



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa

**Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable
Development in Southern Africa: Opportunities
and Challenges in the Tourism Sector**

**1-2 March 2012
Port Louis, Mauritius**

Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa



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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for Southern Africa (ECA SRO-SA), which is based in Lusaka, derives its programmatic direction and guidance from its Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE), a statutory body constituted to oversee the overall formulation and implementation of the programme of work and priorities of the subregion, and makes recommendations on important issues concerning economic and social development, as well as on the promotion and strengthening of subregional economic cooperation and integration. The ICE-Southern Africa meets annually to oversee the overall formulation and implementation of the programme of work and priorities of Southern African member States and proffer recommendations on important development issues confronting the subregion.
2. The Eighteenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa was held in Port Louis on 1 and 2 March 2012. Based on the theme “Harnessing natural resources for sustainable development in Southern Africa: Opportunities and challenges in the tourism sector, it was organized back to back with an ad hoc expert group meeting on the same theme.
3. The main objectives of the ICE were to assess the socioeconomic situation in the subregion and examine statutory issues related to the mandate and operations of ECA SRO-SA. A total of 16 experts in the fields of private sector development, tourism, international relations and development planning from the following member States: Botswana; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition to ECA, organizations represented included the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Mauritius, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the African Union (AU), Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

A. Opening of the meeting

Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Office

4. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Sizo D. Mhlanga, the Officer-in-Charge of ECA SRO-SA extended a warm welcome to all participants to the eighteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Abdoulie Jannet. He expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Mauritius for hosting the important statutory meeting and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to all participants since their arrival in Mauritius and a special thanks to the Minister of Tourism and Leisure, Mr. John Michaël Sik Yuen, for gracing the opening session of the meeting.
5. Mr. Mhlanga thanked the Government of Namibia, the outgoing Chair and members of the seventeenth Bureau of the ICE-Southern Africa for their dedication and for competently guiding the work and processes of ICE. In his comments, he advised the experts to continue to focus on economic diversification efforts since the downside risks in the eurozone continued to negatively affect the subregion's traditional export sectors. The experts must strengthen restructuring efforts to efficiently manage the subregion's natural resources, particularly in the interest of tourism a sector that could unleash unprecedented growth and development in the

subregion. Thus, all member States should begin incorporating sustainable tourism policies and practices into their national development plans.

6. Mr. Mhlanga informed the meeting that although tourism was one of the largest contributors to international trade through the export of services, the sector's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) had stagnated over the years. However, tourism's current contribution of between 3 and 10 per cent to GDP of developing countries was a good starting point for strategically harnessing and improving the sector's performance in the subregion. Against that background, it was positive to note that two member States, Zambia and Zimbabwe, would be hosting the World Congress on Tourism in 2013.
7. Mr. Mhlanga further advised the experts to take the opportunity accorded by ICE to begin addressing the economic challenges that the subregion was facing through diversification and rationalization of local tourism products and services by improving the quality of products and services. There was a need to promote the tourism sector through innovative marketing and to strengthen the capacity of supporting services to match the dynamic demand and complex sets of tourists from the global market. He concluded by reiterating gratitude of all delegates from member States and regional economic communities for attending the ICE meeting and wished the meeting fruitful deliberations.

African Union

8. Dr. Salif Sada Sall, the African Union Regional Delegate to Southern Africa, conveyed the greetings of Mr. Jean Ping, Chair of the African Union Commission (AUC). He extended thanks to ECA for maintaining active cooperation and collaboration with AUC and the Government of Mauritius for hosting ICE and the warm hospitality it had extended to all of the participants.
9. He underscored the economic importance that all economies in the world currently had attached to tourism. There was significant growth potential for tourism that Africa, Southern Africa in particular, due to its unique and varied natural and cultural resources. However, it should be noted that the tourism sector was highly competitive and also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The natural and cultural treasures of Africa were fragile and that in order to fully realize their tourism potential, utmost care was needed to ensure the conservation, protection and enhancement of the continent's natural resources.
10. Dr. Sall drew the participants' attention to the promotion of African cultural renaissance and the protection of the African cultural heritage as some of the objectives under the third pillar of the African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2009-2012 and emphasized the Commission's support towards developing and implementing programmes in that regard. Countries needed to be prepared to deal with all of those challenges at the national level and also through concerted action at the subregional level, while reaffirming the Commission's commitment to accelerating the implementation of its regional and continental integration agenda.

Republic of Mauritius

11. The Minister of Tourism and Leisure, Mr. John Michaël Sik Yuen, welcomed the participants on behalf of his Government and wished them a pleasant stay in the country. He thanked ECA for having chosen Mauritius as the venue for the meeting. While imploring participants to reflect on the theme of the meeting, he acknowledged that tourism had the potential to unlock new avenues for job creation and economic benefits to nations, as well as local

communities. Furthermore, the tourism sector provided opportunities for countries to diversify their economies away from the primary commodities. Tourism had attracted direct foreign investment and could ultimately contribute to socioeconomic development, poverty reduction and to efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

12. The minister noted that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region had diverse coastal resources, flora, fauna and wildlife and various cultural and artistic resources and thus offered great opportunities for the development and promotion of regional tourism. In that regard, the choice of the theme for the meeting was very good. World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) data had indicated the following: (a) the share of world tourism in Africa in 2010 was only 5 per cent while Europe accounted for 50 per cent of all world tourist arrivals; (b) Africa received not more than 3 per cent of total world receipts, which were estimated at \$851 billion; and (c) Southern Africa and Northern Africa each realized about one third of the market share of tourism in Africa, which was estimated at only \$8 billion annually out of the estimated \$1 trillion for the global market. Those figures had indicated that Africa had yet to unleash its full potential to enjoy the economic benefits from tourism.
13. He acknowledged that Africa was endowed with sufficient natural resources for harnessing its tourism industry in addition to ecotourism opportunities ranging from high-end lodges with private reserves to national parks. The meeting should, therefore, deliberate on how those potential opportunities could be further developed, so as to enhance the existing packages. Also, the importance of private sector involvement in developing the tourism industry should be discussed. Data compiled by UNWTO had indicated that cultural tourism was projected to grow faster than other market segments and would account for 20 per cent of all types of travels in the next 20 years. In that regard, there was a need to promote and develop the rich cultural heritage of the continent.
14. Regarding the Mauritian experience, the minister highlighted the fact that a well-defined strategy supported by a robust action plan had successfully geared tourism as an engine of economic growth and driver of economic diversification. The country had moved from being a mono-crop sugar-based economy to having a diversified economic base comprised of agro-industry, export-oriented manufacturing, tourism, financial services and ICT services. The tourism sector in Mauritius accounted for 10 per cent of GDP and was responsible for 100,000 direct and indirect jobs. In 2011, there were 964,642 tourist arrivals, of which 66 per cent of them were from Europe, with the largest amount being from France, and tourism receipts had reached \$1.4 billion, while the number of hotels increased to 112 in 2011, representing 12,075 rooms. However, there were still a number of challenges facing the tourism sector, including external shocks emanating from the renewed global economic recession triggered by the eurozone crises, shrinking demand from Europe, intense competition from other tourist destinations, high cost of travel and high risks associated with sea travel, such as piracy in the Indian Ocean.
15. The minister informed the meeting that Mauritius was addressing those challenges through a strategy that focused on enhancing the following: (a) the visibility of the destination; (b) accessibility by air or sea; and (c) attractiveness of the product portfolio. In addition, market diversification strategies aimed at penetrating emerging Chinese, Indian and Russian markets had been developed, while the product portfolio had been expanded to encompass cultural and cultural heritage tourism. Attention was also being paid to ensuring maximum security and safety of tourists, projecting a clear brand image of the country, upgrading infrastructure and utilities, such as safe drinking water, and enhancing tourism sites.
16. The minister urged the participants to use the ICE platform to share good practices and lessons learned, and to deliberate on and recommend policy measures that would strengthen the tourism sector in the subregion, which was lagging behind in terms of global market share. The meeting should explore common issues and collaboration in the promotion of sustainable

tourism development in the subregion in line with the SADC Protocol on the Development of Tourism. The meeting was informed that SADC ministers of tourism would meet in Mauritius at end of March 2012.

17. The minister noted that the current ICE was expected to discuss the 2011 Economic and Social Conditions Report, which provided a synopsis of the economic performance and the extent to which the subregion had translated the economic benefits to address the social sector, including health, education and employment. The deliberations should focus on how to unleash the potential of the Southern African subregion as a growth pole in Africa and to move the subregion forward. Finally, the minister thanked the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning for ensuring the successful preparations for the eighteenth ICE and then declared the meeting officially open.

B. Election of the eighteenth Bureau, adoption of the agenda and programme of work

18. The meeting elected the representative of Mauritius as chair, the representative of Botswana as vice-chair and the representative of Mozambique as rapporteur.
19. The draft agenda of the meeting (annexed) was adopted without amendments.
20. Before proceeding with the agenda and with a view to facilitate deliberations under agenda item 13, the ECA secretariat provided a brief summary of the history of the hosting of ICE meetings in the subregion and the tasks traditionally taken on by the host country. The secretariat highlighted the reluctance of member States to volunteer to host ICE meetings and invited the meeting to address that issue. The meeting agreed in principle to establish an alphabetical rotational system for hosting by member States, commencing with those that had not yet hosted an ICE meeting. It was also recommended that a closer and more formalized working relationship be established between the secretariat and the Bureau of ICE throughout the Bureau's term of office. The secretariat was tasked with sending a formal notification of that proposal to all member States seeking their written approval.
21. As part of the agenda, the meeting considered four reports submitted by the secretariat, namely (a) Programme performance of ECA Southern Africa Office; (b) Progress report on the implementation of regional and international agendas, including NEPAD and other special initiatives in the subregion: food security in Southern Africa; (c) Economic and social conditions in Southern Africa 2012; and (d) Recommendations of the Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in Southern Africa: Opportunities and Challenges in the Tourism Sector.
22. In line with the theme of the fifth Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which was to be held in Addis Ababa from 22 to 27 March 2012, a panel discussion based on the event's theme "Unleashing Southern Africa's potential as a new pole for regional growth" was held. The panel, which was comprised of Mr. Sizo D. Mhlanga (Officer-in-Charge, ECA SRO-SA), Mr. Jonathan Kaunda (resource person) and Mr. Sunil Kowlessur (Principal Tourism Planner, Ministry of Tourism, Mauritius), deliberated on the development opportunities and challenges in the tourism sector.
23. The meeting was further briefed on the following: (a) the outcome of the twelfth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism; (b) achievements and challenges of the ECA programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 and the forthcoming ECA Conference of Ministers,

which was to take place in March 2012; and (c) COMESA and UNEP initiatives in Southern Africa.

C. Presentation of the report on economic and social conditions in Southern Africa and related discussions

Summary of the presentation

24. The presentation included discussions on developments in the world economy, the macroeconomic performance of Southern African countries, sectoral developments and social and human developments in the SADC region. The presenter highlighted the slowdown in the global economy and fiscal distress in the eurozone as factors behind distortions in financial markets and rising borrowing costs. He indicated that extending austerity measures after a large fiscal push to counter the 2008/2009 financial crisis would only worsen the economic slowdown, while explaining that SADC member States, similar to most developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, would experience reductions in exports to Europe and BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) due to declining global demand for primary commodities, particularly minerals. Some commodities, however might continue to cushion some economies, such as oil exporters. In terms of social outcomes, one of the key issues was the high level of poverty in the SADC region despite the region as a whole having the highest per capita income among all areas of sub-Saharan Africa. The Millennium Development Goals were unlikely to be met, with lack of progress in reducing the maternal mortality rate by 75 per cent between 1990 and 2015 cited as an example.
25. The presentation was concluded with several key messages:
 - a) Member States should put in place policies and measures that would insulate them from the harsher effects of a possible downturn;
 - b) The economic growth trend experienced by the subregion had not been broad-based and hence had had only a limited impact on employment creation and poverty alleviation;
 - c) During times of economic uncertainty, Governments should put in place social protection measures and continue to prioritize health, gender, education and employment issues;
 - d) Since extractive industries continued to form the backbone of the subregion's economy and growth prospects, it was important to ensure that the mining industry was mutually beneficial and allowed for broad-based participation by citizens;
 - e) While the focus of many member States would be on their economic development, issues related to human and social development must remain high priorities.

Discussion

26. The difficulty and challenges encountered by countries in terms of diversifying their economies from traditional commodities and mining were emphasized during the plenary discussion. The urgent need for the subregion to diversify away from the primary sector was advocated by the meeting in order to promote employment through value addition.
27. The meeting called for disaggregated data to avoid masking disparities in social and economic progress among countries. Furthermore, the paradox between high economic performance

in terms of per capita income and the slow progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the subregion was highlighted. The meeting also underscored the potential role of economic diversification in bridging the gap between low-income and high-income countries in the subregion.

28. The meeting urged member States in the subregion to ensure that the mining sector provided benefits to the people of Southern African countries and to promote policy harmonization particularly in the minerals sector. The disparity between imports and exports in the subregion and the need to explain the increasing gap between the two components of the trade balance were also highlighted.
29. The meeting emphasized the need to foster diversification in the tourism sector in the light of the debt and economic crises in the eurozone. The subregion was urged to harness the benefits offered by the emerging economies, particularly the BRIC countries,¹ in diversifying its tourism market. The need to promote regional and local tourism as a strategic diversification path was underscored. The meeting called for political stability in order to sustain tourism development in the subregion.
30. Although HIV and AIDS had adversely affected the tourism sector in the subregion, it was, however, worth noting that member States had aggressive policies and strategies to combat the scourge and other threats to the sector. For instance, the 2003 Maseru Declaration on the Fight Against HIV/AIDS in the SADC Region had urged member States to invest more in HIV prevention, while at same time roll out a comprehensive treatment regime for those living with HIV/AIDS.² The social questions emerging, such as increasing migration, HIV-AIDS and employment, needed to be addressed as SADC countries reflected on subregional economic development.
31. The meeting highlighted the need to take into account issues of transboundary and shared resources and their contribution to economic growth and tourism development in the subregion. It observed the need for the subregion to harness the benefits offered by the “green economy” in addressing issues related to poverty in the region. While questioning the quality of the economic growth in the region, the meeting suggested that the Economic and Social Conditions Report should cover issues of poverty and assess the progress made by the subregion in tackling the phenomenon both in rural and urban areas.
32. With regard to trade opportunities in the subregion, the impact and opportunity offered by the BRIC countries in terms of industrial development and economic growth was underscored. Furthermore, the meeting urged the Office for Southern Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa to deepen the analysis on that emerging trend.
33. The meeting was informed about progress made in the implementation of the COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite arrangement, especially regarding its pillar on market access and infrastructure, which was aimed at enhancing cooperation in order to strengthen trade. In that vein, the subregion was encouraged to enhance the movement of business persons and view the issue from a developmental perspective, thus traversing beyond the prevailing security concerns raised by some countries.

1 Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and South Africa.

2 The Maseru Declaration on the Fight Against HIV/AIDS in the SADC Region, Kingdom of Lesotho, 4 July 2003. Available from http://www.sadc.int/files/6613/5333/0731/Maseru_Declaration_on_the_fight_against_HIVand_AIDS2003.pdf.

D. Progress report on the implementation of regional and international agendas, including the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other special initiatives in the subregion: food security in Southern Africa

Summary of presentation

34. The presenter emphasized the key role that agriculture played in the SADC region. The performance of agriculture had a strong influence on food security, economic growth, poverty alleviation and stability of the subregion. However, agricultural growth rates had remained low and highly variable, thereby threatening food security in the subregion. The presenter further discussed a number of commitments signed by member States, including the Rome Declaration on World Food Security of 1996 and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and related commitments, such as the 2004 Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development on Agriculture and Water in Africa, the Maputo Declaration and the 2006 Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers for an African Green Revolution.
35. The presenter identified insufficient investment in agriculture, poor access to agricultural inputs and markets and low levels of technology development and dissemination, adverse climatic conditions, the HIV/AIDS threat and trade infrastructure bottlenecks as some of the challenges in the agriculture sector. He proposed the following: boosting public and private investments in agriculture; expanding the proportion of irrigated land; enhancing agricultural productivity through strengthening access to modern inputs; and increasing research spending in order to reverse the years of agricultural undercapitalization. He also called for undertaking an integrated approach within the CAADP framework and applying the pillars across the entire food value chain and strengthening the Food Security Information System in the subregion in order to better monitor progress and improve the effectiveness and timeliness of responses to food crises.

Discussion

36. The meeting observed that the allocation of funds to agriculture remained an issue for some countries. The problem of low productivity and the challenge of infrastructure and market development were also highlighted.
37. It was proposed that research centres on climate change should be established in the subregion to tackle the problem of low productivity. It was also pointed out that less usage of fertilizers was not necessarily an undesirable practice given the growing market of organic products. It was therefore noted that information was necessary for farmers to understand the profitability of various production methods, including the climate change impacts of their production methods, particularly the use of fertilizers.
38. The meeting was informed of the success story of Malawi with regard to agriculture due to the subsidization of inputs, which had made the country move from being a net importer of food to a net exporter. It was further noted that the success story depicted the role of political will in championing investment in agriculture. It was, therefore, recommended that SADC member States should seek to learn from and replicate that case study.

39. The Maputo Declaration on allocating at least 10 per cent of a national budget to agriculture remained a challenge for many countries. It was further noted that the Declaration often faced opposition even at high level forums, such as at the Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning. It was conceded, however, that it would not be appropriate to be prescriptive on matters concerning national budgets as country priorities differed. The meeting was also informed of the need for countries to explore the use of public private partnerships (PPPs) in agriculture to enhance the participation of the private sector.
40. Value-addition and the transformation of the agriculture supply chain were suggested as solutions geared towards the diversification of economies from primary to secondary or processed products.
41. Noting that the African Union was aiming to launch the African Free Trade Zone in 2017, the secretariat was tasked with advising in consultation with the African Union on the following: (a) how CAADP could be featured in that emerging development; (b) how African countries could increase trade within the continent; and (c) the bottlenecks that potentially deter the trading of African products within the region. It was observed that the COMESA, EAC and SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area potentially could enhance intra-SADC trade, would have positive ramifications for opening up agricultural markets in the subregion.
42. It was observed by the meeting that “land grabbing” and land sold to commercial investors (often from outside the region) who then produced crops and raised livestock for export to countries outside Southern Africa was an emerging trend that could threaten food security and agriculture in the region. It was stressed that while attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in agriculture was very important, that trend could have serious food implications for the region. It was further recommended that the report reflect on those perspectives.
43. Even though countries in the subregion were producing excess cereals for export, food security remained a challenge. The meeting was informed that in tackling the issue of food security and agriculture, member States should implement holistic, comprehensive policy frameworks and interventions as outlined in the CAADP pillars.
44. The meeting observed the need to assess the challenges countries were facing in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It was recommended that the report should mention the need for the development of technical expertise in those areas. In addition, the meeting observed that the report did not mention the role SADC was playing in promoting agriculture.

E. Presentation of key recommendations of the Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in Southern Africa: Opportunities and Challenges in the Tourism Sector

45. The secretariat presented the outcome statement of the Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges in the Tourism Sector, which was held in Mauritius from 28 to 29 February, 2012. The meeting took note of the outcome statement and endorsed it without amendments.

F. Panel discussion on unleashing the potential of Southern Africa in becoming a new pole for regional growth

46. In setting the scene and context for the panel discussion, Mr. Mhlanga presented an overview of the soon-to-be launched Economic Report on Africa, whose theme was “Unleashing Africa’s Potential as a Pole of Global Growth”. He highlighted various thematic areas from the report with a special emphasis on the prerequisites that needed to be put in place for Africa to effectively play its role as a new pole of global growth. In the last few decades, growth in Africa had mainly been driven by the export of primary products complemented by sound macroeconomic management, good governance, reduction in armed conflicts and market-friendly policies. The continent weathered the financial and economic storms of the 2008-2009 and hence its growth markedly rebounded in 2010. However, there were still concerns that the challenges of economic transformation persisted across Africa.
47. In explaining the concept of the growth pole, he likened it to the splash and ripple effect with the splash implying the pole driving the growth while the ripple was the attendant beneficiary. There were several benefits to be derived from Africa and indeed the subregion being a new pole for economic growth. The benefits could be transmitted through financial, trade and migration channels and intermediary mechanisms.
48. Mr. Mhlanga catalogued some of the imperatives that should underpin Africa as a new pole for global growth. They were as follows:
 - a) For Africa to become a global growth pole, the size of its economy should be large enough and its growth rate should be high and sustained for a reasonably long period of time;
 - b) If Africa were able to maintain an average of 7 per cent growth rate (as experienced during the period 2001-2008) while the rest of the world maintained an average 3 per cent growth rate, the contribution of Africa to global GDP should reach 5 per cent within two decades;
 - c) Growth imperatives were fundamental attributes of a global growth pole;
 - d) Structural imperatives were also critical for becoming the new pole of global growth.
49. In addition, Mr. Mhlanga stated that Africa needed visionary leadership, strong institutions and good governance to drive the growth agenda for development. The continent must invest in its human capital and technology and at the same time unleash its agricultural potential and invest in climate change adaptation strategies. Investment in physical infrastructure was also key. All those interventions should be anchored on the regional integration agenda by: deliberately addressing the regional infrastructure gap; building a strong regional financial market to support intra-Africa trade and investment; addressing the coordination and harmonization gap; simplifying procedures for promoting intraregional trade and investment; reducing the information gap; and strengthening entrepreneurship.
50. He also observed that Africa needed to harness new partnerships by: attracting FDI to develop productive potential; prioritizing FDI in the infrastructure sector; and building a strong governance framework for exploitation of natural resources. The continent should also mobilize sufficient resources domestically and externally to be able to sustain economic transformation.

51. In conclusion, Mr. Mhlanga stated that sustaining the current growth momentum in Africa and unleashing the continent's productive capacity required innovative and bold actions on many fronts, such as the following:
- a) Improving political and economic governance;
 - b) Reforming African education to make it relevant for economic transformation;
 - c) Investing heavily in critical physical infrastructure;
 - d) Catalysing a green revolution in agriculture;
 - e) Accelerating regional integration and enhancing intra-Africa trade;
 - f) Harnessing new partnerships with the emerging southern economic powers in order to tap into their abundant financial resources and technological know-how.

Panellist: Jonathan Kaunda

52. Mr. Kaunda described economic growth poles as centres of economic activity from which growth spreads to surrounding areas, and then went on to question the notion that Africa and Southern Africa, in particular, could effectively function as a growth pole given the multitude of constraints it still needed to overcome and the catalogue of past failures stemming from structural impediments that had yet to be addressed. The optimism generated by the recent strong run of economic growth was misplaced because that growth was unlikely to be sustainable due to continued dependence on exports of primary resources. In addition, the export performance in the subregion had relied on the fortunes of developed economies that were currently crippled by fiscal debt and related economic problems.
53. He noted a number of additional institutional shortcomings associated with African economies, such as the lack of strong developmental States, limited visionary leadership, and human capacity and resource constraints, as well as economic barriers, including infrastructure deficits, low domestic innovation and investment capacities, and inadequate or ineffectual foreign investment promotion. He warned that the current good economic performance and periodic elections masked the continued inability to resolve high incidences of poverty and weakening governance in many countries, which represented a time bomb in terms of political stability.
54. Mr. Kaunda called for the injection of a strong dose of realism in the assessment of the continent's economic potential and critically analysed the factors that constituted the growth potential of Southern Africa. He noted the positive prospects of South-South cooperation, in particular the engagement of South Africa in that sphere, and stressed that although the country's engagement was significant, expectations should be tempered by the fact that there was no reason to assume that it could or would want to perform the role of the subregion's growth pole. The less than satisfactory track record of SADC in achieving significant progress with regard to regional integration and the need to first strengthen the organization in order to enable it to spearhead sub regional economic growth should be noted. The subregion should be realistic about the hurdles to be overcome in the establishment of the Tripartite Free Trade Area, including addressing problems between and within the three participating regional economic communities. The promise represented by NEPAD and its various initiatives, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), CAADP and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), remained untapped because they were not yet fully operational or implemented.

55. In conclusion, Mr. Kaunda advocated for the identification of alternative and evidence-based strategies for accelerating economic growth at the level of individual African countries. In that context, there was a need to consider large and small countries as equally worthy players on the continent and identify and realistically assess the potential that could emerge in each individual country. Measures to strengthen regional economic groupings should be explored along with the coordination and harmonization of their research, action plans and implementation strategies.

Discussion

56. In the ensuing discussions, Mr. Kaunda questioned the concept of designating dominant countries and relegating other countries to being followers, noting that growth poles could very well exist within small as well as within larger countries. Such an approach would likely undermine regional cohesion and trust and was unlikely to be practicable. Any solutions proposed for Southern Africa and Africa as a whole must, therefore, generate political and financial commitment from African leaders.
57. With regard to the track record of SADC, he reiterated that the Community's level of achievement had not met expectations and had cautioned that failure to recognize that unfortunate outcome could result in a missed opportunity to strengthen the organization.

Panellist: Sunil Kowlessur

58. Mr. Kowlessur noted that the concept of growth poles was not a new one. In the past, it had been used for industries under the label of "clusters". The idea of creating growth poles at the regional level had been very useful. The Singapore example described in its policy papers entitled "Unlimited tourism", presented an idea of how such poles might be developed.
59. He stated it was clear that in order to attract more tourists, no country should be excluded. However, to start with, countries that had sufficient infrastructure, accommodation, and those that were capable of providing sufficient services to cater to high volumes of tourists could participate in that model.
60. Mr. Kowlessur advised that another existing concept in tourism was that of "tourism destinations". It was reasonable to assume that long-haul tourists would get value for money by visiting more than one destination of the subregion. For that reason, Mauritius was already selling Mauritius with Rodrigues, Mauritius with Reunion Island and Mauritius with Kenya packages. For those packages to be effective, diversification of the product portfolios aimed at opening the market for various segments instead of one must take place. High growth segments of ecotourism and cultural heritage should be further developed. The concept of "Vanilla Islands" included islands of the Indian Ocean. It had started with Mauritius and Reunion Island and later included Seychelles, Madagascar and South Africa.
61. Private sector involvement was important in driving the processes and in influencing policies towards creating tourism growth poles, while the Government should create an enabling environment for tourism, including facilitating the granting of visas for example. Mauritius was using block visa travel as a mechanism to attract travellers from China and India. Member States should prioritize capacity-building activities towards meeting tourism industry requirements.

Discussion

62. The meeting took note of the potential of Africa to unleash global economic growth, while at the same time acknowledged some of the impediments and structural rigidities that needed to be addressed. The participants underscored the importance of the topic under discussion by clearly stating that it was opportune time to review it as it directly fed into the theme of ECA/AU Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which was slated to be held at the end of March 2012.
63. Participants also noted that Africa was at crossroads due to the slow growth and sluggish recovery in major industrialized countries coupled with the euro debt crisis. The meeting observed that the concept of a growth pole was theoretically defensible but in practice could pose some realization challenges. This was mainly due to the political connotations and issues of sovereignty that surrounded member States. For instance, some countries might be unwilling to be followers at the periphery of growth centres in a growth pole. In addition, the current geopolitical set-up of Africa where some countries were facing political and economic challenges could not allow the growth pole-beneficiary relationship to flourish.

Recommendations

64. The participants stressed that the meeting should not focus on the negative aspects that had been taking place in some Africa countries, but instead concentrate on the continent's vast economic potential and emerging market opportunities. It was also recommended that African leaders needed to be commended for the continent's positive achievements and supported in their efforts in areas that posed challenges. For instance, Mauritius was cited as one of the countries excelling in economic performance, thanks to its strong institutions and a regime of property rights coupled with investor-friendly policies.
65. The participants also called for policy interventions that could facilitate economic growth and result in wealth creation for the citizens. They underscored the need for countries to work together and harmonize their efforts in order to reap economies of scale from collective actions. Furthermore, countries were called upon to invest in infrastructure development, build strong institutions and enhance policy credibility as avenues for attracting foreign direct investments.

G. Presentation and discussions on the programme performance of the Office for Southern Africa for the Economic Commission for Africa

66. Mr. Mhlanga, presented the performance report of the Office for Southern Africa for the Economic Commission for Africa. The Office work programme was classified under component 5 of Sub-Programme 7 (subregional activities for development) and in the context of secretariat-level programming, ECA was under Programme 14 (Economic and Social Development in Africa). In the biennium 2010-2011, the Office had three expected accomplishments: (a) enhanced capacity of member States, SADC and other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to formulate and implement harmonized macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes to address key subregional integration priorities in Southern Africa, including infrastructure and services, trade, investment and finance, mining and energy, food security and sustainable development, gender and development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; (b) strengthened capacity of SADC and COMESA to

implement multi-year programmes through improved partnerships with key stakeholders including other IGOs, United Nations agencies, the African Development Bank, AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat; and (c) strengthened information and knowledge networking with key stakeholders involved in subregional development activities, including Governments, SADC, the private sector, civil society and United Nations agencies.

67. In terms of activities implemented during the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011, the highlights included the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of ICE and their respective parliamentary documents, four expert group meetings and their respective non-recurrent publications on (a) harmonized security framework for mineral products of the SADC Region (2010); (b) cost-benefit analysis of regional integration in Southern Africa (2010); (c) new trends in South-South and Triangular cooperation: implications for Southern African countries (2011); and (d) addressing the challenges of macroeconomic policy convergence in the SADC region (2011). The Office also produced booklets and fact sheets on major developments and policy recommendations emanating from research studies on regional integration issues in Southern Africa. The meeting was also informed about advisory services, group seminars and workshops and field projects implemented during the biennium.
68. Mr. Mhlanga emphasized several achievements of the multi-year programmes with the regional economic mechanism, noting that the objective of the SADC/ECA multi-year programme was to provide a framework for SADC/ECA cooperation in addressing regional integration and the special needs of Southern Africa as articulated in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. Some of the achievements highlighted were: (a) the formulation and adoption of the e-SADC strategy by the SADC ministers of telecommunications, postal and ICT (May, 2010); (b) support extended to SADC to develop a framework for harmonizing mining policies, standards, legislative and regulatory framework in Southern Africa (2010); (c) the Office and the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) supported participation of women miners in the SADC Women in Business Trade Fair and Investment Forum (2010); (d) assistance in monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress made on international and regional commitments, especially in the area of gender and development; (e) support extended to SADC towards production of the Biennial Report on Gender and Development in Southern Africa (2011); and (f) support extended to the SADC Secretariat in producing the Human Development Report for Southern Africa (2011).
69. The meeting was advised that through its regular programme of technical cooperation, the Office had provided regional advisory services, which were aimed at responding to requests of member States and their institutions on policy-related issues across the continent. Activities undertaken during the biennium included: (a) Zambezi ICP Coordination Meeting and the twenty-first SADC Water Sector Regional Group (WSRG) Meeting, Gaborone, Botswana, June 2010; (b) backstopping and servicing of the sixth ECA Regular Meeting of the UN-Water/Africa Group of Agencies and Partners, January 2010 and the third Africa Water Week, November 2010; (c) Joint Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Climate Change Workshop, Nairobi, 1-2 March 2010; (d) high-level consultation on climate change and the development programme, Ethiopia, April 2011; (d) workshop on regional food and water security in the face of climate challenges, Midrand, South Africa, May 2011; and (e) high-level technical review meeting of the NEPAD Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), Tunisia, July 2011.
70. Regarding challenges and lessons learned during the biennium, Mr. Mhlanga cited the following: (a) financial resource constraints and the need for the Office to intensify efforts to work with key partners to jointly mobilize resources, especially in implementing the multi-year programmes; (b) challenges in data collection from member States and the need for ECA-SA to continue to strengthen existing partnerships and to explore new networks with key

institutions to facilitate data collection efforts; (c) the need for the development of a harmonized and ECA-wide format for the preparation of the multi-year programmes with RECs in order to enhance programme management; (d) securing buy-in from and the commitment of main multi-year partners and the need to agree on priority areas of collaboration and responsibility; and (e) partnerships within the United Nations family, as well as organizations not directly related to the United Nations were key to achieving overall objectives.

H. Presentation and discussions on the work of the divisions of the Economic Commission for Africa and cooperating partners in the subregion

1. Presentation on the regional coordination mechanism by the Economic Development and NEPAD Division of the Economic Commission for Africa

71. A representative from the Economic Development and NEPAD Division of ECA delivered a presentation on the regional coordination mechanism in Africa (RCM-Africa), focusing on the outcomes of its twelfth session. The presentation included a brief introduction of RCM-Africa and a discussion of its major achievements. It was noted that RCM-Africa served as a mechanism for enhancing United Nations system-wide coherence, coordination and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme. The mandate of RCM-Africa was derived from several General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 1998/46 and 57/7 in which the Assembly called for holding regular interagency meetings and coordinating activities in support of NEPAD.
72. The presenter further explained that RCM-Africa had recorded several achievements over the years, including strong ownership of the mechanism by the United Nations and the African Union, joint implementation of activities by members and the establishment of a subregional coordination mechanism (SRCM) in Eastern and Southern Africa, which was launched in November 2011. The rationale for establishing SRCM, was that it would close the coordination gap that existed at the subregional level by ensuring coordination at the regional level, while the regional directors teams (RDTs) and the United Nations Development Assistance Fund (UNDAF) would ensure that the United Nations support at the national level was coordinated. Capacity-building was the theme of the twelfth session of RCM-Africa, which was held in Addis Ababa in November 2011. The session focused on the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union; the Millennium Development Goal Africa Working Group, an initiative of the Secretary-General to accelerate the pace of achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and African regional preparations for the of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which was to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. A key recommendation from the session was that the capacity-building work programme developed for AUC should be extended to other members of the African Union family, such as regional economic communities and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA).
73. With regard to regional economic communities, the presenter recommended that opportunities in synergizing the capacity-building work programme of the multi-year programme with the business plan of the SRCM for Eastern and Southern Africa and the channelling of United Nations support through the EAC/COMESA/SADC Tripartite, be explored. As for linkages between ICE and SRCM, member States should identify regional activities for which they

required support from regional economic communities and those communities, in turn, should seek SRCM assistance through the Office to implement such activities.

2. Presentation of the Biennium 2010-2011 Work Programme: Achievements and Challenges, by the Economic Commission for Africa Office of Strategic Planning and Programme Management

74. The Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Programme Management delivered a presentation on the ECA biennium 2010-2011 Work Programme focusing on achievements and challenges. In terms of major achievements, the Commission through the Conference of Ministers of 2011, had contributed to the promotion of high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa and to the governance of development, as well as to the role of the State in economic transformation. The Commission also successfully organized the Seventh Africa Development Forum, which was based on the theme “Acting on climate change for sustainable development in Africa. The Forum helped Africa present a consolidated position in the international climate change negotiations.
75. Other achievements highlighted included the following: contribution to the theme of the January 2012 AU Summit; contribution to the operationalization of the African Mining Vision, the International Study Group report and the endorsement of an action plan by African Union ministers, and the organization of the first Conference of Ministers responsible for civil registration in August 2010, which resulted in member States reforming and improving their civil registration and vital statistics systems.
76. In terms of challenges, the presenter observed that delivering as one remained a challenge among United Nations agencies while from a financial perspective, member States requests had exceeded the capacity of ECA. In that regard, the mobilization and disbursement of extrabudgetary resources should be timely. He also expressed the need to do the following: strengthen multi-year programmes and to provide for their funding, monitoring and evaluating of programmes and activities; facilitate the dissemination of ECA products; and strengthen and adequately fund the Office of Strategic Planning and Programme Management along the lines similar to their counterparts in other regional commissions so as to serve the subprogrammes better.

3. Other partners

77. Presentations were also delivered by representatives of COMESA and UNEP. The COMESA representative informed the meeting that climate change issues were reflected in the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Agreement. The Parties were avoiding duplication of efforts and enhancing their coordination by sharing responsibilities. COMESA had been focusing on agriculture, land use and carbon credits while SADC had been concentrating on water and disaster management. On the tripartite negotiations, the meeting was informed that SADC was currently chairing the task force of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite working group and that major progress had been made on market access for goods, while parallel discussions were taking place on free movement of business persons. In addition, RECs were currently coordinating their work programmes by jointly organizing meetings, including the business councils of SADC and COMESA. It was also pointed out that no negotiations had taken place concerning the services sector within the tripartite framework.

78. The UNEP Regional Programme Coordinator for Southern Africa informed the meeting about the organization's strategic focus for Southern Africa. The Southern Africa Coordinating Unit was within the framework of coordinating global partnerships for sustainable tourism, replicating best practices and supporting country projects. UNEP has supported United Nations Country Teams on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 processes, including transitions towards the Green Economy, youth employment, particularly green jobs and the hydro-energy sector. In addition, it had jointly coordinated with the African Union in the convening of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), had been instrumental in the preparation of the African common position for the Conference of the Parties (COP) 17 and would continue to support African countries and institutions in the preparations for COP 18, which was to be held in Qatar in 2012.
79. The representative further informed the meeting that UNEP was working on six thematic areas, namely resource efficiency, disposal of hazardous waste and harmful substances, eco-labelling, capacity-building, and sustainable production and consumption. The UNEP Coordinating Unit in Southern Africa was supporting the implementation of Global Environment Facility programmes in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa and would be looking forward to building synergies and capacities with other United Nations agencies in the framework of delivering as one.

I. Review and adoption of the outcome Statement/ recommendations

80. The Secretariat presented the outcome statement of the ICE meeting. The outcome statement (annexed) was adopted with minor amendments.

J. Any other business, date, venue and theme of the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa

81. Regarding the date and venue of the next ICE meeting, the secretariat was tasked with sending a formal proposal for the introduction of a rotational system for hosting ICE to all member States and seek their written approval. The same applied to the theme of the next ICE, which would be communicated to member States for their input in due course.

III. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

82. Speaking on behalf of the host country, an official from the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure expressed the Government's pleasure in having successfully hosted ICE. She urged the delegates to the meeting to forge ahead in developing their countries, stressing that member States should make an effort to achieve development goals, and thanked ECA for organizing the ICE in Mauritius. She also singled out the active participation of all participants as one of the meeting highlights. In conclusion, she expressed the hope that all participants had enjoyed their stay in Mauritius and more importantly, that outcomes of the ICE would be implemented by member States.
83. Zimbabwe, which had been nominated by participants to deliver the vote of thanks, accorded the honour to Zambia in the spirit of celebrating the Zambia national football team's success at the Confederation of African Football Orange Africa Cup of Nations. In delivering her remarks, the representative of Zambia expressed the appreciation of all the delegates to the Officer-in-Charge of ECA SRO-SA and the Chair of the eighteenth ICE Bureau for conducting the business of the ICE diligently. She thanked ECA for bringing member States to Mauritius and implored ECA to continue to develop productive capacities of member States with the aim to transform the livelihoods of their people, particularly through technical support and any other resources in harnessing the tourism sector. She concluded by thanking the ICE Bureau for allowing all members to express their views freely.
84. Speaking on behalf of ECA, the Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Mhlanga thanked the host country for the hospitality accorded to ECA and all the delegates to ICE. He particularly expressed gratitude to the Minister of Tourism and Leisure for souvenirs and gifts handed to the participants. He also thanked all participants for their active participation during the meeting and explained that ECA would continue to carry out the mandate of the member States as expressed in the outcome statement of the meeting. He concluded by thanking the ECA SRO-SA team for their efforts in organizing the ICE meeting.

Annex I: Agenda

- Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting.
- Agenda items 2: Election of the Bureau, adoption of the agenda and, programme of work and remarks by the Economic Commission for Africa secretariat.
- Agenda item 3: Presentation and discussions on the report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa.
- Agenda item 4: Presentation and discussions on the progress report on the implementation of regional and international agendas, including the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other special initiatives in the subregion: food security in Southern Africa.
- Agenda item 5: Presentation of key recommendations of the Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in Southern Africa: Opportunities and Challenges in the Tourism Sector.
- Agenda item 6: Panel Discussion on unleashing the potential of Southern Africa in becoming a new pole for regional growth.
- Agenda Items 7: Presentation and discussions on programme performance of the Office for Southern Africa for the Economic Commission for Africa
- Agenda item 8: Review and adoption of the outcome statement/recommendations.
- Agenda item 9: Any other business; date, venue and theme of the next ICE Meeting.
- Agenda item 10: Closing of the meeting.

Annex II: Outcome statement

Outcome Statement of the 18th Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) Meeting on Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in Southern Africa: Opportunities and Challenges in the Tourism Sector

Port Louis, 1-2 March 2012

Preamble

1. The 18th Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for the Southern African subregion was held at Port Louis on 1 and 2 March 2012. The theme of the meeting, which was organized back to back with an ad hoc expert group meeting was “Harnessing natural resources for sustainable development in Southern Africa: opportunities and challenges in the tourism sector”.
2. The main objectives of ICE were to assess the socioeconomic situation in the subregion and examine statutory issues related to the mandate and operations of Office for Southern Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by 16 experts in the fields of private sector development, tourism, international relations and development planning. They were drawn from the following member States: Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition to ECA, Organizations represented included the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Mauritius, the African Union Commission, Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

Programme of Work

4. The 18th ICE elected Mauritius as chair and Botswana as the vice-chair. Mozambique was elected as rapporteur.
5. The draft agenda of the meeting was adopted without amendments.
6. With a view to facilitating deliberations under agenda item 13, the secretariat provided a brief summary of the history of the hosting of ICE meetings in the subregion and the tasks traditionally taken on by the host country. The secretariat highlighted the slowness of member States to volunteer to host ICE meetings and invited member States to address this issue. The meeting agreed on the principle of establishing an alphabetical rotational system of hosting by member States, starting with those that had not yet hosted an ICE.
7. The meeting considered four sessional reports submitted by the secretariat entitled (i) “Programme performance of ECA Southern Africa Office”; (ii) “Progress report on the implementation of regional and international agendas, including NEPAD and other special initiatives in the subregion: food security in Southern Africa”; (iii) “Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa and Prospects for 2013”; and (iv) “Recommendations of the Ad

hoc Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in Southern Africa: Opportunities and Challenges in the Tourism Sector”.

8. Facilitated by a panel discussion on unleashing Southern Africa’s potential as a new pole for regional growth, the meeting deliberated on the development opportunities and challenges in the tourism sector. The panellists were Mr. Jonathan Kaunda (Resource Person) and Mr. Sunil Kowlessur (Principal Tourism Planner, Ministry of Tourism, Mauritius).
9. The meeting was further briefed on (i) the outcome of the 12th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism; (ii) achievements and challenges of the ECA programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 and the forthcoming ECA Conference of Ministers to take place in March 2012; (iii) delivery through effective partnerships; and (iv) COMESA and UNEP initiatives in Southern Africa.
10. The meeting endorsed the recommendations of the AEGM. The meeting also took note of and endorsed the Report of the Programme Performance and of ECA Southern Africa Office 2010/2011 and the work programme for 2012.

Observations

11. The meeting took note of the panel discussion and various reports presented and made the following observations:
 - a) There remain many structural impediments that hamper Africa, including southern Africa, in particular, from playing a role as a growth pole;
 - b) The growth pole concept as currently articulated to identify lead countries that would function as centres of growth and follower countries to which growth might trickle down, might be problematic from a developmental, political and regional integration perspective;
 - c) It is not immediately clear that the growth pole concept, although theoretically defensible, is supported by concrete evidence of sustainable growth patterns in the subregion;
 - d) Countries, such as Mauritius, that have prioritized putting in place enabling policies that assure transparent and predictable systems to address rapid business start ups, secure land tenure for investors and profit repatriation have achieved the greatest success in their tourism sector.

Recommendations

12. The meeting recommended the following for the consideration of the Conference of Ministers and of member States:
 - a) that member States should continue to prioritize economic diversification and the structural transformation of their economies away from dependence on primary products;
 - b) the identification of alternative and evidence-based strategies for accelerating economic growth at the level of individual southern African countries;
 - c) that all analytical work by ECA on the potential of southern Africa, and Africa in general, should consider large and small countries as equally worthy of serving as poles of growth;

- d) a realistic assessment of the potential that could emerge from each individual country in the analysis of growth poles;
 - e) measures to strengthen regional economic groupings be explored in the light of their critical role as drivers of regional integration;
 - f) that countries focus on building credibility and trust in their national systems and institutions in order to attract investment into their tourism sectors.
13. The meeting further recommended that the Office for Southern Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa:
- a) establish a close and formalized working relationship with the designated chair of the ICE throughout the year of chairmanship;
 - b) send a formal notification of the proposal to introduce a rotational system for hosting the ICE to all member States and seek their written approval.

Annex III: List of participants

Country representatives

1. Ms. Mmathapelo (Modukanele) Laletsang, Research and Statistics Division (Headquarter), Department of Tourism, Gaborone, Botswana
2. Mr. Orlando Zefanias Mazive, Technician for International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Development, Maputo, Mozambique
3. Mr. Prakash Hurry, Consultant, Ministry of Finance, Port Louis, Mauritius
4. Ms. Maryeven Mootoo, Conference and Social Functions Manager, Prime Minister's office, Port Louis, Mauritius
5. Ms. Nashreen Soogun, Environment Officer, M/Environment and Sustainable Development, Port Louis, Mauritius
6. Ms. Paola Lishukkung-Toofany, Tourism Planner, Port Louis, Mauritius
7. Ms. Bibi T. Abdool, Environment Officer, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Port Louis, Mauritius
8. Ms. Vailamah Pareatumbee, Head Analyst, Ministry of Finance, Port Louis, Mauritius
9. Ms. Leyla Tegmo-Reddy, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles, Port Louis, Mauritius
10. Mr. Michael Mutonga, Deputy Director, National Planning Commission, Windhoek, Namibia
11. Ms. Susan Choolwe Mulenga, Principal Planner, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Lusaka, Zambia
12. Mr. John Chiluwe, Chief Tourism Development Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Lusaka, Zambia
13. Mr. Tawanda Munyika, Senior Administrative Officer, Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Harare, Zimbabwe

Representatives of regional economic communities and organizations

14. Dr. Salif Sada Sall, African Union Regional/Delegate to Southern Africa, Africa Union, Southern Africa Regional Office, Lilongwe
15. Ms. Beatrice Kiraso, Deputy Secretary General, East African Community
16. Ms. Emily N. Mburu, Coordinator, Trade in Southern Africa, COMESA, Lusaka, Zambia
17. Ms. Cecilia Njenga, Regional Coordinator Southern Africa, United Nations Environment Programme, Pretoria, South Africa
18. Mr. Jonathan B.M. Kaunda, Director, Centre for Applied Development Research, Gaborone, Botswana

Representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa secretariat

19. Mr. Sizo Mhlanga, Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Office (UNECA-SA), Lusaka, Zambia
20. Mr. Johnson Oguntola, Senior Regional Adviser (IWRM), Lusaka, Zambia
21. Ms. Nancy Kgengwenyane, Regional Advisor, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
22. Mr. Anthony Taylor, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
23. Ms. Susan Mokonyana, Programme Officer and ECA Liaison Officer to SADC, Gaborone, Botswana
24. Mr. Joseph Atta-Mensah, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
25. Mr. Kasirim Nwuke, ECA-SA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
26. Mr. George B. Ogboro, Senior Programme Analyst, Office of Strategic Planning and Programme Management (OPM), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
27. Mr. Robert Lisinge, Economic Development and NEPAD Division, (EDND) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
28. Mr. Yinka Adeyemi, Economic Development and NEPAD Division, (EDND), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
29. Ms. Matfobhi Riba, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
30. Jean Luc Mastaki Namegabe, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
31. Mr. Jack Jones Zulu, Social Affairs Officer, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
32. Mr. Benjamin Mattondo Banda, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
33. Ms. Maame Agyeben, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
34. Ms. Sampa Kangwa-Wilkie, Communications Officer, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
35. Mr. Bernard P. Bamin, Administrative & Finance Officer, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
36. Ms. Grace Kaonga, Staff Assistant, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia
37. Ms. Anne Mwansa, Staff Assistant, ECA-SA, Lusaka, Zambia