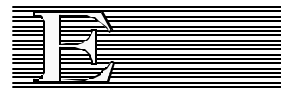




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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

*Fifth Meeting of the African Committee on Sustainable  
Development (ACSD-5)*

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
22-25 October 2007

Progress Report on the Implementation of the Activities of the  
Subprogramme "Fostering Sustainable Development"  
During the 2006-2007 Biennium

## Acronyms

<b>ACGS</b>	African Centre for Gender and Social Development
<b>ACSD</b>	African Committee on Sustainable Development
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AFREC</b>	African Energy Commission
<b>AFSEC</b>	African Electro-technical Standardization Commission
<b>AMCEN</b>	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
<b>APRM</b>	African Peer Review Mechanism
<b>ARD</b>	Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AWICH</b>	Africa Water Information Clearing House
<b>CAADP</b>	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
<b>CCAA</b>	Climate Change Adaptation in Africa
<b>CLEAA</b>	Capacity Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa
<b>Clim.Dev-Africa</b>	Climate and Development in Africa Programme
<b>CSD</b>	Committee on Sustainable Development
<b>ECA</b>	Economic Commission for Africa
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>ESCAP</b>	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>FACS-SD</b>	Forum of African Civil Society for Sustainable Development
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FEMA</b>	Forum of Energy Ministers of Africa
<b>FSICH</b>	Food Security Information Clearing House
<b>FSSD</b>	Food Security and Sustainable Development Division
<b>GC</b>	Governing Council
<b>GCOS</b>	Global Climate Observing System
<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency
<b>ICRAF</b>	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
<b>ICT &amp; ISTD:</b>	Information and Communication Technology and Science and Technology Division
<b>IDRC</b>	International Development Research Centre
<b>ILC</b>	International Land Coalition
<b>ILRI</b>	International Livestock Research Institute
<b>JPOI</b>	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
<b>LDCs</b>	Least Developed Countries
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MSU</b>	Michigan State University
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>NRID</b>	Regional Integration Division
<b>RECs</b>	Regional Economic Communities
<b>RIM</b>	Regional Implementation Meeting
<b>SCO</b>	Standing Committee of Officials
<b>SCP</b>	Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>SDD</b>	Sustainable Development Division
<b>SDRA</b>	Sustainable Development Report on Africa
<b>SEAMIC</b>	Southern and Eastern African Mineral Centre

<b>STI System</b>	Science, Technology and Innovation Systems
<b>UNCSD</b>	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UPDEA</b>	Union Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electric Power in Africa
<b>WSSD</b>	World Summit on Sustainable Development
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

## **Progress Report on the Implementation of the Activities of the Subprogramme “Fostering Sustainable Development” During the 2006-2007 Biennium**

### **Objectives**

1. The expected accomplishment of the Subprogramme “Fostering Sustainable Development” is to improve national capacities for formulating and implementing effective policies and programmes, including gender mainstreaming in the areas of agriculture and food security; science and technology; population; human settlements; and natural resources and the environment, consistent with the goals and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

2. The subprogramme was under the responsibility of the Sustainable Development Division (SDD) until mid-2006. As a result of ECA’s repositioning<sup>1</sup> that took effect on August 3, 2006, various activities of the subprogramme were redistributed and have been implemented in the reorganized structure by relevant divisions namely: the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSD, formerly SDD), the African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGS), the ICT and Science and Technology for Development Division (ISTD), and the NEPAD and Regional Integration Division (NRID).

### **Activities Implemented during the 2006-2007 Biennium**

3. Towards meeting the stated accomplishment of the subprogramme, most of the programmed outputs for the 2006-2007 biennium have been implemented. One follow-up meeting of the fourth Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD-4) Bureau on the implementation of the work programme and the recommendations of CSD-4 was organized (see minutes attached in annex I of this report). Specifically the following activities have been implemented:

#### **Servicing of Intergovernmental and Expert Bodies**

##### Substantive servicing of meetings

4. The subprogramme provided functional support for the fourth Session of UN Water Africa whose intermediate result was the development of the 2007-2009 Work Plan covering transboundary water resources; water scarcity, water for food security and ecosystems, and water and sanitation programme.

##### Parliamentary Documentation

5. The following four reports have been prepared for submission to the fifth meeting of the African Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD-5).

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<sup>1</sup> Repositioning: Harnessing Regional Resources to meet Africa’s Development Priorities. Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2006.

- Progress report on the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD): Regional Implementation Report on Africa;
- The overview of Sustainable Development on Africa; and
- Progress report on the implementation of the activities of the subprogramme “Fostering Sustainable Development” during the 2006-2007 Biennium.

#### Ad hoc Expert Group Meetings

6. The following two Ad Hoc Expert group meetings were organized during the current biennium:

- The ad hoc expert group meeting on Fostering Agricultural Transformation in Africa was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from April 23 to 25, 2007. The meeting brought together twenty-five experts drawn from academia, research, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), private sector, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), African Union (AU) and NEPAD with the aim of assisting FSSD in the preparation of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA II) and the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) report on Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD). The meeting generated consensus on the key issues, challenges and gaps to be addressed in order to achieve successful agricultural and rural transformation in Africa; the key elements that should form the basis of the SDRA and the Report to the RIM; an appropriate conceptual framework for analysing agriculture and rural transformation; and good practices in agricultural and rural transformation;
- The ad hoc expert group meeting on Land Policy Indicators was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 3-4 May 2007. The meeting was organized as a joint collaboration between the African Development Bank (AfDB), AU, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and UN-HABITAT. The meeting brought together twenty key experts of land policy and land administration and development drawn from African governments, RECs, civil society, centres of excellence from Africa and outside, private sector, the United Nations, NEPAD, AU and AfDB to discuss modalities for developing benchmarks and indicators for monitoring land policy and land administration reforms in Africa. The meeting identified plausible mechanisms and strategies for development of regional and national indicators for land policy; an initial set of benchmarks and a list of indicators for measuring progress in addressing the key land issues in Africa; inputs and revisions for transforming the concept note into a viable background document; and a roadmap with key activities and actors for developing the benchmarks and indicators; and
- The ad hoc expert group meeting on “Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Sustainable Development: Review of SDRA” will be held in November / December 2007.

### **Other Substantive Outputs**

#### Recurrent Publications

7. The status of implementation for the two recurrent publications programmed for the current biennium is as follows:

- The 2006 issue of the “Africa’s Sustainable Development Bulletin” was released in December 2006. For the 2006 issue, the theme was ‘Capacity-Building for African Sustainable Development’. Sustainable development involves a complex interplay between economic, environmental and socio-cultural considerations. In order to appreciate and operationalize it, there is a need for up-to-date information, knowledge, tools and skills, as well as institutions and appropriate structures to address the various issues. The bulletin highlights the rationale and actions needed to strengthen capacity at local, national, subregional and regional levels for sustainable development in Africa including fulfilling the commitments set out in, among others, the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Plan of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development, and the objectives of NEPAD.
- The second issue of the “ Sustainable Development Report on Africa” is under preparation and will be released by December 2007. The theme of the report is “Agricultural and Rural Transformation”.

#### Non-recurrent Publications

8. The status of the non-recurrent publications programmed for the current biennium is as follows:

- The Africa Regional Review Report on land, agriculture and rural development, and drought and desertification has been produced and will be submitted to the Regional Implementation Meeting in October 2007. The Report provides background information and assessment of progress in Africa, in the achievement of goals and targets as contained in Agenda 21, programme for the further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of WSSD outcomes. The report also reflects on implementation challenges and constraints, and proposes priority approaches and actions needed to accelerate implementation. The RIM will use the report to draw inputs into Sixteenth United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD-16);
- The report on “International Migration and Development: Implications for Africa” was produced and released in September 2006. The report contributes to the ongoing discussions on migration by providing background data and analysis from an African perspective. Drawing on the ongoing debate about migration and development, the report argues that maximization of benefits requires better management of international migration, and sound political and economic governance in the context of NEPAD;
- The report on “Building Science, Technology and Innovation Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa” was released in December 2006. The purpose of the report is to promote discussion and assist in the building of science, technology and innovation (STI) systems for sustainable development in Africa. The report provides an assessment of the research and inventive activities in the continent and provides an appropriate methodological framework for the development of STI systems;
- The report on “Unleashing Energy Access in Africa: Fostering Rural Energy for Sustainable Development” will be released in October 2007;

- The report on “Development and Implementation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development: Experiences and Lessons Learnt” was released in August 2007;
- The publication on “Promoting Minerals Cluster Development” will be released by November 2007. This report will encompass both publications planned in the work programme in order enhance coherence and policy impact.

In addition, during the period under review, the Africa Water Development Report was published.

#### Technical materials

9. The status of the delivery of technical materials programmed for the current biennium is as follows:

- The Africa Water Information Clearing House (AWICH) has been launched;
- Currently a website on fostering sustainable development in Africa is being developed. Due to ECA’s repositioning, the scope of the website had to be changed. Further, the website will be mainstreamed with the new knowledge management strategy;
- The development of the Food Security Information Clearing House (FOSICH) is being undertaken as a collaborative endeavour between FSSD and Michigan State University (MSU). A prototype of the clearing house has already been developed; and
- The production of UN-Biotech quarterly newsletter has been launched.

#### Interagency meetings and services

10. During the current biennium, the subprogramme has also worked with key regional and international partners to address the region’s sustainable development challenges. In particular, the subprogramme worked with organizations and agencies such as the African Union (AU), New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and African universities and research institutions. The subprogramme also worked with other UN Regional Commissions:

11. Specifically, the following was accomplished:

- The subprogramme provided functional support for the Africa Water Development Report;
- It provided functional support for the Africa Water Journal;
- It participated at the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the Fifteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15) which took place 26 February - 2 March 2007. It also participated in CSD-15 itself, which took place 30 April - 11 May 2007. At the session, the subprogramme presented the Africa Consensus agenda on energy for sustainable development, climate change, air pollution and atmosphere and industrial development, and also assisted Africa group on key issues discussed during the session.

- The subprogramme provided substantive technical support in preparing and servicing one Ministerial Conference and two major AU/NEPAD Summits related to the implementation of the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). As a member of the Technical Committee of the Africa Fertilizer Summit held in Abuja in June 2006, the subprogramme advocated for a regional cooperation/integration approach, and creation of a financing facility to improve availability (through pooled subregional manufacturing and procurement), accessibility and affordability of fertilizers for African farmers. Both recommendations were adopted in the Declaration of the Summit, which in 4 of its 12 points, calls explicitly on ECA to collaborate closely with the African Union Commission (AUC), the AfDB and RECs in following up implementation of resolutions on establishment of regional fertilizer procurement and distribution facilities, promotion of national/regional fertilizer production and intra-regional fertilizer trade, establishment of an African Fertilizer Development Financing Facility, and the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Declaration.
- The subprogramme represented ECA and played an active role as a member the International Technical Committee of the Abuja AU/NEPAD Food Security Summit in December 2006. It continued to advocate successfully for advancing the NEPAD/CAADP agenda by articulating its implementation around a regional cooperation/integration strategy built on selected food and agricultural commodity chains. The Summit adopted the strategic-commodity approach advocated by ECA and, in its Declaration, further agreed on a list of 9 continental-level and 3 subregional -level strategic commodities for priority policy programme focus.
- In the area of trade and environment, the sub-programme in collaboration with other United Nations Regional Commissions implemented a specific project - the Capacity-building project in Trade and Environment- during the biennium. This project aims to enhance the capacity of member States to formulate coherent trade and environment policies that address issues related to environment in an effective manner, thereby increasing market access for products in developed country markets while enhancing environmental sustainability. A regional study examining the inter-linkages and priority concerns between trade and environment from a regional and subregional perspective was prepared and discussed in a regional meeting attended by representatives of member States from Ministries of Trade and Environment. Two subregional training workshops on trade and environment were organized, one for English-speaking countries and one for French-speaking countries. The assessment of the workshops showed that 80 per cent of the participants found the topics covered were relevant and increased the amount of information and analysis available to them on the relationship between trade and environment. Hence, their personal capacity to address trade and environment issues was strengthened and, the knowledge needed to develop effective and coherent trade and environment policies was strengthened.
- The subprogramme continued to play a critical role in the success of the AU-ECA-ADB joint initiative on land policy. The initiative harnesses global and regional resources and builds effective partnerships and synergies in support of Africa's quest to improve the management and governance of land and land resources. In particular the initiative seeks to support NEPAD's efforts and programmes related to agricultural development, environmental management, peace building, post-conflict reconstruction, and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). A consultative workshop was held jointly with AU



and AfDB, hosted by ECA, in March 2006. The workshop consensus was gained on the main land issues and pillars (Economic, Social, Environmental, Governance) that formed the basis of the framework and guidelines. An agreement was reached on the roadmap outlining the critical steps that would guide the formulation and implementation of the framework and modalities were developed for building the institutional capacity and partnerships necessary for resource mobilization, development and implementation of the framework.

- At the invitation of the International Land Coalition (ILC), ECA and ILC jointly hosted the CA/ILC-sponsored ECOSOC Ministerial Roundtable Breakfast on the theme 'Land Policy in Africa: Securing Rights, Enhancing Productivity and Improving Livelihoods'. The round table, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 4 July 2007, was co-chaired by ECA's Executive Secretary, Mr. A. Janneh. The round table generated constructive discussions and recommendations that will inform and enhance implementation of the land policy initiative.
- The subprogramme in collaboration with the Capacity Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa (CLEAA) organized the African Experts Workshop on Review of Effectiveness of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) systems in Africa. The workshop was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from April 12 to 13 April 2007, and the meeting provided a platform for reviewing the recommendations made by the ECA study report on "Review of the Application of Environmental Assessment in Selected African Countries (2005)". Participants deliberated and identified practical and feasible measures, for improving the quality of EIA review, enforcement and compliance, as well as its financial sustainability and overall role improvement in EIA, and in environmental governance and sustainable development in Africa. In addition, the workshop provided an opportunity to strengthen networks and partnerships in environmental assessment and management in Africa.
- From 8 to 21 April 2006, the subprogramme, in collaboration with the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) held a workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop elaborated of a regional plan of action and implementation strategy for improving the availability, accessibility and use of climate information for development. As follow-up, ECA has acted as the technical secretariat to catalyse and facilitate the development of a 10-year Climate and Development in Africa Programme (ClimDev-Africa), which aims at improving climate observations, services and data management, creating awareness and enhancing policies for mainstreaming information on climate variability and change into climate risk-management strategies in the focal areas of agriculture and food security, water resources management and health.
- The subprogramme, in collaboration with the Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (CCAA) programme of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), jointly hosted a regional workshop entitled "Towards a Regional Strategy in Climate Change Adaptation: Sharing Knowledge on Climate Risks and Adaptation Options", April 16-20, 2007. The workshop, held at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, brought policy makers and researchers together to discuss how adaptation research can be given a regional dimension, and which capacities regional institutions and policy makers need to leverage to implement effective policies.
- The subprogramme participated and contributed at the eleventh session of AMCEN held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 22 to 26 May 2006. This is in line with the

obligations of ECA and the MOU signed with UNEP. ECA has since deepened its collaboration with UNEP by agreeing to work together on various environment-related issues in Africa, including the economic costs of climate change and how to finance the transition to a low-carbon economy.

- The subprogramme, in collaboration with UNEP, organized a Regional Expert Meeting on the Development of an African Eco-labelling Scheme. The meeting, which took place 11-13 June 2007 in Addis Ababa, took stock of lessons learnt from the major ecolabel-related initiatives from within and outside the region and provided input to development of an African ecolabelling scheme.
- The subprogramme, in collaboration with UNEP, organized a workshop on Environmental Statistics in Addis Ababa, 16 to 20 July 2007. The workshop reviewed environmental indicators and adopted the recommendations on strengthening environmental statistics, including developing core Africa environment indicators reflective of national environmental priorities and needs.
- From 10 to 13 December 2006, the subprogramme participated at the ninth international high-level seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the second regional meeting on the Regional Steering Committee for the African Ten Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The sub-programme represents ECA as a member of the regional Steering Committee for the African Ten-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- The subprogramme participated in a Workshop on Science Crops held in Nairobi, Kenya 16 to 17 January 2006. It presented a paper on “Capacity Building through Scientific Exchanges: Experiences of the UN Agencies”. The workshop enhanced inter-agency cooperation in the area of science and technology for development.
- The subprogramme conducted a mission to New York from 8 to 10 August 2006. There it presented two papers, one on “ECA perspectives on the upcoming high-level dialogue on migration, during the 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and a second one on “Management of Migration at the Regional Level”.
- It participated in the Africa-Europe inter-regional Dialogue on Labour Migration for Integration and Development which took place from 4 to 6 April 2006. The meeting agreed on a basic roadmap for concerted action by governments and social partners in Africa and Europe.
- The subprogramme participated at a workshop on Land Markets and Poverty which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4 to 5 September 2006. It provided guidance on how the research studies conducted by the researchers in ICRAF, ILRI, the Environmental Economics Unit of Gotenborg University (Sweden), and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway) could be made more useful to support land policy reforms in Africa.
- During 9-11 October, 2006, the subprogramme undertook a mission to Lusaka, Zambia to attend and present a paper at the workshop on Public Expenditure and Service Delivery in Africa: Managing Public Expenditure to Improve service quality and access. It delivered a paper on private sector participation in basic infrastructure development. The

meeting, among others, came out with recommendations on how both the public and private sector can deliver services efficiently.

## **Technical Cooperation**

### Advisory services

12. Advisory services to member States and RECs in support of NEPAD and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements, were undertaken by the sub-programme as follows:

- Provide technical assistance to the organization of the regional workshop on integration of the MDGs in trade policies and the commodities sector in the LDCs and African countries;
- Provide technical assistance to the organization of the development and climate workshop;
- Reform of Angola's mineral legislation;
- Technical assistance in the process of formulation of Liberia's New Mineral Policy;
- Contribute technical inputs to the strengthening of the capacity of the Pan-African Parliament to advocate for and promote the integration of measures to combat desertification into development strategies and programmes at regional subregional and notational levels; and
- The subprogramme provided advisory services to the meeting of the African Policy Organs of the Southern and Eastern Africa Mineral Centre (SEAMIC) that took place from 7 to 8 May 2006. During the mission the subprogramme chaired a meeting of the Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) and presented a report of the SCO meeting to the Governing Council (GC) meeting.

### Group Training

13. The subprogramme organised two workshops on integrated resource planning, one focussed on mining and the other on energy. The workshop on mining helped to create the critical mass of informed policy-makers in the sectoral ministries responsible for mining as well as in the ministers of planning, finance and economic development; raise their awareness on the potential of minerals in supporting long-term economic development and growth; provide them with tools for minerals policy design and implementation; and enhance their knowledge and capacity on mineral-related subjects, which are important to create a conducive environment for mineral-related resources development. The one on energy was jointly organised with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and was aimed at senior energy policy makers from RECs and regional power pools. It was held in Addis Ababa from 11 to 22 December 2006. The workshop raised awareness of energy policy-makers and experts on the benefits that can be derived from developing future energy demand and supply scenarios in planning for sustainable energy development using analytical methods developed by IAEA.

## Field Projects

14. The status of field projects is as follows:

- The subprogramme assisted in the development, transfer and application of biotechnology for sustainable development in Africa;
- The subprogramme contributed to the Institutional Strengthening of the Inter-Agency Group on Water in Africa (IGWA)-Follow up Project on Implementing the International Decade of Action: “Water is Life” in Africa.

## Perceived Impact of Activities on Beneficiaries

15. The above activities were undertaken based on the assumptions that: a) member States are effective partners of the Commission’s efforts to raise awareness of policy makers to integrate in a balanced manner the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection and, to increase capacities for integrated design and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for sustainable development; and b) that member States remain committed to the core principles of NEPAD and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements.

## Results Achieved:

16. The following are highlights of some of the key results:

- As a member of the Technical Committee of the Africa Fertilizer Summit held in Abuja in June 2006, the subprogramme advocated for a regional cooperation/integration approach to, and the creation of a financing facility to improve availability (through pooled subregional manufacturing and procurement), accessibility and affordability of fertilizers for African farmers. Both recommendations were adopted in the Declaration of the Summit, which in 4 of its 12 points, further calls explicitly on ECA to collaborate closely with AUC, AfDB and RECs in following up implementation of resolutions among others on the establishment of regional fertilizer procurement and distribution facilities, the promotion of national/regional fertilizer production and intra-regional fertilizer trade, the establishment of an African Fertilizer Development Financing Facility, and the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration;
- As a result of the subprogramme’s continued and successful advocacy for advancing the NEPAD/CAADP agenda by articulating its implementation around a regional cooperation/integration strategy built on selected food and agricultural commodity chains, the Abuja AU/NEPAD Food Security Summit in December 2006 adopted the strategic-commodity approach. In its Declaration, the Summit further agreed on a list of 9 continental-level and 3 subregional level strategic commodities for priority policy programme focus;
- The subprogramme participation at CSD-15 contributed to facilitated regional dialogue with the result that regional concerns and priorities are adequately addressed and reflected in the report of the CSD on climate change, energy for sustainable development, industrial development, and air pollution/atmosphere;

- It contributed direct inputs to influence and finalize the Kenya Land Policy, using technical inputs from its task forces on the AU/AfDB/ECA initiative on land policy framework for Africa. The task force reviewed the draft policy and provided substantive comments that have been reflected in the policy document brought before parliament;
- As a result of capacity-building workshops held as part of the Trade and Environment project implemented by the subprogramme, member States agreed on the need and asked ECA to facilitate subregional and regional networks and knowledge management forums on trade and environment issues;
- As a result of collaboration with UNEP in the launch of the Africa round table on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), ECA was selected as member of Regional Steering Committee on SCP. This also resulted in further collaboration with UNEP in organizing a Regional Experts Meeting on an African Ecolabelling framework to enhance market access for African commodities. In addition, UNEP and UNIDO respectively have agreed to collaborate with ECA in preparing the Africa Review Report on SCP and the review report on chemicals and waste management in preparation for CSD-18 and-19. ECA will also be collaborating with UNEP on work on the economic costs of climate change;
- The subprogramme was requested by the Pan-African Parliament to participate in and: its provide advisory service at the workshop held for its members on “Desertification and Implications”. This was as a result of the work on the regional review of progress made and identification of measures needed to combat drought and desertification in Africa. The workshop resulted in the increased awareness and capacity of Pan-African Parliamentarians, to advance advocacy for integration of desertification issues into policy-making in national, subregional and regional strategies and programmes;
- A database and a network of experts on which member States can rely for fostering agricultural and rural transformation; and land policy reforms has been established arising out of the EGMs that was held on the same topic;
- The subprogramme has contributed to the reform of Angola’s mineral legislation; and
- It has also contributed to the process leading to formulation of Liberia’s New Mineral Policy.

## **Annex - I**

### **Minutes of the African Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD) – First Bureau meeting Thursday 13 April 2006**

#### **Introduction**

The First meeting of the ACSD-4 Bureau was held on 13 April 2006 at the UNCC, Caucus Room 7 to discuss the following agenda items:

The Agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. Remarks by the Chair
2. Brief on CSD-14 preparatory process
3. Overview on the implementation of the Trade and Environment Project
4. Brief on the outcomes of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Electricity
5. Brief on the outcomes of the Workshop on Land Policy in Africa
6. Brief on Population and Development Conference
7. Brief on Agricultural and Rural Economic Transformation
8. Any other business.

The members of the Bureau who attended the meeting were:

- Nigeria (Chairman)
- Algeria
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- South Africa
- Tanzania (see the list of participants on the last page)

Mr. Ousmane Laye led the Secretariat team on behalf of Mr. Josué Dioné, Director of the Sustainable Development Division (SDD). Other staff members from the Secretariat included: Mr. Abdoulaye Niang, Agriculture and Food Security Team Leader; Mr. Israel Sembajwe, Population and Social Development Team Leader; Mr. Alex Tindimubona, Science, Technology and Innovation Team Leader; Mr. Pancrace Niyimbona, from Natural Resources Development Team; Mr. Yinka Adeyemi, Communication Officer; Ms. Joan Kagwanja, from Agriculture and Food Security Team; Mr. Amson Sibanda, from Population and Social Development Team; Mr. Jacques Moulot, from Natural Resources Development Team; and Mr. Negussie Gorfe from Sustainable Development Monitoring Team.

#### **Remarks by the Chair**

H.E. Ambassador Olusegun Akinsanya, from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the Bureau chaired the meeting.

Ambassador Akinsanya apologized for being late as he was in another meeting. He reminded the participants that the meeting of the Bureau was held in order to review the main activities undertaken by SDD since the ACSD-4 meeting and in particular to discuss the

preparations made for the global Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD-14) session on Africa's position.

He introduced the Agenda items and asked for any amendments. Since there were no amendments, the Chairman invited Mr. Laye to present agenda item 2.

### **Brief on the CSD-14 Preparatory Process**

Mr. Laye indicated that the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development is scheduled to take place from 1 to 12 May 2006 in New York. As a review session, CSD-14 is tasked with identifying barriers and constraints, lessons learned and best practices in implementation of the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

The cluster of issues are closely linked in their economic, social and environmental dimensions. These issues should be dealt with in an integrated manner. Means of implementation and other cross-cutting issues should also be addressed.

Regional Commissions are called for contribution during the Part 2 (1 to 9 May) of the session, which includes Thematic and Regional Discussions, that provide an opportunity to focus deliberations on identifying barriers and constraints, lessons learned and best practices in relation to the four issues in the thematic cluster.

The high-level Segment (10-12 May) will feature interactive Ministerial discussions that address barriers and constraints and provide guidance on areas of focus during the policy year. Ministerial dialogue sessions will include a mixed panel of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Ministers of Energy, Finance and Development Cooperation.

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has invited the African Union (AU), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Forum of African Civil Society for Sustainable Development (FACS-SD) to participate in the panel for Africa.

Mr. Laye also said that ECA, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the World Meteorological Organization and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society, will organize a side event on the theme: "Climate Information for Sustainable Development".

Mr. Laye finally invited the Chairman to attend the global CSD-14 session and informed him that the expenses to attend the meeting will be covered by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

During the discussions, Mr. Moulot indicated that UN-Energy/Africa will also organize a side event during the global CSD-14 session in which ECA will be a participant.

The Chairman pointed out that it was important that the outcomes of the global CSD-14 session be positive.

## **Overview on the implementation of the Trade and Environment Project**

Mr. Laye informed the meeting that the Project is a Capacity-Building project on Trade and Environment. This project is being implemented by four Regional Commissions; namely ECA, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The project is coordinated by ESCAP, but the programme is the same for all regions.

The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of African countries to formulate coherent trade and environment policies that address issues related to environment in an effective manner, thereby increasing market access for products in developed country markets while enhancing environmental sustainability.

The main beneficiaries of the project will be high-level public sector civil servants in trade and environment ministries. The project will be undertaken in collaboration with World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and UNEP.

A Draft Regional Report on trade and environment issues in Africa was prepared. Based on the draft report, a Regional Workshop was held at ECA 15-17 February 2006. All African countries were invited to send two participants, one from the Ministry of Trade and the other from the Ministry of Environment, to the regional workshop. Only 27 African countries sent delegates and the total number of participants was 46.

The final Regional Report was expected to be ready by the end of April 2006, and was to be used for the two planned training sessions, one for English-Speaking countries (5-9 June, 2006) and the other for French-Speaking countries (26-30 June, 2006).

The invitation letters for the English-Speaking countries were sent to countries through their Embassies in Addis Ababa. Invitation letters were directly sent to about 5 countries that did not have Embassies in Addis Ababa. UNEP and UNCTAD directly collaborated in organizing the two training sessions.

African missions in Geneva will also be briefed on the capacity-building project in trade and environment. It was also pointed out that issues that result from the project will be used to build a regional programme after completion of the project.

The project is funded from the UN Development Account. It started in mid-2005 and is expected to terminate in December 2006. ECA is on track in implementing the project, but some commissions such as ECLAC, requested for delays. It was indicated during the video conference of 26 January 2006 that the project may be delayed until the first half of 2007. It was later confirmed that approval was obtained to close this project at the end of the first-half of 2007.

The Chairman indicated that there is need for partnerships among ECA, AU and AfDB for implementing the project. Furthermore, He said that the outcomes of the project needed to be compared with that of other regional commissions.



### **Brief on the Outcomes of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of electricity**

Mr. Jacques Moulot presented the Brief on the outcomes of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Electricity. He indicated that at the request of AUC, ECA has joined an ad hoc Group of experts, which also includes African Energy Commission (AFREC), Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electric Power in Africa (UPDEA) and Mr. Ibrahim Thiam, President of the Regulatory Agency of Senegal.

The objectives of the Group were to: a) Define the agenda of the meeting; b) Prepare the issues paper; c) Provide technical backing; and d) Review all logistical requirements for the Conference.

The Conference was divided into an expert group meeting, which was held 20-22 March 2006 and the ministerial meeting, from 23-24 March 2006 with the theme “Common Vision and Strategic Framework for a Continental Policy of the African electricity sector”.

The objectives of the meeting were to establish a Continental Institutional Framework for the coordination of the energy sector in Africa, and to define the guidelines for a concerted vision to promote the development of the sector and a Plan of Action of the Commission.

There were a lot of issues discussed during the meeting of the experts. The meeting was attended by delegates from 36 African countries, six Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the five regional energy pools, regulatory authorities, regional and continental organizations as well as international organizations.

The Bureau established includes: South Africa (Chairperson), Congo (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson), Egypt (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson), Uganda (3<sup>d</sup> Vice Chairperson) and Senegal (Rapporteur).

The outcome of the Conference resulted in 8 commitments by the Ministers. Besides, the Ministers decided to.

- a) Establish, under the aegis of the AU, the Conference of Africa Ministers of Energy as the Continental Central Coordinating Organ of Electrical Energy Policies and Strategies, the Secretariat of which is managed by AFREC. The Conference shall convene once a year;
- b) Work together to develop the energy potential, particularly the hydroelectric potential of Africa, as a major renewable energy option to ensure sustainable development, regional integration, energy security, and poverty eradication;
- c) Establish a coordination commission for the development of major integrating hydro electric projects;
- d) Develop a holistic vision and a Master Plan for the development of the continent's electric sector based on the policies and programmes of the RECs in the field of electrification in order to streamline the use of the energy resources in the medium and long terms;
- e) Sign a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Electrical Energy, the Conference of Ministers in

charge of Water Management (AMCOW) and the Conference of Ministers in charge of Environment (AMCEN) to promote the development of trans-border river basins and the regional networks for exchange and production of electrical energy;

- f) Urge African States to ratify as early as possible the convention governing AFREC;
- g) Strengthen and harmonize the legal and regulatory frameworks, and develop the human capacities for sustainable energy development;
- h) Establish an African Electricity Fund including a specific window designed specifically to finance rural electrification of which a study conducted under the auspices of AUC will determine the implementation modalities;
- i) Hold, under the auspices of AFREC, the Consultative General Assembly of the African Electro-technical Standardization Commission (AFSEC); and
- j) Encourages states to undertake or pursue structural reforms of the electricity sector, particularly within the context of a public/private partnership, while drawing on successful experience.

The Ministers also called upon AUC to present the African position on energy at global CSD-14 session in New York that will be held from 1 to 12 May 2006.

Mr. Moulot also informed the meeting that African Ministerial Conference on Hydropower and Sustainable Development was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 8-9 March 2006. Energy was high on the agenda of the Conference. The Ministerial Declaration made at the conference invited South Africa, together with AFREC and the Forum of Energy Ministers of Africa (FEMA), to report to the global CSD-14 session.

### **Brief on the Outcomes of the Workshop on Land Policy in Africa**

Ms. Kagwanja presented the brief on the outcomes of the workshop on land policy in Africa. She indicated that it is a new initiative laid by AUC in collaboration with ECA and AfDB. The mandate to work on land reform and policy is given to ECA by CSD. ECA has so far produced some documents on land issues, as land issues are in its work programme.

Building on past research, experiences and initiatives, AU/NEPAD, ECA and AfDB agreed on the following processes aimed at building a consensus land policy and land reform in Africa: (a) A Consultative workshop; b) Regional Consultations; c) A continental African experts meeting; d) A meeting of African Ministers responsible for land; and e) AU Heads of State and Government Summit. The whole process is expected to take 24 months.

The Consultative Workshop on Land Policy in Africa was the result of a conference held in London. The objectives of the consultative workshop were to build consensus around the following issues:

- Elements and thematic issues that would characterize the framework and guidelines of land policy and land reform in Africa;

- Features of a vision and guiding principles for a framework of land policy in Africa;
- Actions and sequential activities needed to develop a land policy framework and guidelines; and
- Roles of stakeholders and partners, and resource mobilization.

The expected outputs of the workshop are in a background document summarizing the main land issues in Africa that should be used as the basis for developing the guidelines and framework, and a skeleton framework of land policy and land reform in Africa.

### **Brief on Agricultural and Rural Economic Transformation**

Mr. Abdoulaye Niang informed the meeting that a concept paper on Agricultural and Rural Economic Transformation was prepared. Meetings will be held to discuss the issues raised in the paper, and member States, Embassies, RECs, UN Agencies and other stakeholders would be involved. The next ACSD session would deal with Agricultural and Rural Economic Transformation.

Mr. Niang also said that Africa is not retaining a fair share of its resources, because its resources are creating wealth and jobs for others.

### **Brief on the Population and Development Conference**

Mr. Israel Sembajwe said that the Conference of the Commission on Population and Development was held recently.

The Commission on Population and Development was established by the Economic and Social Council. The Commission is to assist the Council by: a) arranging for studies and advising the Council; b) Monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; and c) providing appropriate recommendations to the Council on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues.

The recently held International Conference discussed migration. Mr. Sembajwe indicated that people's lives are lost as a result of migration. A discussion was held on migration between Europe and the Group of 77 countries. The borders of the developed countries should be opened for migration as they are in need of labour from developing countries. He said that even in Africa, borders are not open for migration.

At the Conference, the consultations undertaken by all regional commissions with regard to migration were presented, except for ECA. He said that there is need for member States to move forward and he asked ECA how it would be able to help them.

Furthermore, he informed the meeting that the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development would take place in September 2006.

He also raised the issue of ageing. Currently, ageing may not be the problem of Africa, he said, but that it was necessary to start thinking about how to tackle the problem.

The Chairman said that there were ongoing activities on migration by AU, RECs, and member States as it is a development as well as a human rights issue. There were meetings recently held on migration and development in Algeria, Morocco, and other countries. He said that it was important to harmonize the ongoing activities on migration and development and that the problem of migration had to be looked at in a holistic manner.

The Chairman urged that ECA should involve itself in the ongoing activities on migration and development in Africa. He stressed that partnership was important and what was lacking in ECA needed to be met by the organs of the African Union.

### **Any other Business**

Mr. Niang made an appeal to member States to own and lead their development agenda and to make the necessary commitments to finance it.

The Chairman said that commitment was needed to move the continent forward. He also said that although member States were conscious of the ownership of their projects, it was difficult for them to finance all the projects. Therefore, partnerships should be forged to overcome this difficulty.

The Chairman thanked the participants and closed the meeting at 12:45 PM.

### **List of participants**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of participant</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Email address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
1.	H.E. Olusegun Akinsanya	Nigeria		
2.	Msafiri W. Marwa	Tanzania	marwajr@yahoo.com	
3.	Malek Djaoud	Algeria	Djeaudmalek@yahoo.fr	Tel. 0911677927
4.	Chris Van Noordwyk	South Africa	christovn@yahoo.com	
5.	Bope Bushabu	D.R. Congo	bopebush@yahoo.fr	
6.	Adekunte Fagbemi	Nigeria	emasiet@yahoo.co.uk	
7.	Ousmane Laye	ECA/SDD	olaye@uneca.org	Tel. 0115445319
8.	Abdoulaye Niang	ECA/SDD	aniang@uneca.org	Tel. 0115443229
9.	Israel Sembajwe	ECA/SDD	isembajwe@uneca.org	Tel. 0115443425
10.	Alex Tindimubona	ECA/SDD	atindimubona@uneca.org	Tel. 0115443540
11.	Pancrace Niyimbona	ECA/SDD	pniyimbona@uneca.org	Tel. 0115443544
12.	Yinka Adeyemi	ECA/SDD	yadeyemi@uneca.org	Tel. 0115443537
13.	Joan Kagwanja	ECA/SDD	jkagwanja@uneca.org	Tel. 0115443518
14.	Amson Sibanda	ECA/SDD	asibanda@uneca.org	Tel. 0115445313
15.	Jacques Moulot	ECA/SDD	jmoulot@uneca.org	Tel. 0115443150
16.	Negussie Gorfe	ECA/SDD	ngorfe@uneca.org	Tel. 0115443209