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

Rabat (Morocco)  
26th February – 1st March 2013

# Report on development regional and international agendas and the special initiatives in North Africa





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## Contents

Introduction .....	1
1. Sustainable development agendas .....	2
1.1 The Rio +20 conference: key findings and stage of implementation .....	2
1.2 The United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 18, Doha): Objectives, conclusions and prospects .....	6
1.3 Eighth African Development Forum (ADFVIII).....	10
2. ICT International agendas .....	11
2.1 The 7th edition of Internet Governance Forum (IGF) .....	11
2.2 Follow-up of the Information Society World Summit: .....	11
3. International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD +20) .....	12
4 - International agendas on "Gender equality, equity and empowerment of women..	13
General conclusion.....	14



*Monitoring the implementation of development regional and international agendas and special initiatives in North Africa is part of the activities undertaken by the ECA Office for North Africa to support its Member States in drafting and implementing the socio-economic sustainable development strategies and programs. This exercise can also assist the States in monitoring the progress achieved with regard to the global and regional commitments, taking into consideration the priorities of the sub-region in the negotiation process at international and regional level. The report thus highlights the main conclusions and commitments under the 2012 international and regional agendas and reports the results of the main activities conducted in this framework at sub-regional level.*

## Introduction

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1. The year 2012 was marked by several important events namely the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), the Doha Conference on climate, the eighth African Development Forum (ADFVIII), the seventh annual meeting on Internet Governance Forum, the Information Society World Summit (ISWS) follow-up Forum, the ICT4All Forum.

2. This year has also been declared "International Year of Sustainable Energy for All" by the UN General Assembly. A "Sustainable Energy for All" special initiative by the UN Secretary General was launched to mobilize all stakeholders around the following three objectives by 2030: (1) to ensure global access to modern energy services, (2) to reduce by 40% the global energy intensity and (3) to increase by 30% the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. A comprehensive action plan has been defined in this regard.

3. Demographically speaking, the year 2012 has crossed the symbolic figure of 7 billion people on the planet by 2050. The world population is expected to increase to 9.5 billion inhabitants, which will greatly amplify the needs in energy and increase pressure on natural resources. Social claims will be further exacerbated should there be no production and consumption patterns based on a more efficient use and an upgrading of resources likely to contribute to the well being of populations. In this context, we note the initiation of the review process of implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2014.

4. With regard to new information technologies and communication, consultations continue both internationally and in North Africa sub-region to speed up implementation of the action plan resulting from the Information Society World Summit, so that the prodigious development of ICT, including Internet and Mobile telephony, give full advantage to modernization and competitiveness of the various socio-economic sectors, and to better face the challenges of sustainable development.

5. These different topics are of paramount importance for prospective sustained economic and social development of North African countries, in view of the stakes related to them (depletion of natural resources, vulnerability to climate change, energy and food security, unemployment, ....) but also with regard to the opportunities they could offer (development of renewable energy and energy efficiency, development of new industrial sectors, experience sharing and knowledge networking).

6. This report pinpoints the outcome of the major conferences and forums organized in 2012 within the framework of regional and international agendas relating to sustainable development, population, climate change control, and development of information and communication technologies (ICTs). It will also outline the activities carried out by CEA and ECA-NA Office in support of the preparation of North African countries for these conferences and the follow-up of implementation of key commitments.

# 1. Sustainable development agendas

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## 1.1 The Rio +20 conference: key findings and stage of implementation

### *Rio + 20 background and commitments*

7. In 1982, the UN General Assembly set up the World Commission on Environment and Development (known as the "Brundtland Commission") to examine the relationship between environment and development. Five years later, the Brundtland Commission published its historical report entitled "Our Common Future", which defines sustainable development as "a development pattern that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The report clearly highlights the interdependence between environment and development. Sustainable development was emphasized during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992. Governments enacted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and adopted the 21 Action program, which defines the measures to be taken hopefully. They indicated that "States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would generate economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better fight against the problems of environmental degradation."

8. Since then, several major international conferences were held to clarify the definition and objectives of sustainable development. The most important were the UN Millennium Summit and the UN Summit on Sustainable Development. The UN Millennium Summit, which was held in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, led to the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Millennium Declaration. The latter is the basis for the Millennium Development Goals with eight international objectives having specific deadlines. At the UN Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg (South Africa) from 26 August to 4 September 2002, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment vis-à-vis the Millennium Declaration and adopted an implementation plan which encourages countries to consider sustainable development in decision-making, including taking measures to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments.

9. Twenty years after the Earth Summit, Rio +20 conference was held in Rio (Brazil) from 13 to 22 June 2012 in a context of international crisis and financial fragility, marked by an upward trend in food and energy demand, widening social inequalities, depletion of natural resources (water, fisheries), desertification and climate change. The conference allowed the international community to take stock of the past twenty years, analyze the new major development stakes and ways for implementation.

10. The assessment of the progress achieved worldwide in the field of sustainable development and the analysis of new challenges led the Rio +20 Conference to insist on the need for a more sustainable economic model that meets global environmental requirements and social and human development needs. It emphasized the fundamental and priority character of the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The conference also agreed that climate change control and the development of green economy could provide solutions to the challenges of environmental protection, efficient use of natural resources, the fight against poverty and sustainable job creation, economic diversification and promotion of industrial competitiveness. Several sectors of activity (renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, industry, water management, waste management, clean transport, finance, insurance ..) may contain a long-term potential of economic growth and social development. Gaps in implementation, cooperation and partnerships were identified.

11. In addition to the sectoral issues, Rio +20 addressed two major topics:

- (i) the green economy in a context of sustainable development and poverty reduction;
- (ii) the institutional and strategic framework for sustainable development.



12. The final document entitled "The Future we want", adopted at the Rio +20 Summit reaffirms the international community commitments to give a new impetus to the global partnership for sustainable development initiated in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It calls for the adoption of integrated and balanced comprehensive approaches of sustainable development that are consistent with the principles of Rio, the 21 Action Program, the Johannesburg Implementation Plan as well as with the other programs and action plans agreed on at the end of the major economic, social and environmental summits.

13. This document calls for increased cooperation and active participation of all stakeholders including governments, private sector, civil society, youth and women in creating a more sustainable economic pattern that meets environmental requirements and the needs of social and human development worldwide. It focuses on the fundamental and priority feature in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

14. The Rio + 20 final document largely reflects the priorities of Africa as mentioned in the African Consensus Statement for Rio +20. Africa is ready to take an active part in various intergovernmental processes adopted at RIO +20 and to implement its recommendations.

*Stage of implementation of Rio + 20 commitments worldwide*

15. Sustainable development and poverty eradication are the key objectives of the mandate and general framework of the United Nations activities. The Rio + 20 final document was endorsed by the UN General Assembly (resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012). The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), which served as the secretariat of the Rio +20 conference will keep track of Rio +20 follow-up, in collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions, UNEP and other partners.

16. The main conclusions of the Rio +20 Summit and the progress made to-date for their implementation are summarized in the table below:

<b>Rio + 20 Commitments</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Definition by 2015 of concise and limited sustainable development goals (SDGs) with 2030 as a deadline. The SDGs development process should be coordinated and consistent with the processes relating to the UN post-2015 development agenda, on which a high-level group set up in July 2012 is currently working along with the UN Working Group established in January 2012.</b>	Under the auspices of the UN General Assembly an intergovernmental group is set up to propose global SDGs. It will begin work in 2013 and submit its proposal to the 68th meeting of the General Assembly in 2013. It will benefit from the technical support of a UN inter agency team (sub-group of the UN post 2015 working group).
<b>Establishment of a high-level Intergovernmental Political Forum on sustainable development to replace the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).</b>	Consultations to define the shape and organizational arrangements of the Forum will take place in 2013. Italy and Brazil have been designated by the General Assembly (67th session, in December 2012) to be co-facilitators of the Forum consultation. The first meeting of the Forum should be held at the 68th General Assembly meeting in September 2013.
<b>Preparation of a sustainable development financing strategy based on the identification of innovative financing sources and new forms of partnerships to increase the mobilization of additional and predictable resources for sustainable development.</b>	Under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, an intergovernmental committee of experts will be set up to provide options for the development in 2014 of a strategy for sustainable development financing to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in favor of SD. The committee should start meeting in January 2013.
<b>Strengthening the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), recognized as a world authority in the field of environment.</b>	The UN General Assembly (67th session, December 2012) established the principle of global membership of UNEP Governing Board, the first global meeting will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2013.

<b>Definition and adoption of wider and complementary progress measures of gross domestic product (GDP). This work will take into account existing initiatives in this area.</b>	The UN Statistical Commission should initiate a work program in this regard, in collaboration with other United Nations relevant entities and organizations.
<b>Introduction of new rules for the protection of oceans</b>	Commitment to tackle, by UNGA 69th meeting, the issue on marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, especially by making a decision on the elaboration of an international instrument under the auspices of the UN Convention on sea law
<b>Agreement to promote the green economy as one of the tools, among others, to achieve SD and stress more than before, the need to fight against poverty and social exclusion.</b>	The definition of green economy policies is left to each country. Several development partners have begun to provide support to countries to achieve diagnoses development policies and identify opportunities for green growth (ADB). The OECD is developing policy frameworks for green growth in developing countries, based on key issues. It will publish in 2013 a report on green growth and developing countries ( <a href="http://www.oecd.dac/greengrowth">www.oecd.dac/greengrowth</a> ).
<b>Adoption of the ten-year framework programs for sustainable consumption and production (called 10YFP for "10 Year Framework of Programs") pre-negotiated during the last session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (May 2011)</b>	Initiation of the process at the 67th meeting of the UNGA (December 2012)
<b>Setting options for the establishment of a facilitation mechanism that promotes access of developing countries to environmentally sound technologies.</b>	

#### *Activities carried out by ECA for Rio +20 follow-up*

17. The UN regional commissions and their sub-regional offices play a major role in helping Member States implement the principles of sustainable development and encourage regional coordinated initiatives. This role was again strongly emphasized in the final document of the Rio +20 conference.

18. As part of its follow-up program on Rio + 20, ECA has conducted the following activities:

- Organization of the eighth session<sup>1</sup> of the ECA Committee<sup>1</sup> on Food Security and Sustainable Development which served as a framework for the Regional Implementation Meeting for Africa (Addis Ababa, 19-21 November 2012). The meeting examined the implications of the main findings of RIO +20 for Africa and adopted a final document of the Regional Implementation Meeting for Africa. It is a progress document to be updated according to the new developments. It will serve as a basis for the development of an action plan for the implementation of the outcome of Rio +20 which will be developed and implemented jointly by the AUC, ECA and ADB, in collaboration with all partners at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. This document will be presented to the AU 20th Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government and to the AU fifth joint annual meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. It will serve as Africa's contribution to the twentieth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

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<sup>1</sup> The ECA Committee on food security and sustainable development was set up in 2007 by the conference of African Ministers of finance, planning and economic development. It is a framework for examining the progress accomplished by Africa in implementing sustainable development commitments.

- The start of preparation of the report on sustainable development in Africa which should constitute the regional chapter of the global report on sustainable development. This fifth edition of the report will include two parts: (a) a general assessment of the situation of SD in Africa (15 pilot countries) and (b) an analysis of challenges and opportunities for inclusive green growth in key sectors of the economy (5 pilot countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda and Morocco). Africa recognizes that the green economy is one of the tools to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development that gives advantage to all segments of the population. Africa has abundant natural resources but their exploitation today generates little value added. Also, Africa is examining the opportunities offered by the green economy to better understand the implication of this development model as well as policies and supportive measures to develop (appropriate investments, regulatory measures, technology and capacity development, partnership strengthening, ...). Some countries (Ethiopia, Uganda) have already adopted a strategy of green growth, others have initiated studies (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, ...) and discussions are ongoing on (regional and national platforms).
- The organization of a workshop on "Sustainable Development Indicators" (Addis Ababa, 11-13 December 2012). This workshop aimed at training the staff of national statistical offices and ministries specialized in SD on the concept of SD indicator and the use of statistics and indicators for analysis and interpretation. It also examined the number of SD indicators proposed for the preparation of the report on SD in Africa and led to an exchange of experiences between countries in terms of collection, validation and dissemination of data on the SD.
- The initiation of a regional consultative process to enable African countries to participate in the overall process of defining SDGs, ensuring that they reflect the development priorities of the region. In this context, ECA will support in 2013: (i) the development of five sub-regional reports and the regional report on the major priorities of sustainable development and proposals for SDGs, (ii) the organization of a regional consultative meeting to prioritize sustainable development and propose SDGs for Africa.

19. In 2013, ECA will support the organization of an inter cluster meeting of Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) on the Rio + 20 commitments implementation and revision of RCM clusters business plans.

20. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Office for North Africa prepared a study for a strategic analysis of the implications of Rio + 20 commitments on the national and regional policies and programs in North Africa. This work aims at providing national policymakers and the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) with strategic guidance to facilitate the implementation of sustainable development, meet the new challenges and strengthen regional and international cooperation in this area. These guidelines focus more particularly on the following questions:

- Improving integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and intersectoral manner at all levels;
- Taking into account the new and emerging challenges of sustainable development and the identification of priorities for sustainable development goals;
- Progress in policies and programs related to the green economy;
- The development of funding mechanisms and innovative partnerships;
- Existing capacity and capacity building needs, particularly with regard to information systems, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of sustainable development;
- The promotion of regional and international cooperation.

21. It should be noted that several countries in North Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt) regard the green economy as an opportunity to be seized, to promote more efficient management of its natural resources, and create new jobs in order to reduce unemployment, especially among young people. Thus, many initiatives and programs have been initiated in several areas (renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transport, waste recycling and upgrading, water management and sanitation,

sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, green cities, eco-industry and services related to the environment), and studies are underway to assess the opportunities, challenges and reforms related to the green economy and define the framework conditions for the development of the most profitable sectors and involvement of all stakeholders, at all levels.

22. The outcome of this study will feed into the preparation of the sub-regional report for North Africa on major sustainable development priorities and SDG proposals.

## **1.2 The United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 18, Doha): Objectives, conclusions and prospects**

### ***Background***

23. To meet the challenge of global warming, the United Nations adopted in 1992 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which currently includes 195 countries. The Kyoto Protocol (KP) adopted in 1997 and whose first commitment period covers 2008-2012 is the only legally binding treaty whose main objective is to reduce annual emissions of greenhouse gas emissions from industrialized countries party to the Protocol, by at least 5% compared to the baseline level in 1990 (preindustrial period). The Bali Action Plan (which results from the COP 13, 2007) addresses the four key pillars of strengthening the global response to climate change: mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and financing.

24. Globally, the year 2012 was considered as an extreme in terms of global warming. Recent scientific reports that have examined the extent of climate change and its consequences have been an upward trend in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, at a pace that could surpass the worst case scenario established by the IPCC (2007)<sup>2</sup>. UNEP's report "Bridging the Emissions Gap 2012" indicates that CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere has increased by nearly 20% since 2000. Emissions now reach about 50 gigatons CO<sub>2</sub> eq per year whereas they should be around 44 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> eq per year by 2020 to stabilize the climate at the agreed target of 2° C. Other more alarming studies evaluate average increase in global temperature between 3 and 5° C by 2100, if current climate trajectory is not quickly inflected. In its "World Energy Outlook 2012" report, the IEA recommends leaving in the soil more than two thirds of proven reserves of fossil fuels in order not to exceed 2° C maximum global warming by 2100. Finally, the World Resources Institute reported that subsidies to the oil industry in 2011 were six times greater than those granted to renewable energy, while the concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere are essentially due to the use of fossil fuels.

25. North Africa is considered as the second most vulnerable area to climate risks worldwide. If the current trend continues, average temperatures in the countries of the region should increase by 3° C by 2050 and there would be a significant reduction in rainfall. The study conducted by the World Bank in 2011 on "climate change adaptation and resilience to natural disasters in the coastal cities of North Africa (especially Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt)" also highlights a significant increase in risks related to natural disasters (floods, coastal erosion, sea submersions) over the period 2010-2030. The rise of sea level, which is a critical risk to coastal cities, remains a significant unknown feature, estimated in the study at 20 cm in 2030.

26. Today, the main issues of international negotiations on climate change focus on the adoption of a legally binding international agreement to fight effectively against climate change, through the renewal of the Kyoto Protocol, adopting emission reduction targets and the implementation of the Bali Action Plan.

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<sup>2</sup> The fourth report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) conducted in 2007 provides for warming of the continent within the range of 0.2° C (low scenario) to 0.5 ° C (high scenario) per decade until 2100. It emphasized that temperature rises should be limited to 2° C in order to prevent them from causing irreparable damage to the planet. To achieve this, global emissions of greenhouse gases must peak by 2015 and decline thereafter, reaching a 50% reduction by 2050.

### *From Copenhagen to Durban: Back on the progress of climate negotiations*

27. The Copenhagen Agreement (COP15, 2009) led to the need to contain global rising of temperature below 2° C by 2050 (compared to pre-industrial era) as advocated by the IPCC<sup>3</sup>, but has not set binding quantitative targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, each country has pledged to set by the end of January 2010 its objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for 2015-2020 and some developing countries have agreed to implement measures for mitigation and fight against deforestation at national level, and publish a biennial review of these efforts while rich countries have agreed to dedicate US\$ 100 billion annually to developing countries, as of 2020.

28. The Cancun Conference (COP 16, 2010) helped consolidate the main commitments made in Copenhagen through: (i) the establishment of a process to raise a Green Climate Fund and mobilize the financial required resources, in accordance with the Copenhagen agreement, (ii) the creation of a climate technology centre, (iii) the establishment of a framework and an adaptation committee to coordinate the adaptation activities worldwide, (iii) the mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD ++ ) and the initiation of a preparatory work to eventually bring agriculture, which causes 15% of greenhouse gas emissions, into the scope of UN climate Convention.

29. In 2011, the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Durban decided to launch a new round of KP negotiations (2012-2015) called "Durban platform" regarding a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, to sign in 2015 a new legal framework that would take effect from 2020. This framework should include all emitting countries in the fight against climate change (while the KP obliged industrialized countries only to reduce their emissions). This process should reinforce the goals of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in order to effectively limit the rise in temperature

### *The Doha Conference (COP -18) establishes the start of the KP second commitment period and the negotiation process of the new post 2020 global climate treaty*

30. The eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties acting as a meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (KP) were held from 26 November to 7 December 2012, in the National Centre of the Doha Convention, Qatar. Delegations from more than 190 countries attended the meetings.

31. The conference had two major objectives:

- To find an agreement for a second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol<sup>4</sup>. A new global agreement, this time involving all countries including the two largest polluters, China and the United States-that have not ratified the Kyoto Protocol, should be signed in 2015 and entered into force in 2020;
- To finalize the implementation of the Cancun and Durban Agreements in particular those relating to the Green Fund financing arrangements and the technology transfer mechanism.

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<sup>3</sup> The IPCC suggests that in order to stabilize the temperature rise at 2 degrees compared to the preindustrial era, industrialized countries must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2020.

<sup>4</sup> The Kyoto Protocol (2008-2012) is the only legally binding instrument that commits 35 industrialized countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2% on average compared to 1990 (baseline year) for the period 2008-2012.



32. The main resolutions adopted at Doha were:

### *Kyoto Protocol and a new global agreement on climate*

- A KP second commitment period of 8 years (2013-2020) but countries choose their own reduction targets. The countries concerned<sup>5</sup> agreed to review their commitments to reduce emissions by 2014 the latest, in order to combine efforts to reduce emissions beyond existing commitments and within the spirit of the 2° C target. The European Union has agreed to reduce 12% emissions by 2020, as compared to its previous commitment.
- Pursuing Kyoto Protocol market mechanisms as of 2013: clean development mechanism, Joint Implementation and international exchange of emission shares for all developed countries that agreed to the second commitment period targets;
- The establishment according to the Durban platform of a schedule to discuss a new global treaty on climate change to be concluded in 2015 and entered into force in 2020 and which would apply to all nations, including the United States and major emerging countries. A first round of discussions should be held in Bonn in April-May 2013.

### *Financing and Green Fund*

- The choice of South Korea to host the Green Climate Fund expected to begin work during the second half of 2013, which means that the activities could be launched in 2014. Developed countries reiterated their commitment to keep their promises to continue long term support of climate financing for developing countries, the purpose being to mobilize \$ 100 billion for both adaptation and mitigation by 2020. Developed countries were encouraged to increase their funding between 2013 and 2015, at least at the annual average level of 2010-2012 which would represent a period of fast implementation funding. Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Sweden and the European Commission pledged concrete financial contributions at Doha for the period going up till 2015, totaling approximately \$ 6 billion.

### *Technology transfer mechanism*

- The establishment of a consortium led by UNEP hosting the "Technology Center for Climate" for an initial period of five years. The Center, with its associated network, is the implementation body of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) technology mechanism. Governments also agreed to the establishment of the Board of Directors of "The Technology Center for Climate".

### *Review*

- Governments launched a solid process for the review of the goal of limiting temperature in the long term. This process which will begin in 2013 and end in 2015, will control climate progress and the needs expected to provide new measures.

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<sup>5</sup> The countries which agreed to the extension of KP include: the European Union, Australia, Ukraine, Switzerland and Norway and represent less than 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Russia, Japan, Canada and New Zealand have decided to withdraw from the KP. The United States have never ratified the KP and insist that emerging countries including China, now the world's largest emitter, be bound by commitments that are equivalent to those of industrialized countries.

### *Adaptation and support to developing countries to compensate for the loss and damage caused by climate change*

- Initiation of works in order to propose institutional arrangements, such as an international mechanism to compensate for the loss and damage resulting from climate change suffered by most vulnerable countries.

### *New market mechanisms*

- A work program was agreed on to continue development of new market-based mechanism under the UNFCCC and also to define its possible implementation elements;
- A work program was signed to develop a framework for recognizing mechanisms established outside the UNFCCC, such as the programs administered at national and bilateral levels, and also to analyze their role in supporting countries to reach their reduction goals.

### *Actions on forests*

- In Doha, discussions were held on how to measure deforestation and ensure that efforts to fight against deforestation are taken into account.

### *Carbon capture and storage*

- The Doha meeting discussed ways to ensure the effectiveness and environmental integrity of projects within the framework of clean development mechanisms related to the Kyoto Protocol, to capture and store carbon.

### *Conclusions and perspectives*

33. The year 2013 marks the beginning of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, which expires on 31 December 2020. While scientists and specialized agencies have reported alarming forecasts with a rise in temperatures that could reach 4° C over the century (in a "business as usual" scenario), efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions remain insufficient. Countries engaged in the pursuit of KP represent only 15% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Climate Change (IGEC) deems it necessary that these countries remove "between 25% and 40%" of their emissions by 2020 to contain global temperature rise to an average of 2° C, while the current promises allow only a reduction of between 10 and 15% according to some estimates. A new IGEC report will be published by 2014-2015.

34. North African region will remain heavily involved in the negotiation process for the adoption of a new global climate treaty that is more ambitious in terms of emission reduction targets. This negotiation phase will be crucial for developing countries as it will address important issues such as: equity, historical responsibility, the right to development and cost-effectiveness.

35. Meanwhile, the question of how to reconcile development and the fight against global warming remains. Debate and knowledge sharing on climate change will continue to accelerate the implementation of low carbon policies and strengthen adaptation measures and climate risk management.

The next Conference on Climate Change (Cop 19) is scheduled for late 2013 in Warsaw, Poland.

### *Activities carried out by the CEA*

36. ECA organized the Second Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (Addis Ababa, 19-20 October 2012) under the topic: "Advancing knowledge, policy and practice in climate change and development". The conference aimed at deepening views on the need to insert research, policy and practice to effectively exploit climate change adaptation and mitigation possibilities.

37. The meeting considered three sub-topics:

- Climate service providing;
- Access to sustainable energy for all Africans by 2030;
- The outstanding issues on climate negotiations

38. And recommended, *inter alia*:

- The establishment of a continental vision for the development of renewable energy in Africa;
- Strengthening dialogue institutional mechanisms between scientific institutions and negotiators so that climate negotiations be guided by knowledge and science;
- National capacity building to facilitate access of countries to the adaptation fund and absorption of the funds acquired;
- Identification and sharing of experiences accomplished by countries in terms of adaptation.

### **1.3 Eighth African Development Forum (ADFVIII)**

39. The African Development Forum (ADF)<sup>6</sup> organized every two years by the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and ADB offers a multiparty discussion framework aimed at better understanding the key issues of African development, identifying consensual priorities and objectives and initiating concrete strategies and specific programs for the development of the continent.

40. The eighth African Development Forum was organized by ECA in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 22 to 25 October under the theme "Managing and mobilizing natural resources for development in Africa." The forum aimed at discussing the importance and strategic role of natural resources in the socio-economic transformation of Africa. The discussed sub-themes focused on mineral, land, forestry and fisheries resources.

41. Growth and demographic changes are exerting pressure on the sustainable use of African resources. During the last decade, economic growth in many African countries relied on excessive dependence on some raw materials export earnings.

Exploitation of abundant natural resources is only of little benefit to economic and social development of the continent. Raw materials are usually exported without real value added for the countries.

42. The discussions focused on issues related to ownership, resources control and the distribution of profits derived from their exploitation, in a global context marked by an increase in the demand for natural resources and by environmental concerns, including climate changes. The meeting highlighted the need for effective implementation of the African mining vision and of the African land policy initiative, which should allow for more inclusive growth.

43. The Forum also stressed the need for Africa: (a) to invest in infrastructure, research and human capital building, and (b) to improve citizen participation in politics.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://new.uneca.org/adfviii/home\\_adf8.aspx](http://new.uneca.org/adfviii/home_adf8.aspx).



## 2. ICT International agendas

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### 2.1 The 7th edition of Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

44. Internet Governance Forum (IGF)<sup>7</sup> is one of the actions initiated in 2006 by the United Nations following the Information Society World Summit (ISWS) held in Tunis on 16-17 November, 2005, and which had specifically invited the UN Secretary General to "convene a new forum for dialogue among the various stakeholders" in order to address public policy issues related to Internet governance, and contribute to the sustainability, safety, stability and development of Internet. This mandate is set out in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda on Information Society. The Forum is supported by a secretariat established in Geneva for this purpose. It takes place every year and brings together Internet stakeholders and policymakers in a joint effort to share and exchange ideas.

45. The seventh annual meeting of the Forum took place in Baku, Azerbaijan from 6 to 9 November, 2012. The theme of the forum was "Internet Governance for human, economic and social sustainable development." More than 1,600 delegates from 128 countries attended the meeting. Civil society was the most represented group and participation of women and youth was particularly important this year.

46. Participants focused on the "Outcome and Future prospects" which allowed stakeholders to discuss the comments and conclusions emerging from the workshops and main sessions. Delegates also shared the learned lessons that could be used to improve the forum in the coming years. It was generally agreed that the 2012 IGF was a major success and a step forward for IGF. The forum was also praised for its contribution to wider efforts for enhanced cooperation between the various stakeholders in the field of Internet governance and policy development.

47. Stakeholders recommended that IGF be used to speed up the work accomplished in other contexts during the past year, in relation with the discussions on enhanced cooperation. Incorporating discussions on IGF national and regional initiatives in annual meetings should also be a priority and a means to consider the whole initiative. It was agreed that IGF community should continue and even strengthen efforts to develop and improve IGF between annual meetings. Capacity building, knowledge sharing, advocacy and other activities should continue throughout the year and stakeholders should work closely with the MAG Secretariat.

### 2.2 Follow-up of the Information Society World Summit:

#### *2012 ISWS Forum*

48. The 2012<sup>8</sup> ISWS Forum was held at the ILO Conference Centre in Geneva (Switzerland) from 14 to 18 May 2012. Jointly organized by ILO, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, it was an opportunity for multiparty discussions and consultations on ISWS implementation. The Forum brought together over 1300 ISWS stakeholders from 140 countries. The program consisted of more than 150 sessions organized into 20 different meetings on seven parallel tracks. Two plenary sessions were devoted to the ISWS + 10.

49. The 2012 ISWS Forum resulted in a final document which summarizes all the sessions held during the forum, but also captures the results and future prospects and pays particular attention to the importance of the ISWS + 10 review process. The document also identifies the emerging key trends for a range of activities covering each of ISWS line of action, thus offering a vision beyond 2015.

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<sup>7</sup> IGF2012 :<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/component/content/article/114-preparatory-process/927-igf-2012>.

<sup>8</sup> <http://groups.itu.int/wsis-forum2012/Home.aspx>

### **2.3 ICT 4 ALL 2012**

50. The 2012 ICT4ALL<sup>9</sup> was held in Hammamet (Tunisia) from 17 to 20 September 2012, at the invitation of the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communication of the Republic of Tunisia.

51. The Forum was enhanced by the participation of Mr. Hamadi Jebali, Head of the Tunisian Government who opened the Forum by a speech in which he recalled that the 2012 ICT4ALL goes in line with the Information Society World Summit, constituting a step in the implementation of the ISWS recommendations and decisions defined by the "Tunis Agenda" in November 2005. He said he was particularly pleased with the creation of IGF North Africa, after the creation on 4 September 2012 of the Tunisian national IGF. He stated that IGF North Africa will provide a platform for coordinating the positions of countries in North Africa on Internet public policy issues, particularly for the preparation of IGF Africa and IGF Arab World.

52. The 2012 ICT4ALL was attended by 1104 participants from public and private sectors and civil society. The Forum included the following three panels:

- Panel 1: Digital Economy and value creation
- Panel 2: Digital Culture and Information Society
- Panel 3: ISWS, 2013-2015 process

53. In particular, the Forum recommended to continue efforts to provide IGF North Africa with organs that enable it to achieve its objectives, including the appointment, within 6 months, of members of the Multi-Advisory Group (MAG). It also urged the Arab and African states to contribute to national, sub-regional and regional coordination of the assessment of the ISWS outcome and to the post-2015 development prospects.

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## **3. International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD +20)**

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### ***Introduction***

54. In 1994, 179 countries met in Cairo for the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In this context and for the first time all aspects of human life were covered comprehensively and the main result was the development of a twenty-year action program recognizing that each person counts and that population is not a matter of figures, but of people and their quality of life. Governments agreed that all human beings are entitled to a sound and productive life, without discrimination, and that the promotion of human rights and dignity are essential for economic growth and sustainable development.

55. This compilation of universal ideals was an important step, indicating a shared commitment to improve the lives of all the peoples worldwide through the promotion of human rights and dignity, support for family planning, the right to sexual and reproductive health, promoting gender equality, development of equal access to education for girls, the fight against violence towards women, as well as focusing on issues related to population and the protection of the environment.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.ict4allforum.tn/>

### *ECA activities in partnership with other United Nations agencies*

56. As the twentieth anniversary of this important program is near, ECA closely with UNFPA and ESCWA assists African countries in their process to review the ICPD beyond 2014. This process is based on an ICPD + 20 global survey that all countries should lead and which will take stock of the implementation of the Cairo Action Program. After completing the ICPD +5, ICPD +10 and ICPD +15 reports, countries pledged to achieve an ICPD + 20 national report which aims at: (i) an assessment of the implementation of the Cairo Action Program, highlighting the progress accomplished, the challenges and lessons learned, and (ii) identification of future priorities.

57. Preparation of the report should be based both on the data collected during the ICPD +20 recent global survey and on the other potential data sources regarding population and development. Analyzes will be conducted in a participatory approach, involving government departments, NGOs and youth associations within the framework of a comprehensive and integrated population and development approach, and in accordance with national sectoral priorities.

58. National reports will feed into regional reports that highlight regional priorities and will help prepare the Global Report, which will be reviewed and validated at the World Conference to be held in 2014.

### **4 - International agendas on "Gender equality, equity and empowerment of women"**

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59. In the context of ECA participation in the regional and international evaluation process of ICPD +20 in partnership with UNFPA and ESCWA, a questionnaire was sent to member countries with support from the Commission for processing, with a view to finalizing national assessment reports that will complete the ICPD + 20 regional and global balance.

60. The questionnaire consists of eight chapters, one of which is devoted exclusively to "Gender equality, equity and empowerment of women (Chapter 7). The latter identifies in detail the various aspects of this issue including: the existence of national policies on equity and the empowerment of women, the institutionalization of gender and the existence of official entities responsible for the question, achievements (in areas such as women's participation in the formal and informal economy, women's representation in politics, the elimination of gender-based violence, improving the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, etc.), the national priorities on gender, partnership with civil society and the private sector in the field of gender, etc.. Five of the seven countries that make up the sub-region completed the questionnaire, following ECA support and follow-up (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia).

61. This evaluation will assess the progress accomplished to support the agenda on equality and the promotion of women's conditions in the region. It also prepares the ground for an even more specific but equally important evaluation, namely the implementation global periodical review of the Beijing Action Platform on Women (Beijing +20) scheduled for 2015.

62. At regional level, the five-year review will begin in 2014 and will be used to investigate the overall assessment in 2015, to take stock of the progress made to strengthen gender equality, the equality and empowerment of women in the twelve priority areas defined in the Beijing Action Platform (Women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women; women and armed conflicts; women and the economy, women, power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the promotion of women, human rights of women, women and the media; little girls).

63. This assessment is all the more important and crucial to the region that the political changes in many countries of North Africa and the transitions they have generated raise new challenges with respect to the consolidation of the - encouraging but still insufficient - gains made in recent years in terms of gender equality and promotion of women.

64. These challenges are mainly:

- The radicalization of the debate on women's rights and gender equality in countries where the changes indicated above led to the emergence of new political actors, some of whom are opposed to the values of gender equality;
- The persistence of a large number of countries in the region to maintain reservations to CEDAW on behalf of cultural and religious specificities:
- The lack of “gender” specific national policies in many countries of the sub-region where there are <<Women’s Action Plans>> whose implementation is not always considered a national priority.
- Insufficient integration of gender analysis/approach in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of national development policies, while all regional and international instruments on women and gender equality ratified by countries in the sub-region well insist on the urgent need to systematically institutionalize the gender approach in their development policies and programs.
- The growing feminization of poverty, exacerbated by unequal access of women and girls to resources, social welfare, health care services and medical prevention, etc..
- The low participation of women in decision-making at all levels and the still too modest progress on the issue of equality between men and women in the management of public affairs.
- The persistence of violence against women in all forms, and weak enforcement of laws - when they exist - criminalizing this practice and punishing those who are responsible.

65. The importance of these challenges for the sustainability of the gains made by North African countries in terms of gender equality, as well as the stakes resulting therefrom for our societies - which are required to promote them and protect women's rights, as a basic premise for the success of the democratic transition - all attest the relevance of this global review of the implementation of the Beijing Action Platform on Women (Beijing + 20). It is therefore necessary to prepare the countries of the sub-region, a task which ECA will tackle this year.

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## General conclusion

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66. The above developments highlighted the commitment of North African countries to join in the shared vision of a better world for all and to support the various initiatives taken at African and world level in order to meet the challenges of sustainable and inclusive human development and the safeguard of the ecological balance, the integration of 'gender' approach in all national development strategies or the optimization of new information and communication technologies.

67. The regularly engaged debates at national and regional levels on these issues contribute to increased understanding of development challenges and priorities, capacity building and knowledge sharing that are essential to the implementation of sustainable solutions.

68. In addition to the national initiatives of these international agendas follow-up, North African countries should promote or strengthen sub-regional consultation frameworks in order to build consensus and raise their voices on all of these development topics.