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THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (16th ICE) OF WEST AFRICA

*Inclusive green growth to accelerate socio-economic
development in West Africa*

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE ECA SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA FOR 2012 AND PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2013

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFRISTAT	African Statistical Center
AIMES	African Initiative on Mining, Environment and Society
AGOA	Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
AMV	African Mining Vision
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CDP	Community Development Program
COP	Congress of Parties
CSOs	Civil Service Organizations
CILSS	Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa States
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECA/SRO-WA	Sub-Regional Office for West Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAP	ECOWA's Agricultural Policy
HLM	High Level Meeting
ICE	Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGOs	Intergovernmental Organizations
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDGS	Millennium Development Goals
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRU	Mano River Union
MYPs	Multi Year Programmes
NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development
NGP	National Gender Policy
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
RECS	Regional Economic Communities
SRCM	Sub Regional Coordination Mechanism
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UNCTS	United Nations Country Teams
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial and Development Organization
WAIGOs	West African Intergovernmental Organizations
WAIFEM	West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management
WAMI	West African Monetary Institute
WAMZ	West African Monetary Zone

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was established by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 1958 as one of its five regional commissions. ECA's mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its Member States, foster intraregional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. ECA has undertaken several reform efforts in the past, notably in 1991, 1996, and 2002, as a result of changes in the United Nations system and of developments affecting its core mandate.

2. The work of the Office is steered by the imperative that Africa's transformative development must be based on the continent's priorities, as stated by Executive Secretary of the ECA, Mr. Carlos Lopes, calling for renewed strategy and approaches to ensure that the best benefits are tapped for the citizenry and their countries. In view of the current growth trends that became a platform for broad structural transformation, and also due to the overall demographic advantage that presents the continent as a market full of potential, ECA has began yet another reform in late 2012 to enhance ECA's relevance to its Member States. This reform is expected to respond to some key priorities focusing on economic advantages of the continent.

3. The ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa (ECA/SRO-WA) is based in Niamey, Niger, and serves fifteen countries, all Member States of the ECOWAS sub-region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

4. As one of the five sub-regional offices (SROs) of ECA, ECA/SRO-WA enables the translation of normative and analytical work into operational activities at sub-regional level. The ECA/SRO-WA delivers on its mandate through technical assistance provided to Regional Economic Communities (RECs: ECOWAS, UEMOA, MRU, etc) and Member States on policy harmonization and advice, addressing the special needs of Member States, facilitating regional integration, and serving as focal points for policy dialogue and information exchange between the Commission and other stakeholders in West Africa. Within the recently initiated organizational restructuring of ECA, the SROs shall serve as sub-regional data centers and main players in sub-regional initiatives.

5. An Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE), comprising of senior Government experts from the Member States, supervises the work of ECA/SRO-WA, and oversees the overall formulation and implementation of the programme of work and priorities. The ICE provides programme direction and makes recommendations towards addressing economic and social developmental challenges in the sub-region. The guidance provided by the ICE ensures that sub-regional priorities are fully integrated into the ECA's programme of work.

6. The ICE meets once every year and is hosted by a Member State of the sub-region. The recommendations of the ICE are normally tabled for consideration by the joint African Union (AU)/ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Economic Planning and Development. As an ECA policy organ, the Ministers' conference is thus an important forum for shaping the Commission's legislative mandate, and for strengthening the relevance of its work at sub-regional level. This hereby report cover the period from April 2012 to March 2013, one part of

the biennium 2012-2013, during which ECA/SRO-WA sub-programme will focus on providing greater technical support to Member States and the regional economic communities with a view to improving their capacities for regional integration, in particular in their various areas of priority. The objective of the programme is to strengthen regional integration in the sub-region within the overall framework of NEPAD, meeting international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the context of Africa's special needs, specific sub-regional priorities (ECOWAS vision-2020), and the African Union vision.

7. The activities carried out by ECA/SRO-WA are coherent with the needs of the West African Regional Communities, mainly the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

II. REPORT OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY ECA/SRO-WA IN 2012

II.1 Expected programme accomplishments

8. Given the objective of strengthening regional integration in the sub-region, within the overall framework of NEPAD, meeting international development goals including the Millennium Development Goals, and in the context of Africa's special needs, sub-regional priorities (ECOWAS Vision 2020) and the African Union vision, the programme implementation has been undertaken to achieve the below expected accomplishments:

- Enhanced capacity of Member States, ECOWAS, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the Mano River Union and other intergovernmental and civil society organizations to formulate and implement macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes, including gender mainstreaming;
- Improved networking among key stakeholders involved in the development agenda, including Member States, intergovernmental organizations, regional economic communities, civil society organizations, United Nations country teams, and other sub regional entities;
- Strengthened capacity of regional economic communities and Member States to formulate and implement policies related to conflict.

II.2 Activities in the year 2012

9. The activities of ECA/SRO-WA, as part of the biennium work programme, are implemented the following modalities: (i) Servicing of the intergovernmental organs and experts; (ii) Other substantive activities; (iii) Advisory services, seminars and workshops; and (iv) Field projects. Upon request, the ECA/SRO-WA provides technical assistance to West African Member States and Regional Economic Communities.

10. The major activities carried out during the reporting period in 2012 and 2013 are presented as hereunder:

- Implementation and follow-up of the recommendations of the fifteenth session of ICE;
- Preparation of the working documents for the fifteenth session of ICE;
- Implementation of components of the 2012-2013 work programme; and
- Design the Strategic Framework for programme implementation for the biennium 2014-2015.

II.2.1 Servicing of the intergovernmental organs and experts

Meetings

11. During the reporting period, the ECA/SRO-WA organized four major meetings:

Substantive servicing of meetings: the annual session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Sub-Regional Office for West Africa

12. The Fifteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) of the ECA/SRO-WA was held during on 15 and 16 March 2012 in Bamako, Republic of Mali, with logistical and financial support of the Government of Mali. During this meeting, experts from Member States and representatives of West African Intergovernmental Organizations (WAIGOs) focused their attention on issues related to economic and social developments in the sub-region, and shared experiences in addressing growth and development challenges.

13. The report noted that the sub-region is one of the fastest growing economic zones in the world, having benefited from high demand for and elevated prices of primary commodities, increased oil exploitation, a robust tertiary sector, the restoration of peace in some countries, and the accelerating economic revival of countries emerging from conflict. West Africa's growth rates were therefore only marginally affected by the global economic slowdown, growing by 6½ per cent in 2011 from 6¾ per cent in 2010.

14. The delegates agreed with the general thrust of the report, arguing that the sub-region has weathered the global economic slowdown well. They noted however that growth without jobs remains a key challenge for authorities. While diversification efforts are yet to bear fruit, Member States are aware that more structural adjustments are needed in order to reduce reliance on a few commodities that depend on international prices and weather conditions. The meeting concurred with the report's recommendations. Member States' attention was called to the below recommendations:

- a) West African countries should aim for self-reliance to sustain current growth rather than just place their hope on economic turnaround in developed countries. Accordingly, the

sub-region should intensify its industrialization efforts with a particular focus on the processing of its myriad of primary commodities;

- b) Member States should undertake structural reforms to ensure that the sector's contribution is sustainable by supporting it more, including through mechanization, as well as introducing agricultural incentives that would attract the youths;
- c) West African governments should do more to mobilize domestic and regional resources to close the funding gap, as well as emphasize pro-poor sources of growth as a way to address poverty and unemployment, especially among the youth;
- d) Member States and regional institutions should reinvigorate initiatives to foster regional integration, including respecting all macroeconomic and policy convergence criteria;
- e) Member States and regional institutions should come up with innovative ways to promote youth employment, including providing incentives to private sector to generate jobs for the youth;
- f) Member States should promote further processing of agricultural products in order to enhance value and generate multipliers from the sector; and
- g) Member States should strengthen intra-Africa trade in agricultural products by reducing non-tariff barriers.

15. Although some progress has been made on social indicators, the delegates expressed the view that progress is not sufficient to meet key MDGs by 2015. In this regard, the challenges of food insecurity and rural poverty could very well be addressed by more investments in the agricultural along the lines suggested by regional protocols.

16. They deliberated on West Africa's need to exploit agricultural potential as a springboard for growth and development in line with the ECOWAS Vision 2020. The delegates focused on the untapped potential for further value-addition along the agricultural value chain as an important developmental dimension that needs to be incorporated into the overall development strategy for the sector.

17. The report of ECA/SRO-WA provided an overview of the work programme conducted over the period from April 2011 to March 2012, and the activities undertaken during the reporting period, and planned outputs for the biennium 2012-2013. The delegates commended ECA/SRO-WA for the work accomplished over this period. They observed that the establishment of the SRCM should be expedited to coordinate the United Nation system-wide support to Member States as called for in NEPAD and AU Ten Year Capacity Building Programme.

18. Following deliberations, the delegates recommended that ECA should:

- a) Assist with building the capacity of Member States in data collection and the harmonization of data collection methodologies;
- b) Strengthen collaborative links with research think-tanks in the sub-region and work collaboratively with them in delivering technical assistance to Member States; and

- c) Ensure timely publication of research reports and dissemination of findings to users.

Workshop on Promotion of the Value Chains Approach in the Development of Agriculture in West Africa

19. Within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) issued in 2002, the ECOWAS developed its Agricultural Policy while UEMOA set up the Pan-African Agricultural Union. The ECA/SRO-WA organized the afore-mentioned workshop back-to-back with the Fifteenth ICE meeting in Bamako, Mali, on 13 and 14 March 2012. The workshop was part the ECA/SRO-WA 2012-2013 programme activities, and a concrete manner to strengthen efforts towards agricultural development in West Africa, as key to countries' economic development. The objective of the meeting was to discuss solutions aimed at accelerating growth in the agricultural sector through the implementation of the value chain approach for strategic products, which have a high potential for sustaining growth and creating wealth in rural areas as well as in the rest of the economy.

20. Major recommendations included: securing the supply of inputs as well as other factors of production such as agricultural equipment, adopting reforms to facilitate land access for agribusiness promoters and smallholders regardless of gender, and enhancing agricultural value chain promotion.

Ad Hoc Experts Group Meeting on Strengthening the Capacity of West African States to Harness Renewable Energy for Electricity Supply, Poverty Reduction, and Climate Change Mitigation.

21. The ECA/SRO-WA organized an Ad Hoc Experts Group Meeting on Strengthening the Capacity of West African States to Harness Renewable Energy for Electricity Supply, Poverty Reduction, and Climate Change Mitigation on 7 and 8 June 2012, in Lomé, Togo. The objective of the meeting was to review the current situation and share experiences and knowledge in the promotion of renewable energy in West African States, with a view to extracting best practices and lessons learned to enhance access to energy services in the region. The meeting observed that these initiatives will advance the three-pronged objective of raising economic growth, improving social indicators, and addressing environmental concerns. In light of limited government resources, participants welcomed efforts to attract the private sector to inject resources, innovation, and sustainability in the generation and use of renewable energy.

22. To ensure that energy contributes to wealth creation, economic growth, and enhanced living conditions of citizens, major recommendations to Member States included: the development of strong political will, the integration of renewable energy policies into national socio-economic development strategies, setting up binding targets for energy access, energy efficiency and access to electricity, and the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework.

Ad Hoc Experts Group Meeting on regional integration programmes and the West African Intergovernmental Organizations platform for regional cooperation.

23. As part of the technical assistance provided to IGOs in West Africa and in line with the work programme for 2012-2013, the ECA/SRO-WA organized an ad hoc expert's group meeting on regional integration in West Africa, on 4 and 5 June 2012, in Lomé, Togo. In addition to discussing regional integration, the meeting sought to develop strategies to strengthen WAIGOs' collaboration and coordination for effective delivery, and develop a roadmap on the conclusion of the formal establishment of the WAIGOs' cooperation agreement. In the ensuing discussions participants appreciated the issues raised in the presentation, but expressed concern over the slow progress in the implementation of various protocols, instruments, and policies underpinning regional integration in West Africa. Major recommendations included: i) Member States should remove all remaining obstacles to guarantee right to residence as well as right to establishment; ii) The division of responsibilities based on comparative strengths, for example, specialized institutions such as CILSS could take the lead on food security, AGRHYMET for training and research on climate change, and Africa-Rice for agricultural research, and thus serve as technical as well as operational arms for other IGOs in these areas; iii) On the Memorandum of Cooperation, participants recommended that the draft Protocol on Cooperation should be signed by the IGOs as soon as possible.

Statutory Reports/Preparation of working documents to the Sixteenth Session of the ICE

24. In accordance with the approved work program for the period 2012-2013, the ECA/SRO-WA embarked upon the preparation of the four major statutory documents for the consideration of the Sixteenth Session of ICE:

- The Report on Economic and Social Conditions in West Africa in 2012 and Prospects for 2013;
- The Report on Inclusive Green Growth for a Progressive West Africa;
- Report on Tracking Progress in the Implementation of Regional and International Agenda, including NEPAD and Other Special Initiatives in the Sub-region: Progress and Challenges on Access to Education in West Africa;
- Report of the ECA/SRO-WA Activities in 2012 and Program of Work for 2013.

II.2.2 Other substantive activities

Recurrent Publication:

The Report on Economic and Social Conditions in West Africa in 2011 and Prospects for 2012, with the theme "Harnessing agriculture potential for growth and development"

25. The ECA/SRO-WA has elaborated its report on economic and social conditions in West Africa in 2011 and prospects for 2012 on the theme « Harnessing agricultural potential for growth and development ». The report highlights main recent trends based on economic and social indicators, and analyses on integration harmonization process of macroeconomic policies

following the convergence criteria as agreed in the sub-region. In addition to providing basic useful information on the socio-economic situation of the sub-region, it also gives indications on the ongoing integration process in the sub-region. Besides, it presents the recommendations agreed upon by all participants at the ICE to achieve a substantial structural transformation of the economies collectively and individually.

Tracking Progress on the implementation of regional and international agendas, including NEPAD and other special initiatives in the sub-region – MDGs - 3 Gender Equality

26. The report conducted an overall assessment of performance towards achieving the particular MDG by examining the relevant indicators and other cross-cutting dimensions of gender as contained in MDGs 3, comprising of: ratio of girls to boys in primary school, secondary and tertiary education; share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector; and proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments. Evidence suggests that performance is still lagging and tremendous effort needs to be exerted by African countries to increase the proportion of women in these spheres to improve attainment of the goal. The report also dwells upon other cross-cutting challenges such as violence against women and the girl child, which continue to undermine gender equality and the empowerment of women. Achieving the goal of gender equality and empowerment of women calls for the elimination of gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary education; parity in wage employment and full political participation manifested by increased seats held by women in national parliaments. The delegates acknowledged the role of women in economic growth and wealth creation, and hence the need to ensure gender equality and achieving the MDG goal.

27. Salient recommendations included: ECA and other development partners to support national statistical offices in enhancing capacity to collect data, including sex-disaggregated data; ECOWAS to collaborate with development partners to assist Member States in implementing national gender policies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Non-recurrent publication:

28. Within the category of non-recurrent publications, three research reports were produced:

- Harnessing agriculture potential for growth and development;
- Strengthening the capacity of West African States on harnessing renewable energies for electricity supply, poverty reduction and climate change mitigation;
- Regional integration in West Africa: development of agricultural value chains.

Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:

- i) Electronic brief on activities of ECA/SRO-WA including the technical assistance programme;
- ii) Emerging issues in West Africa - regional integration in West Africa.

Servicing inter-agencies meeting UNCT Niger

29. As member of the United Nations Country team, the ECA/SRO-WA participated in the governance cluster, the mid-term review of UNDAF (2009-2013), and designing of the UNDAF 2014-2018 in November 2012. Through participation in the UNCT, the ECA/SRO-WA contributes to the implementation of UNDAF 2009-2013 and to the execution of projects in Niger in monitoring and implementation of the framework cooperation agreement within the UNDAF. Moreover, the ECA/SRO-WA participates in the UN Gender Group and Human Rights sub-teams. Major activities in this regard included contribution to the anniversary of the Declaration of the UN Human Rights; Journal on “World without Violence”; Adolescent girls and mitigation of early marriage; International Women’s Day; and Newsletter on Gender Equality “Dai Dai Ci”.

30. The meeting on Sub Regional Coordination Mechanism was postponed for 2013 awaiting the signature of the Memorandum of Cooperation between IGOs. This memorandum will help harmonizing the cooperation between the office and IGOs on implementing the regional strategy adopted by ECOWAS and UEMOA and it will be signed at February 2013 at Accra (Ghana).

Technical Material

31. To enhance its public outreach efforts, the ECA/SRO-WA issued its weekly publication, “West Africa Bulletin” in the last quarter of 2012. The overall objective is to present highlights of main research, publications, and reports, in order to entice audiences to get an in-depth understanding of the work of the ECA/SRO-WA. The Bulletin topics included so far: overview of economic and social developments in West Africa; gender equality and empowerment of women; value chain approach to agricultural development in West Africa; youth employment in West Africa; food security and harnessing West Africa's agricultural potential; eradication of poverty in West Africa; ECA support for regional integration in West Africa (UN delivering as one); disaster reduction in West Africa and ECA work in the sub region; harnessing renewable energies in West Africa; trends in West Africa's economic development partnerships - South-South cooperation; ECA and West African Intergovernmental Organizations (WAIGOs) and implementation of development and regional integration programs. The information dissemination via the Bulletin has improved the visibility of its work and has received wide recognition.

32. The Office also maintains a web site accessible to various stakeholders. The website serves as a depository of research studies and capacity building activities.

33. To encourage the utilization of information and communication technology for diffusion and popularization, especially in regional integration issues, the ECA/SRO-WA has acquired its own domain to host the Observatory space (<https://eca.unteamworks.org/node/143852>) and organized a special session of orientation in collaboration with UNDP Regional Team Leader. The observatory aims at facilitating access to data and publications and documents on regional

integration and assists Member States and RECs with timely and relevant information on current programs, on challenges and issues of interest to the sub region.

II.2.3 Technical cooperation

34. The cooperation centers on provision of advisory services, upon request from Member States, ECOWAS, and other sub-regional and intergovernmental organizations, in the context of the Multi Year Programme.

Advisory services:

35. Advisory services are undertaken in support of the UN Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme of the AU, the African Peer Review Mechanism, and the MDGs on institutional and sectoral issues related to strengthening regional integration and implementation of NEPAD in West Africa.

36. The technical support to the Government of Niger had started in 2011. This collaboration continued until the beginning of 2013. The main objective was to provide support in capacity building including state modernization and the design of an interim, medium-, and long-term macroeconomic framework for Niger.

37. The assistance is focused on the government support to address poverty, strengthen programs towards sustainable development and modernize the operational arms of the state through public sector reform. This includes the contribution and support to Government's Four Year Social and Economic Development Plan which is centered around the following priority areas:

- Implementation of an effective poverty reduction strategy including designing medium- and long-term strategies;
- Conduct research on population growth and employment creation ; and
- Enhance equal access and quality social services such as: education, health, and protection of vulnerable groups; and infrastructure development and promotion of good governance.

38. In November 2012 UNECA/SRO-WA through its organ in charge of capacity building, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and in response to Niger's Government request had conducted two training sessions for government officials on developing long-term development strategies. Experts were trained in using prospective analysis tools with a focus on definition of concepts, taking advantage of experiences of neighboring countries like Benin and Mali. The main objective of this capacity building programme was to train key group of experts to work with various government departments to lead forthcoming thematic taskforces and other working group sessions during the formulation and elaboration process of the document "Strategy for sustainable development and inclusive growth (SDDCI- Niger 2035)" re-scheduled for the year 2013.

39. The second major project supports the efforts of the High Commissioner for the State Modernization to renewal of Niger's public administration quality of services, the improvement of financial and human resources management areas, that should lead to the restructuring of all ministries and public institutions specifics and administrative procedures. With ECA's technical support, a study was conducted on major challenges faced in the implementation of existing procedures manual, and through large consultative process a project document (ProDoc) was developed. The very beginning of the process started in June 2012, and a manual of procedures is expected for each government institution making it feasible through the institutional framework of the strategic development plan implementation.

Seminars/workshops: for budgetary reasons, they were postponed to 2013.

II.2.4 Additional activities

40. The SRO-WA is working towards dynamic cooperation with RECs (ECOWAS, UEMOA), and the IGOs in the sub-region. Further to the assessment of Multi Year Programme with ECOWAS ; the Office is currently preparing for the next programme of cooperation jointly with the UEMOA based on the regional strategy for poverty eradication. A Memorandum of Understanding with UEMOA is under final signature whilst the one with WAIGO's is at the last stage of negotiation in preparation for signature.

Field Project

Capacity building for coordinated natural resources management policies in ECOWAS region.

II.3 Results achieved:

41. As of 1 January 2013, the ECA/SRO-WA has completed implementation of the programmed activities for the year 2012, and has began implementation of work programme for 2013 in full compliance with the United Nations strategic guideline "Deliver as One". The activities for the current biennium end in December 2013, and the Strategic Framework for the biennium 2014-2015 has been presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

42. During the just concluded period, the ECA/SRO-WA pursued the implementation of its cooperation agreements with ECOWAS, and its joint programs with the WAIGOs. The effort to synergize the interventions of the RECs and IGOs will continue with the signing and formalization of the Memorandum of Understanding.

43. The ECA/SRO-WA continues to work closely with other stakeholders such as the academia, civil society, and with the regional intergovernmental organizations. In particular, the ECA/SRO-WA will need to strengthen the implementation of the Multi Year Programme with the ECOWAS Commission, and to continue to work with UEMOA, the Mano River Union, CILSS, and other IGOs of the West African sub-region. This is to be pursued in the current year and the new biennium, when the new common Multi Year Programmes with ECOWAS and

UEMOA is to be elaborated, in line with the objectives of their common regional strategy document.

II.4 Challenges in the implementation of the work programme

44. Due to challenges outlined below, the following six activities of the 2012 program of work could not be completed and will be implemented in the present year. Re-scheduled activities are:

- Annual meeting of the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism for the United Nations system-wide support to the AU and its NEPAD program;
- Maintenance of the West African statistical database;
- Virtual knowledge networks and management of thematic workspaces for Communities of Practice;
- Workshop for high-level decision makers and professionals on mining policy harmonization in the implementation of the ECOWAS mining directive and the realization of the African mining vision in West Africa;
- Workshop for decision makers and other stakeholders on strengthening the CDPs in the ECOWAS regions;
- Strengthening institutional support to West African IGOs: mainstreaming gender in food security.

45. The major challenges during the reporting period related to the low number of professional staff due to mobility to Headquarters and other Offices. The office has 24 staff positions approved, divided into 11 Professionals, 2 National Officers, and 11 General Services. (the O.I.C, the AAFO, and three Economic Affairs Officers, two National Officers, and seven General Services staff). The ECA/SRO-WA has 10 vacant posts (six Professionals and four General Services staff). This is expected to be addressed within the ongoing restructuring exercise of the ECA.

46. Also, frequent change in senior management position resulted in disruption of the leadership and programme direction. Since regular program delivery is supplemented by funding from extra budgetary sources, non-availability of XB resources at the required time and level posed major financial challenges, and affected the smooth implementation of activities in 2012.

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2013

47. The ECA/SRO-WA continues work in strengthening regional integration in the sub-region within the overall framework of NEPAD, meeting international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the context of Africa's special needs, sub- regional priorities (ECOWAS Vision 2020) and the African Union vision. The objectives of the programme delivery in 2013 remain similar to that of the overall biennium focusing mainly on capacity building, knowledge sharing and consensus building for Member States and West African Regional Economic Communities. The expected accomplishments remain: (i) Enhanced capacity of Member States, ECOWAS, UEMOA, the Mano River Union and other intergovernmental and civil society organizations to formulate and implement macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes including gender mainstreaming; (ii) Improved networking among key stakeholders involved in the development agenda, including Member States, intergovernmental organizations, regional economic communities, civil society organizations, United Nations country teams, and other sub-regional entities; (iii) Strengthened capacity of regional economic communities and Member States to formulate and implement policies related to conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.
48. During the year 2013, the below planned outputs will be implemented in addition to those postponed from 2012.

III.1 Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

Intergovernmental committee of experts of the Sub-regional Development Center for West Africa

49. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts is related to the current ICE meeting to be held in Abidjan from 18th to 19th of March 2013 with the support of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

Substantive servicing of meetings:

50. The annual session of the ICE of the ECA/SRO-WA is the main activity of the office. The ECA/SRO-WA presents the main trends on economic and social development, with main focus on employment in the social area. Special attention is also paid to the regional integration process. The theme of this year's ICE is "Inclusive Green Growth to Accelerate Socio-Economic Development in West Africa".

Parliamentary documentation:

51. Three parliamentary documents are elaborated:

- The report prepared in collaboration with ECOWAS on key economic and social developments and prospects for regional integration in West Africa. The ECA/SRO-WA elaborates its report on economic and social conditions in West Africa in 2012 and prospects for 2013 on the theme “Inclusive Green Growth to Accelerate Socio-Economic Development in West Africa”. This report will also highlight main recent trends based on economic and social indicators, and analyses on integration harmonization process of macroeconomic policies following the agreed convergence criteria in the sub-region. Regarding the social component, special attention is paid to the labor market in West Africa. In its thematic part, the report puts into perspective the green economy as one way to achieve sustainable development in the sub-region while participating in the global effort to combat climate change. It will present recommendations agreed upon by all participants at the ICE, in order to contribute to the structural economic transformation of the sub-region within a green economy perspective.
- The progress report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other regional and international agendas and special initiatives in the sub region. This report gives an overview on the main programmes implemented in the framework of NEPAD, with a focus on education in West African countries.
- The Annual report on the work of ECA/SRO-WA, including the status of implementation of the Multi Year Programme and the new generation of Multi Year Programmes.

52. Ad hoc expert groups:

- The report on strengthening capacity of West African States on green economy for mitigation of climate change. This report will enable the experts to review the green economy challenges faced by West African countries, specifically focusing on the transition challenges from conventional agricultural, industrial and services economies to a new version based on the “green” way of producing the same goods and services. The report will present the challenges posed by: inadequate legal/regulatory frameworks at national and regional levels, including issues of harmonization; the low skill levels, partly attributed to the newness of the idea of green economy; lack of finance emanating from competing areas for resources; relatively undeveloped public and private sector support for the green economy even against existing national green economy strategies; and tepid donor support, compounded by lingering economic crises in developed countries.
- Strengthening the capacity of West African States on the green economy for mitigation of climate change;
- Strengthening artisanal and small scale mining for socio-economic development, poverty reduction and the attainment of MDGs in West Africa.

53. Statutory Reports:

- Annual report on the work of ECA in West Africa, including the status of implementation of the Multi Year Programme including new generation Multi Year Programme.
- Tracking progress on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other regional and international agendas and special initiatives in the sub-region.
- Report in collaboration with ECOWAS on key economic and social developments and prospects for regional integration in West Africa.
- Annual report on the programme of work of ECA in SRO-WA.

54. Assistance to representatives, rapporteurs:

- Functional support to the work of the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and to the work of the thematic clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;
- The annual meeting of the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) for the United Nations system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme in West Africa (one in 2012 and one in 2013).

III. 2 Other substantive activities

Recurrent publications

55. The ECA/SRO-WA shall produce the annual report on regional integration in West Africa. In the perspective of repositioning ECA and its new approach the SRO-WA will start producing country profile.

Non-Recurrent Publications

56. The below two non-recurrent publications are planned to be produced on:

- a) Strengthening artisanal and small-scale mining for socio-economic development, poverty reduction, and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in West Africa;
- b) Mainstreaming gender for entrepreneurial development in West Africa;
- c) Report on strengthening capacity of West African States on green economy for mitigation of climate change.

Booklets, fact-sheets, wallcharts, information kits

57. As part of strengthening its outreach programme, the ECA/SRO-WA shall produce:

- Electronic brief on major activities of the ECA/SRO-WA, including the ECA technical

- assistance program;
- Emerging issues in West Africa.

Technical materials

- Maintenance of the West African statistical database;
- Observatory on regional Integration in West Africa;
- Virtual knowledge networks and management of thematic workspaces for Communities of Practices; observatory on regional integration in West Africa.

III.3 Technical cooperation

Advisory services:

58. Advisory services, upon request, to Member States, ECOWAS and other sub-regional and intergovernmental organizations in the context of the Multi Year Programmes shall be provided in support to the United Nations ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Millennium Development Goals on institutional and sectoral issues related to strengthening regional integration and implementation of NEPAD in West Africa.

Training courses: seminars and workshops (All shall be undertaken by IDEP)

59. In 2013, a workshop for high-level decision makers and other stakeholders on creating and implementing an enabling institutional and policy framework for involvement of the private sector in the development of energy projects shall be undertaken.
60. Workshop for high level decision makers and professionals on mining policy harmonization in the implementation of the ECOWAS mining directives and the realization of the African mining vision in West Africa;
61. Workshop for decision makers and other stakeholders on strengthening the community development programme in the ECOWAS region;

Field Projects

62. Two field projects are planned: (i) strengthening institutional capacity of West African countries and RECs to allow the coordination of natural resources management policies in the ECOWAS region, and (ii) strengthening institutional support to IGOs in West Africa which address development problems such as women empowerment and sexes equality.

IV. CONCLUSION

63. During the just concluded period, the ECA/SRO-WA continued to support Member States and to strengthen its collaboration with ECOWAS, UEMOA, and other WAIGOs. In the spirit of “Delivering as One” initiative, the ECA/SRO-WA will continue to strengthen partnerships with United Nations Country Team. It will also work closely with other stakeholders, including the academia and the civil society. In particular, the ECA/SRO-WA will strengthen the implementation of the Multi Year Programme with the ECOWAS Commission. With the objective of institutionalizing the management of the Multi Year Programmes, the ECA/SRO-WA has already worked with UEMOA, the Mano River Union and IGOs of the West African sub-region and has developed a Community of Practice. This is to be followed-up during the current year.