African countries have already started the hard work of implementing Agenda 2063 and 2030. However, success will require a full-scale, consistent, innovative approach. This will require a higher level of institutional coordination and strong statistical systems to support evidence-based policymaking and follow-up.

Africa has made important strides in implementing the MDGs. Significant progress has been recorded on at least five of the eight MDGs: MDG1 – eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; MDG2 – achieving universal primary education; MDG3 – promoting gender equality and empowering women; MDG4 – ensuring a healthy life and promoting sexual and reproductive health; and MDG7 – ensuring environmental sustainability. The African Union has a prominent role to play in this regard. It has recently set up the African Centre for Statistics (AfCEN) to support the collection and analysis of data. AfCEN also acts as a hub for statistical capacity building in the continent, providing education and training programmes and technical assistance to the broader African Union and Commission.

Investment policies and the role of bilateral investment treaties in Africa

FDI flows to Africa, including poor infrastructure networks. The good news is that African governments have opened up their economies and dismantled regulatory barriers to foreign investment. Across the continent, policies that protect investments from expropriation have been adopted. FDI flows. Little is known about the role bilateral investment treaties have played in attracting investments which promote development. Furthermore, there are concerns that such agreements often confer more protection and rights to foreign investors, skewing conditions in detriment of domestic or third party investors and exposing member States to legal disputes. This publication offers informed lessons on how governments should approach international investment in these agreements. The publication offers informed lessons on how governments should approach international investment in these agreements and allow countries some policy space to pursue their national and regional transformation objectives.
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Established by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 1958 as one of the five regional commissions, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is tasked with promoting the economic and social development of its 54 member States, fostering intraregional integration and promoting international cooperation for Africa’s development aspirations.

The development context is however changing globally. The world and Africa are 10 years away from 2030. Against this backdrop of an uncertain and volatile global environment, weakening multilateralism, slow growth, and rising inequality there is a need to revisit the development paradigm for Africa and the role of ECA.

The year 2018 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa and offered an opportunity to take stock of the Commission’s achievements and to reflect on the way forward. The new strategic directions and proposed reforms offer a vision and implementation road map aimed to better support member States in their efforts to deliver on their vision and meet the Sustainable Development Goals. ECA’s mission will therefore be to “Deliver ideas and actions for an empowered and transformed Africa; informed by the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union” with the vision of “Delivering ideas for a prosperous Africa”.

The new directions of ECA build on the growing and central importance of the private sector in Africa’s development together with the impact of innovation, especially technology, in delivering a prosperous Africa.

In its implementation, it also emphasizes the need to not only generate ideas but to support member States in testing the viability of the ideas. As a result, partnerships are a cornerstone of the new vision as they will allow for the scaling up of ideas.

Consistent with its mandate and comparative advantage ECA’s programme of work is accordingly centered around nine interdependent and complementary sub-programmes, which are focused on thematic or sectoral priorities that are key to the transformation of Africa as follows:
About the Economic Commission for Africa

1. Macroeconomic policy and governance;
2. Regional integration and trade;
3. Private sector development and finance;
4. Data and statistics;
5. Technology, climate change, and natural resource management;
6. Gender and women in development;
7. Subregional activities for development delivered through the five ECA’s subregional offices covering North, West, Central, East and Southern; (8) Economic development and planning; and
8. Poverty, inequality and social policy.

The modalities for implementation will be aligned with the Commission’s role as a policy think tank engaged in multisectoral policy research and analysis with a view to harnessing the three pillars of sustainable development; as a convener of intergovernmental platforms and forums such as the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, for the exchange of solutions, promotion of peer learning and articulation of a common African voice at the global level in support of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063, and as an operational provider of capacity development services, which include supporting member States in their efforts to comply with international agreements, treaties, norms and standards, through policy advocacy, consensus building, technical support, policy advisory services and training measures. ECA is headed by an Executive Secretary, who is
assisted by two Deputy Executive Secretaries (DES): one DES (Programme) overseeing all substantive Divisions, subregional offices and the Dakar-based African Institute for Economic Development and Planning; and a DES (Programme Support) overseeing the support Divisions of Administration and the
Welcome to the 2021 edition of the ECA Publications Catalogue. This year’s Catalogue features reports and studies that will be made available over the course of the year.

Suggested covers for the 2021 publications are for thematic purposes only; as actual covers will be made available as they are issued. It is however worth mentioning that after several months of collective efforts, in October 2016, the Commission launched a comprehensive brandbook to project the striking features of ECA’s personality. In translating this effort towards consistency and standardization, all the 2020 publications of ECA will reflect this easily recognizable brand identity.

In addition to multimedia resources, publications are available in print and also in digital format on our website for immediate viewing or download. The publications — which include the Economic Report on Africa, our flagship publication — represent the work of ECA and cover a wide range of thematic areas forming part of the transformative development agenda for the renaissance of Africa. More specifically, the publications capture the work ECA does to monitor Africa’s economic growth, understand mega-trends and their implications for African economies, and promote the rise of emerging economies.

The publications featured in the Catalogue are organized into the following five colour-coded categories:

(i) **The ECA flagship publication:** the most in-depth and analytical signature think piece that communicates the strategic thinking of ECA and carries its voice on key development issues.

(ii) **Special thematic publications:** these are stand-alone reports to systematically discuss a specific topic. They build on the knowledge and original thinking developed by ECA and represent the depth of ECA’s thinking on a specific issue.

(iii) **Thematic headline publications:** these are periodic key publications that focus on major issues of ECA’s specific programme areas and provide
progress updates in these areas. They are meant to deliver ECA’s voice in specialized areas;

(iv) **Geographic headline publications**: examples of these publications include country profiles produced by ECA’s sub regional offices to report latest developments and first-hand experiences on the ground as well as regional profiles;

(v) **Reports on the work of ECA**: these include statutory and strategic reports on programme implementation as well as organizational papers on ECA change management processes.
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The report applies a poverty-vulnerability-resilience framework to examine the impact of COVID-19 on household well-being in Africa. The report emphasizes the dynamic nature of poverty since some of the poor are not poor all the time, though they are often vulnerable because of exposure to a multitude of risks that can push them below the poverty line and increase chronic poverty. Reducing vulnerability to risks is critical for enhancing well-being and reducing future poverty.

Issue date: December 2021
A green recovery for African resilience

The report makes the case for building forward better in Africa in the wake of COVID-19 and the climate crisis, using a green and low carbon development trajectory.

Issue date: June 2021

Gender equality in climate change

Provides detailed and comprehensive analysis of how gender equality and women’s empowerment can be integrated in climate change initiatives, policies, programmes, plans and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) processes.

Issue date: April 2021

Enhancing climate information policy and enabling environment

A compilation of key messages, lessons learned and recommendations from implementation of the policy and enabling environment part of the weather and climate information services for Africa (WISER) project.

Issue date: September 2021

Strengthening climate research for development in Africa

Compilation of knowledge and outcomes from implementation of the climate research for development part of the weather and climate information services for Africa (WISER) project.

Issue date: September 2021
Inclusive green economy in the context of structural transformation and sustainable development

This publication will provide insights on the role of and measures to unlock private-sector led green growth and job creation in selected countries.

**Issue date:** May 2021

IPRs and sustainable development

The report will decipher and recommend the best IP legislation that promote competitive green/blue markets, fair trade and inclusive growth.

**Issue date:** September 2021

Continental and subregional atlases on the blue economy

This report will describe per country the main blue economy related data, assets, challenges in line with the dimensions highlighted into the African blue economy strategy.

**Issue date:** June 2021
Progress report on the Implementation of Regional and International agreed upon development agendas (SDGs 2030 and AU Agenda 2063)

The report is assessing challenges in the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and progress that are made towards the economic transformation process in West Africa. The final document is expected to highlight issues, challenges and opportunities in pursuing efforts for achieving the SDGs.

**Issue date:** December 2021

COVID-19, Demographic Dividend and structural transformation in West Africa”, outcome and papers of the 1st meeting of Think-tanks and Experts of the DDD Centre

The goal of this report is to understand how demographic factors shape West African economic growth, how these factors influence sustainable development and how they can help to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030. The report provides data analysis related to relevant achievements of West African countries in translating favorable demographic conditions into demographic dividend. It also assesses the implementation of the sustainable development policies in the West Africa subregion; identifying development priorities for the periods ahead.

**Issue date:** December 2021

Scorecards on key sustainable development issues for ECOWAS countries, taking account of the youth and gender issues

A tool will provide an analytical snapshot of selected key indicators results to measure progress towards sustainable development. This will also discuss
critical policy issues and outline some policy recommendations to support member states in their efforts to promote regional integration and efforts to integrate population dynamics dimensions into national development plans and policies.

**Issue date:** December 2021
**Africa climate change strategy**

An integrated and coordinated mechanism to support member States and other stakeholders in addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change.

**Issue date:** September 2021

**North Africa facing the challenges of the post Covid-19 Era**

The report examines the economies of North Africa from the perspective of the changes induced by the Covid-19 pandemic and its short-term impacts.

**Issue date:** March 2021

**Pandemic Vulnerability Index**

This report presents ECA’s Pandemic Vulnerability Index and analyses Africa’s strengths and weaknesses.

**Issue date:** June 2021

**Liberia NTA Profile 2021**

This report is intended to serve as a vehicle for the production and dissemination of country and region-specific policy analyses and recommendations, geared towards promoting sustainable growth, structural, social and economic transformation, deepening regional integration, development planning and economic governance, and contributing to the mitigation of various risks that could impact on member States’ development efforts.

**Issue date:** October 2021
Socioeconomic profile of West Africa: Situation in 2021 and outlook of 2022

The report assesses the economic and social performance of the sub-region, and formulates recommendations aimed at promoting the structural transformation of the Subregion as well as in deepening its integration. Specifically, this profile gives an overview of the international economic environment; the current economic and social situation of the subregion and presents the outlook for the years 2022. It suggests on this basis a set of recommendations relevant to the sub-region.

Issue date: December 2021
Report on the Africa Regional Forum on sustainable development to inform the high-level political forum on sustainable development

A report detailing the region-specific discussions, deliberations and decisions of ARFSD 2021, for presentation at the global HLPF.

**Issue date:** July 2021

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Report to the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on inclusive green economy in the context of structural transformation and sustainable development in Africa

A key substantive input to ARFSD, tailored to the theme of the forum and the work of ECA on this subject.

**Issue date:** March 2021

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Report on twenty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa (24th ICE)

The report provides description of the proceeding of the 24th session of ICE for West Africa including the recommendations that are adopted by delegates of member States for follow-up.

**Issue date:** March 2021
2021 report on the work of ECA in West Africa

The report covers the main activities carried out by the SROWA since the last, ICE 23rd session held in November 2020. These activities were implemented in accordance with the strategic framework and programme plan 2021. They continued to be implemented in accordance with the mandate assigned to the ECA’s Sub-Regional Offices (SROs), which is oriented towards strengthening sub-regional cooperation, integration and alignment with the priorities of the African Union, linkages with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) as well as the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (23rd ICE in November 2020 to 24th ICE in 2021)

**Issue date:** December 2021
Back Catalogue

The report examines the role of innovative finance for business sector development as a pathway to financing and achieving Africa’s sustainable development and Agenda 2063. It articulates how innovative sources of finance can be utilized to finance Africa’s business sector development, taking into account innovations in the financial services sector and financial technologies as one of the main mechanisms for transitioning African countries to inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

Dynamic industrial policy in Africa: innovative institutions, effective processes and flexible mechanisms

Economic Report on Africa 2014

The 2014 edition assesses the critical ingredients for spurring Africa’s industrialization — innovative institutions, effective processes and flexible mechanisms — and structural transformation. The report argues that successful industrial policy frameworks embody a dynamic and organic process that facilitates constant dialogue and strategic collaboration between Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders; high-level coordination and political support.
2018 Africa Sustainable Development Report: Towards a Transformed and Resilient Continent

This progress report on Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2018) provides rigorous assessment of Africa’s progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 and serve as a basis for policy discussion, peer learning and advocacy.

2017 Africa Sustainable Development Report: Tracking Progress on Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals

This progress report on Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2017) provides rigorous assessment of Africa’s progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 and serve as a basis for policy discussion, peer learning and advocacy.
As a successor to the MDGs report, this transition report, prepared by ECA and partners (AUC, AfDB and UNDP) is both stock-taking and forward looking. The report updates readers on progress based on the goals, targets and indicators of the MDGs. On the other hand, it is forward looking in the sense that it draws on existing data to assess the current trends in social, economic and environmental sustainability in Africa.

This publication aims to shed light and contribute to the policy dialogue on the experience with BITs in Africa and on the risks that restrict countries’ policy space and legitimate public policy making. It offers informed lessons on how governments should approach and craft future international investment agreements, including regional models. The goal should be to minimize costly disputes and allow countries to pursue their national and regional transformation objectives.
Africa’s blue economy: A policy handbook

This handbook intends to raise the level of understanding of the Blue Economy concept and related international frameworks by all relevant stakeholders, including African island States, coastal and land-locked countries, regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations. It also provides a step-by-step guide on how to mainstream the Blue Economy into continental, sub-regional and national policies, plans, laws, regulations and practices.

The Blue economy in Eastern Africa

The study provides a description of the socio-economic challenges and opportunities in the sub-region, in particular Western Indian Ocean (WIO) island States and coastal countries in leveraging untapped opportunities in various sectors of the blue economy (fisheries, strategic maritime routes, minerals resources, tourism, etc.) and addressing potential threats linked to climate change and natural disasters.
The demographic profile of African countries

The report examines the trends and levels of key demographic indicators for African countries, including population size, growth rate, distribution, fertility and mortality levels, age structure and international migration. In doing so, it builds on data from the 2015 revision of World Population Prospects, as well as other United Nations databases as relevant sources of data.

Transformative industrial policy for Africa

Evidence from successful experiences shows that an active industrial policy has been key to advancing national economic development efforts. However, the conditions under which African countries will advance industrialization have changed and thus the need for industrial policy measures that are context based through careful policy rebranding and refitting as well as policy measures for smart specialization in regional and global value chains, smart sequencing of negotiations and implementation of trade and investment policies and agreements.
16 Infrastructure projects for African integration

This book is condensed from two technical reports prepared by ECA and NEPAD Agency: one profiling the 16 projects adopted at the Dakar Financing Summit (DFS) on Infrastructure Financing and the other, “Mobilizing Domestic Financial Resources for Implementing NEPAD National and Regional Programmes – Africa Looks Within”, prepared at the behest of African Heads of State by ECA and NEPAD Agency.

Africa Regional Integration Index - Report 2016

The Index 2016 report covers member States of the eight regional economic communities recognized by the African Union. The Index is made up of five dimensions, which are the key socio-economic categories that are fundamental to Africa’s integration. Sixteen indicators (based on available data), which cut across the five dimensions, have been used to calculate the Index. Future editions of the Index will grow in scope as more data becomes available.
Social cohesion in Eastern Africa

The term “social cohesion” is a multidimensional concept involving a number of elements, including trust, equity, beliefs, acceptance of diversity, perceptions of fairness and respect. Accordingly, this publication does not purport to provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of social cohesion in Eastern Africa. Instead, using a combination of qualitative and quantitative data from a wide range of sources, it presents a broad “social audit” of the state of social cohesion and development in the subregion.

African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) regional synthesis report: Measuring gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa

The report is a synthesis of country reports on the AGDI in the thirteen countries of phase II of the AGDI project. This synthesis report shows some staggered and inconsistent progress made by African member States in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in the social, economic and political sectors. The report discusses progress made as well as challenges encountered by African countries in their endeavors to implement national, regional and international instruments on gender equality and women’s empowerment.
Gender and statistical processes: Handbook for gender mainstreaming in African official statistics

This handbook aims to provide data producers and users across Africa with a common understanding of gender statistics and how to produce them. It outlines issues, challenges and solutions aimed at helping statisticians integrate gender concerns in all phases of the statistical production process, from collection to dissemination. It is also a useful reference for users of gender statistics to improve their understanding of how data are produced.

Gender equality and the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

The study analyses the extent to which the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) provides meaningful, concrete and sustainable approaches towards addressing the long-standing and outstanding problem of gender inequality in Africa. It assesses the policy and institutional frameworks from a gender perspective, as well as processes and actors that are established at national and continental levels under the mechanism.
African Statistical Yearbook - 2018

Publication jointly produced by ECA, the AfDB and the AUC, presenting time-series data over the latest nine years for which data are available, showing how African countries performed in several economic and social thematic areas. The summary tables present selected standardized indicators for all African countries to enable comparisons between countries and the country profiles present indicators grouped into nine thematic areas: these are not necessarily used for comparison between countries.

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Atlas of poverty indicators

ECA has produced the poverty maps for Africa for the national level poverty and inequality indicators, selected from the global SDG indicators. The publication of these maps is a timely attempt to show the relevance of geospatial information in measuring, reporting, and tracking progress made towards achieving the SDGs. The data source used for these maps are from the SDG Index and Dashboard Global Report.
Statistical Atlas: Geovisualisation of key statistical indicators

This report is an attempt to exploit the enabling capabilities of Spatial Statistics to complement traditional forms of data presentation and analysis, by focusing attention on possible spatial relationships and patterns. It spatially represents selected key statistical indicators relevant to the current issues and challenges of the African development agenda.


The fifth edition of the AGR argues that many natural resource-rich African countries have not managed their natural resources to increase government revenue and foster inclusive and transformative growth. The report emphasizes the role of the state in long-term development planning as a tool for good governance of natural resources. It also emphasizes formulating a strategy to foster diversification and structural transformation and to address such cross-cutting issues as promoting social inclusion, combating corruption and protecting the environment.


This 4th edition of AGR provides a critique of perception-based measurements of corruption as well as an assessment of existing alternative, mostly mixed, measures of corruption. It highlights that pure perception-based measurements are highly subjective and do not provide insights into the institutional and policy reforms needed to combat corruption and improve economic governance.