions. A total of 13 Young African Lawyers participated in the week-long programme in Bonn, Germany;
- (viii) The secretariat is providing ongoing support to Ethiopia for the development and application of a robust statistical database, tools and methodologies to enable an integrated and coherent implementation, monitoring and

evaluation of the “Climate Resilient and Inclusive Green Economy Strategy (CRGE)” and the “Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II)”;

(b) Development planning

- (i) The secretariat responded to the request for assistance from the Republic of the Congo on mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into the National Development Plan (2018-2022). Technical teams from the secretariat undertook a follow-up mission from 23 to 27 October 2017 to organize and facilitate training sessions and workshops on the mechanisms to support the development of the national development plan and alignment of the two agendas;
- (ii) The secretariat provided support to Uganda on the development of economic models to guide its development as well as aid the integration of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into its National Development Plan. The secretariat conducted a mission that resulted in preliminary discussions, workshops and brainstorming sessions with the Uganda National Planning Authority and other relevant ministries and agencies. The outcome of the meeting was an assessment of the mechanisms for the integration of both agendas into the national development plan. Parallel to this, the secretariat supported the development of a model that would assist policymakers in Uganda to assess various policy options related to the streamlining of the international agendas into national plans;
- (iii) In collaboration with the Government of Togo, the secretariat organized and facilitated a capacity-building workshop, “Le renforcement des capacités des cadres de l’Administration togolaise sur les mécanismes d’une meilleure couverture de l’économie nationale”, from 23 October to 3 November 2017 in Lomé. Thematic areas of national planning, rebasing of the GDP of Togo, choosing a new SNA base year, and the prospective study on the Vision 2030 were the focus of the workshop. The secretariat also used the platform to present the Togo Country Profile;
- (iv) Following a request, the secretariat is providing technical support to the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity of Ethiopia to strengthen the individual competencies and leadership capacities of middle-level managers within the Ministry. Support is being provided in the form of training. Initial consultations held in June 2017 resulted in the start of the preparatory phase (from September to November 2017) and the commencement of the first implementation phase, which is the training design (from December 2017 to January 2018). Training, which forms the second phase of implementation, is expected to take place from February to March 2018;
- (v) The secretariat is also providing technical support to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation of Ethiopia to develop and apply a robust statistical database, tools and methodologies for the integrated and coherent implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the climate resilient green economy strategy and the growth and transformation plan. The technical support also aims to enhance the capacity of the Government of Ethiopia at federal and local levels to develop strategies for creating an enabling

environment for industrial small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to grow and expand into foreign markets and, by extension, contribute more to wealth and job creation in Ethiopia. Concurrently, the secretariat is also working with the Ministry in support of the implementation of a gender mainstreaming project with a focus on gender-responsive budgeting. Further, under the UNCT/NPC Task Force, the secretariat is leading the preparations for a workshop on “Methodologies, tools and guidelines for mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into the proposed 15-year perspective plan for Ethiopia”;

- (vi) The secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the Economic Advisor of Nigeria to the President and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), are working together on strengthening the capacities of the National Board of Economists. During the reporting period, the secretariat also launched its technical support on “Enhancing Skills and Capacities of Nigeria Civil Service” as a component to support the implementation of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) of Nigeria and in accordance with the secretariat’s memorandum of understanding with Nigeria;
- (vii) The secretariat has commenced the implementation of the Tenth Tranche of the United Nations Development Account for the expected duration of three years (June 2016 – June 2019). The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of African national planning institutions to integrate accountability frameworks and evidence-based policies in their development planning processes and to strengthen the capacity of African national statistics institutions to collect, compile and produce the data necessary to inform and support development planning. The activities focus on five African countries from the subregions that have specifically requested the secretariat’s technical support: Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya and Zambia;
- (viii) The secretariat continued to provide support to the Government of Liberia on the development of the Agenda for Transformation successor framework and gender mainstreaming. Further support is also being provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geographic Information Systems (LISGIS);
- (ix) The secretariat organized a capacity-building workshop for the Uganda National Planning Authority on 28 and 29 September 2017. The focus was on strengthening capacities for the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments into the Uganda National Development Plan II and tracking progress against the country’s results framework. The workshop provided a platform for the secretariat to introduce and demonstrate the application of the 2030 Agenda/Agenda 2063 integrated toolkit that calibrates and maps country plans in relation to the global and regional sustainable development frameworks. The toolkit supports countries to harmonize the domestication of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 within national development plans to enhance efficiency and reduce reporting transaction costs;

- (x) The secretariat conducted a multidisciplinary technical mission to the Sudan, from 1 to 5 October 2017, to launch the country's technical assistance programme in the areas of Agricultural transformation and National development planning;
- (xi) The secretariat conducted a multidisciplinary scoping mission to Zambia, on 9 and 10 November 2017, to support the Government's National Development Plan 7, particularly on Multi-Facility Economic Zones and Clusters on Development Planning;
- (xii) The secretariat supported Cameroon in national consultations on the African Union Agenda 2063, which took place on 11 October 2017. The secretariat contributed to the articulation of the synergies between the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda at the national level. The dialogue enabled the identification of potential challenges in the implementation of Agenda 2063, among which is the coherent integration into the national planning frameworks and financing;
- (xiii) The secretariat supported the high-level round table dialogue on the Social and Economic Development Plan (PDES 2017- 2021) of the Niger, which took place on 13 and 14 November 2017 and brought together key stakeholders, including the private sector. A major outcome of the secretariat's support was the call for action on the Marshall Plan on Women's Empowerment, in addition to the operationalization of a unique monitoring and evaluation mechanism to support the implementation of the National Development Plan, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The dialogue resulted in a total pledge of \$12.7 billion towards the financing of the PDES 2017-2021.

(c) Trade-related issues, industry and infrastructure

- (i) The secretariat provided training to delegates from 26 member States on domestic resource mobilization. The course aimed at providing policymakers with a clear understanding of the key constraints to effective domestic and international resource mobilization and also presented a range of policy options to increase the capacity for resource mobilization at several levels;
- (ii) The secretariat provided technical assistance to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Tripartite Task Force on the negotiation process towards the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) process. Support provided included technical backup, research and analysis on trade policy, among others;
- (iii) The secretariat participated in the 2017 Programme for Infrastructure Development (PIDA) Week, which took place from 10 to 14 December 2017. During the week, the model law developed by the secretariat to facilitate private sector investment and financing in transboundary infrastructure projects was endorsed by the delegates. The secretariat also undertook a number of dissemination activities on the model law with key stakeholders, including IHS Markit, New York Stock Exchange,

UNOHRLLS, and key member States who own some of the 16 Dakar Financing Summit projects - Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Zambia;

- (iv) As part of the secretariat's advocacy efforts on financing of transboundary infrastructure in Africa, the high-level champion on infrastructure, Adeoye Bankole, Ambassador of Nigeria, presented the secretariat's work on the management of large infrastructure projects in Africa to African Ambassadors in New York from 14 to 17 November 2017;
- (v) Following an official request, the secretariat organized a tailored version of its Annual Negotiations Workshop to the newly established Trade Office of the Ministry of Finance in Abuja from 6 to 10 November 2017. The event focused on investment and trade agreements and highlighted some of the potential pitfalls when such agreements were inadequately negotiated. The secretariat partnered with academics from Nigeria to conduct the Workshop.

(d) Land policy, food security and agriculture

- (i) The secretariat provided training on "Effective Land Administration" from 9 to 13 November 2017. The training provided African policymakers with an opportunity to learn new tools that could be used to improve land administration systems;
- (ii) The secretariat conducted a training workshop for journalists on 13 November 2017, on new and innovative ways of doing in-depth reporting on crucial issues, such as land property rights, with a focus on women's land rights. The training also focused on avenues through which journalists could reach broader audiences using targeted reporting tools and framing the issues of land property rights as a global development issue and not just a legal issue of title deeds.

(e) Social and economic policy

- (i) The secretariat, through a multidisciplinary team, facilitated the retreats of the Permanent Secretaries and National Assembly of the Gambia in November 2017, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). The retreats focused on developing capacity and establishing structures for collaborative leadership. The retreats also aimed at supporting the achievement of stability, justice, rule of law, accountability and prosperity for "the new Gambia";
- (ii) The secretariat organized and led a high-level policy dialogue, from 6 to 12 November 2017, for the Government of Ghana senior policymakers working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and other key ministries and institutions. The dialogue addressed issues pertinent to engines of growth and the advancement of the economy. The dialogue considered the question of how Ghana designs and implements effective macroeconomic policies and strategies that support the promotion of the rapid inclusive economic growth of the country.

(f) Governance

- (i) The secretariat delivered a short-term course on “Governance and Development” in Africa from 23 October to 3 November 2017 in Dakar. The course benefited 24 participants at middle to senior policy levels from 11 English-speaking countries and 13 French-speaking countries. The main objective of the course was to develop the knowledge of policymakers on the key challenges to governance facing African countries and to explore alternative solutions to promote good governance, necessary for sustainable and inclusive development;
- (ii) As one of the strategic partners of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the secretariat participated in the second external peer review of Uganda, which took place from 29 October to 14 November 2017;
- (iii) The secretariat also participated in the consultative meeting with the APRM secretariat and other strategic partners in Midrand, South Africa on 6 November 2017. Through this meeting, the secretariat, together with other partners, articulated the work programme of the APRM joint activities;
- (iv) As a follow-up to the High-level Policy Dialogue on Conflict and Development in the Sahel, which took place in Niamey on 13 and 14 September 2017, the secretariat supported the Government of the Niger on the internalization of the outcomes and recommendations of the dialogue. This process was led by the National Centre for Security and Strategic Studies. Among the key findings and policy proposals for enhanced security, the discourse noted that current responses to conflict situation and insecurity in the region do not sufficiently capture and respond to the realities of security and development in the Sahel.

D. Consensus building

The secretariat has continued to assist its member States in articulating common positions on important issues through various forms of technical support and collaboration. Some highlights include:

(a) The secretariat has continued to provide assistance to the adoption of free trade area instruments within the framework of Central Africa regional economic communities (COFIL), largely through the generation of context-specific research and knowledge on the rationalization of regional economic communities, and especially the harmonization of free trade instruments. As a member of the Steering Committee of COFIL, the secretariat participated in the fourth meeting of the committee held in Yaoundé from 23 to 27 November 2017. The secretariat assisted with the adoption of the following instruments: (i) The CEMAC – ECCAS certificate of origin; (ii) list of documents required for applications to CEMAC – ECCAS preferential tariff; (iii) product origin verification form; and (d) procedure for applying for CEMAC – ECCAS preferential tariff.

(b) The secretariat provided technical assistance to ECOWAS through the following: (i) development of a study that assessed the implications of the bid of Morocco to join the regional economic community. This study was presented to the ECOWAS Heads of State and

Government in December 2017; (ii) Assessment of the road map towards the single currency and recommendations towards accelerating its implementation by 2020.

E. Partnerships

Some of the Commission's new and prospective partnerships are indicated below (these are the only ones for this period).

1. Regional institutions

(a) Through its partnership with the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), IDEP will deliver a course on Extractive Resource Governance for Civil Society Organizations, Journalists and Parliamentarians in West Africa in the first semester of 2018. Other partners in this collaborative activity include the Publish What You Pay Coalition in West Africa; Oxfam; Pan African Parliamentary Network; and the West African Civil Society Institute (WASCI).

(b) The secretariat, in continued collaboration with the African Union Southern Africa Office, is partnering with the Africa Business Group (ABG), an economic development private company, in convening the subregional Conference on "The Private Sector and Regional Integration in Southern Africa: Accelerating Opportunities for Investment and Growth", from 17 to 19 April 2018. ABG is playing the crucial role of mobilizing the private sector for this conference.

2. Multilateral institutions

(a) The secretariat will be working with the World Bank to develop and deliver training on Road Safety Leadership in 2018;

(b) Preliminary discussions are ongoing between the secretariat and the following institutions towards establishing a partnership: African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE); Aphrobean Partners; Consults ICDI; Mobilizing Institutional Investors to Develop Africa's Infrastructure (MiDA); Think Tank CABAC; and Université de Technologie de Troyes.

3. Bilateral institutions

(a) A memorandum of understanding was signed with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to strengthen the work of ECA on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Africa;

(b) The secretariat is working closely with the German Development Institute (DIE) in the fields of research and policy advice under the framework of the T20 Africa Standing Group. The secretariat is a permanent member of the Governance Board of the T20 Africa Standing Group;

(c) The secretariat initiated collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its MiDA programme.

Annexes

Annex I

Key events undertaken by the Commission

Title of event	Venue	Date
National Training Workshop with producers and users of Gender Statistics	Kampala	2-4 October 2017
Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) Global Conference	Addis Ababa	2-5 October 2017
Regional Training Workshop on compiling and producing annual vital statistics from civil registration records and assess the quality of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS)	Nairobi	2-6 October 2017
Capacity-building Workshop on Harmonization, Adaptation, Implementation and Development of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC-2009)	Cairo	2-6 October 2017
High-level policy dialogue on “Inclusive green economy and structural transformation: making the transformation of Africa’s infrastructure greener”	Addis Ababa	18 October 2017
Workshop on African Mineral Resource Classification (AMREC)	Cairo	2-6 October 2017
32nd Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on “Youth Employment and Sustainable Development in North Africa”	Rabat	3-6 October 2017
Expert Group Meeting on “Youth Employment and Sustainable Development in North Africa”	Rabat	3-6 October 2017
Expert Group Meeting on “Building Research infrastructure capacity in Africa to achieve the SDGs”	Addis Ababa	4 and 5 October 2017
Minerals - knocking on the door to cause economic transformation in Uganda	Kampala	6 and 7 October 2017
Task Force meeting on the establishment of the Committee of African Registrars General	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	7-9 October 2017
Third Africa Mining Summit (AMS2017)	Gaborone	11-13 October 2017
Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting on the study “Innovative Approaches to Financing Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in Africa”	Addis Ababa	17 October 2017
Workshop on Illicit Financial Flows in North Africa	Cairo	17 and 18 October 2017
Launch of the Sustainable Development in Africa Report 2017	New York	18 October 2017
Workshop on disaggregation methodology for SDG11 indicators	Addis Ababa	19 and 20 October 2017
Validation Workshop on the Draft Arab-Africa Fact Book	Khartoum	22 and 23 October 2017

Continental Dialogue on Enhancing the Contribution of Preferential Trade Agreements to Inclusive and Equitable Trade	Yaoundé	23 and 24 October 2017
Expert Group Meeting to review the report “Deepening Regional Integration in Southern Africa: The Role, Prospects and Progress of the Tripartite Free Trade Area”	Bulawayo, Zimbabwe	23 and 24 October 2017
Training on the Blue Economy and Capacity-building Workshop on “le renforcement des capacités des cadres de l’Administration togolaise sur les mécanismes d’une meilleure couverture de l’économie nationale”	Lomé	23 October – 3 November 2017
Seminar on “Quelle agriculture pour l’Afrique de demain?”	Dakar	25 October 2017
23rd Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for Southern Africa on “Trade Facilitation in Southern Africa: Bridging the Infrastructure Gap”	Bulawayo, Zimbabwe	26 and 27 October 2017
Expert Group Meeting on the validation of APRM continental monitoring and evaluation framework	Djibouti	30 and 31 October 2017
Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on policy options for Boosting Intra-African Investment through regional harmonization of investment policies and treaties	Addis Ababa	31 October 2017
Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting to review policy options on how to strengthen agribusiness as a pathway to sustainable and inclusive Africa’s transformation	Addis Ababa	31 October 2017
Expert Group Meeting to Review the ECA draft Report on “Promoting Infrastructure Development for Africa’s Industrialization”	Addis Ababa	31 October 2017
Continental workshop on trade and gender: “The role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in supporting gender sensitive implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)”	Addis Ababa	31 October 2017
10th Session of the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration (CRCI 10)	Addis Ababa	31 October – 2 November 2017
High-level meeting on Strengthening the contribution of minerals to development in West Africa	Accra	1 and 2 November 2017
Ad hoc expert group meeting on the report “Political economy of green economy transition in Africa”	Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania	1 and 2 November 2017
Expert Group Meeting on the 5th edition of the African Governance Report (AGR-V)	Addis Ababa	7 and 8 November 2017
21st session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for Eastern Africa	Moroni	7-9 November 2017
High-level round table on “Mobilizing the Diaspora for Growth and Transformation in Eastern Africa”	Moroni	7 and 8 November 2017

Tanzania Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Action Dialogue	Geita, United Republic of Tanzania	7-10 November 2017
Getting the Future Africa-UK Trade Partnership Right	Buenos Aires	11 December 2017
Expert Group Meeting on the economic indicators of the SDGs	Addis Ababa	14-16 November 2017
Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA-2017)	Addis Ababa	14-17 November 2017
High-level event of the Regional Economic Commissions at COP23: Action on the NDC – Opportunities for scaling up climate change action to implement the NDCs in the five United Nations regions: National perspectives and how regional commissions are responding	Bonn, Germany	16 November 2017
Continental Consultative Workshop on Corruption on the theme “Enhancing Collaboration in the Fight against Corruption in Africa”	Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania	15-17 November 2017
2017 Senior Experts Dialogue (SED) on Science, Technology and Innovation and the African Transformation Agenda	Dakar	15-17 November 2017
Seminar on “La Coopération Economique Sud-Sud pour accélérer la réalisation des ODD”	Dakar	16 November 2017
Expert Group Meeting on the report “Promoting Growth and Economic Transformation in Southern Africa: Challenges and Implications of Declining Commodity Prices”	Walvis Bay, Namibia	16 and 17 November 2017
External peer review meeting on the 2018 <i>Economic Report on Africa</i>	Addis Ababa	20 and 21 November 2017
AfricaGIS 2017 Conference	Addis Ababa	20-24 November 2017
Expert Group Meeting on the Unified African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF)	Addis Ababa	20-24 November 2017
7th North African Development Forum organized under the theme: “Governance, Structural Transformation and Sustainable Inclusive Development”	Rabat	21 and 22 November 2017
Expert Group Meeting on “Exploring the potential of blockchain technology in Africa”	Addis Ababa	21 and 22 November 2017
CII-EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India and East Africa: Partners in Development	Kampala	21 and 22 November 2017
Annual meeting of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism for the United Nations system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme	Yaoundé	21 and 22 November 2017
Seminar on “Les nouvelles approches de planification pour la réalisation des agenda 2030 et 2063”	Dakar	22 November 2017

2017 Africa Regional WSIS Review and Follow-up Meeting	Addis Ababa	22 and 23 November 2017
Seminar on “Gender and Leadership”	Dakar	23 November 2017
Expert Group Meeting on “Fostering sustainable transformation of agriculture in Africa through inclusive green economy: The case of livestock value chain in Southern Africa”	Gaborone	23 and 24 November 2017
11th International Colloquium of Rabat	Rabat	23-25 November 2017
Regional workshop on data disaggregation	Victoria (Seychelles)	25-27 October 2017
Building the capacities of national statistics offices of Central Africa in the use of modern technologies for the collection and processing of comparable and harmonized statistics	Libreville	27-29 November 2017
Stakeholder engagement meeting on the review of the model law for investments in infrastructure in Africa	Dakar	28-30 November 2017
Expert Group Meeting to validate the study on “Impact on governance of APRM”	Pretoria	30 November and 1 December 2017
Kenya Mining Forum	Nairobi	4 and 5 December 2017
2017 African Economic Conference	Addis Ababa	4-6 December 2017
Fourth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration	Nouakchott	4-8 December 2017
Regional forum on peace and security in Central and West Africa	Niamey	5-7 December 2017
2017 Africa CEO Forum under the theme “Driving investment for inclusive growth”	Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt	8 and 9 December 2017
North African Peer Review Mechanism meeting under the theme “Promoting a people-centred and peaceful Africa: the role of the APRM”	Cairo	10-13 December 2017
Eleventh Session of the Committee of Directors General of the National Statistics Offices (CoDG)	Nouakchott	9-11 December 2017
APRM Regional sensitization workshop for Egypt	Cairo	10 and 11 December 2017
High-level policy dialogue on “Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa’s Structural Transformation”	Addis Ababa	11 and 12 December 2017
Annual meeting of the Sub Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) for Eastern and Southern Africa	Djibouti	11 and 12 December 2017
National Sensitization Workshop for Egypt	Cairo	11-13 December 2017

Biomedical Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programme for Improved Healthcare Outcomes in Africa	Nairobi	11-15 December 2017
Expert Group Meeting on the report “Strengthening democratic transition in post-conflict countries in Central Africa”	Yaoundé	12 and 13 December 2017
Regional Training Workshop on the Collection, Analysis and Reporting on Human Settlement Indicators, including the Use of Spatial Data	Gaborone	13-15 December 2017
Expert Group Meeting to validate the Study on “Potentials of APRM for Early Warning and Conflict Prevention in Africa”	Addis Ababa	14 and 15 December 2017
Regional expert meeting on contract negotiations	Addis Ababa	15-19 December 2017
High-Level Dialogue “From Dependence on Raw Materials to Industrialization: Practical steps for African Countries”	Addis Ababa	20 December 2017

Annex II

Key upcoming events

Event	Venue	Date
Africa Mining INDABA 2018	Cape Town, South Africa	5-8 February 2018
Regional Seminar on Compilation of Supply Use Tables	Addis Ababa	5-8 February 2018
Regional Meeting on Disability Statistics	Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania	14-16 February 2018
Training of Trainers in Basic Agricultural Statistics	Dakar	27-30 March 2018
National workshops on the road map for strengthening statistical institutional environment	Libreville	20-23 March 2018
Annual Meeting of the African Group on Statistical training – AGROST	Dakar	8 and 9 February 2018
Africa Ministerial Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum	Cairo	10-12 February 2018
3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the African Trade Policy Centre	Marrakech, Morocco	13 and 14 February 2018
Ministerial High-Level Meeting on “Building synergy between the Africa Mining Vision and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) framework for action on Mines”	Brussels	13-15 February 2018
Regional Workshop on the Use of Electronic Devices for Data Collection in Population and Housing Censuses	Yaoundé	19-23 February 2018
49th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission	New York	6-9 March 2018
Validation workshop on the draft land policy for Zambia	Lusaka	8 March 2018
Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Land Policy Harmonization Framework for the IGAD	Addis Ababa	March 2018
WSIS Forum 2018	Geneva	19-23 March 2018

Annex III

List of publications

Below is a list of the research publications produced by the Commission during the reporting period.

Policy reports

Drivers of inclusive growth in Africa

Base erosion and profit shifting in Africa: reforms to facilitate improved taxation of multinational enterprises

Inclusive and sustainable development in Africa: institutional arrangements for implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Integrating and tracking performance on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and Agenda 2063: from theory to practice

Country Profiles (2017 edition): as recurrent publications for Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Methodological guide “Country science, technology and innovation readiness report (Country STI profiles)”

Towards improved access to broadband in Africa report

South Sudan: National ICT policy support — draft of the National ICT policy review

Thematic reports

Manual on Statistical Development Indicators

Handbook on the role of civil society organizations in the statistical process

Drivers for boosting intra-African investment flows towards Africa’s transformation

Linkages between Double Taxation Treaties (DTTs) and Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

Promoting infrastructure development for Africa’s industrialization
Deepening Africa-India trade and investment partnership

Draft report on the 2017 Africa Regional Review of Progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

Policy briefs

Responsible mineral supply chains for ASM in Africa: the case of conflict minerals

ASM and sustainability in Africa: linkages as a sustainable livelihood tool

Artisanal and small-scale mining: policy guidance for the country mining vision

The African Mining Vision — perspectives on mineral resource development in Africa (African Journals Online, see

<https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jsdlp/article/viewFile/.../148768>)

Africa statistics flash

Second Administrative Level Boundary (SALB) Database for Africa

Urbanization and industrialization for Africa's transformation: opportunities and policy priorities

The Maputo Protocol commitment and improvements in the rural sector

Realizing the R&D expenditure target of "1 per cent of GDP"

Brief on promoting Fintech start-ups in Africa

Towards improved access to broadband in support of Africa's transformation

Skills, technology and the African Transformation Agenda: massive open online courses to the rescue

Annex IV

Training courses delivered by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

N°	Course	Implementation date	Participants		Countries represented
			Total	Female	
1.	Gender-responsive Economic Policy Management	2 - 13 October 2017	25	14	24
2.	Tailor-made on Macroeconomic Modelling for Development Planners	9 - 13 October 2017	30	8	1
3.	Governance and Development in Africa	23 October - 3 November 2017	24	8	24
4.	Course on Transport Infrastructure Development in Africa (Bilingual session)	30 October – 10 November 2017	25	5	21
5.	Training on Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) as a Development Strategy	28 - 30 November 2017	19	6	12
6.	Domestic Resource Mobilization	4 - 8 December 2017	26	7	25
7.	IDEP/BADEA Training on Gender - responsive Economic Policy Management	11 - 22 December 2017	28	11	28
8.	Mineral Governance	18 - 22 December 2017	22	6	13
Total			199	59	

Annex V

Number of officials trained per country

Country	Participants
Benin	7
Botswana	1
Burkina Faso	5
Burundi	5
Cameroon	5
Central African Republic	5
Chad	8
Comoros	5
Côte d'Ivoire	4
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4
Djibouti	1
Egypt	2
Equatorial Guinea	1
Ethiopia	13
Gambia	6
Ghana	3
Guinea	3
Kenya	6
Lesotho	5
Madagascar	6
Malawi	7
Mali	2
Mauritania	1
Mozambique	1
Namibia	2
Niger	6
Nigeria	12
Rwanda	30
Sao Tome and Principe	1
Senegal	3
Sierra Leone	2
South Sudan	2
Sudan	3
Swaziland	5
United Republic of Tanzania	2
Togo	6
Tunisia	2
Uganda	7
Zambia	3
Zimbabwe	6