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Thirty-sixth Session of the Commission/Conference
of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and
Economic Development

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACCS	African Centre for Civil Society
ACGD	African Centre for Gender and Development
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
ADB	African Development Bank
ADF	African Development Forum
AEC	African Economic community
AGDI	African Gender and Development Index
AGF	Africa Governance Forum
AGR	African Governance Report
AISI	African Information Society Initiative
AKNF	African Knowledge Networks Forum
AVLIN	African Virtual Library and Information Network
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ARIA	Assessment Report on Integration in Africa
ATPC	African Trade Policy Centre
AU	African Union
AWDF	African Women's Development Fund
CAF	Communications Assistance Foundation
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CEB	Chief Executives Board
CEMAC	Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel and Sahara States
CHDCS	Committee on Human Development and Civil Society
CHGA	Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa
CIPS	Committee on Industry and Private Sector
CODI	Committee on Development Information
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPC	Committee for Programme Coordination
CRCI	Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration
CSD	Committee on Sustainable Development
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CWGD	Committee on Women, Gender and Development
DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

DND	Dakar-Ngor Declaration
EAC	East African Community
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECA-NA	ECA-North Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDFs	Enterprise Development Facilities
ERA	Economic Report on Africa
ESPD	Economic and Social Policy Division
ESTNET	ECA Science and Technology Network
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
G8	Group of Eight Industrialized Countries
GBE	Global Business Environment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GKP	Global Knowledge Partnership
GWP	Global Water Partnership
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HLCP	High Level Committee on Programmes
ICE	Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
ICPD-PoA	International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
IDEP	Institute for Economic Development and Planning
IDGs	International Development Goals
IDRC	International Development Research Centre of Canada
IGOs	Intergovernmental Organizations
IGWA	Inter-agency Group on Water in Africa
IICD	International Institute for Communications and Development
ILO	International Labour Office
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISP	Institutional Strengthening Programme

IT	Information Technology
KSG	Kennedy School of Government
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NCTTA	Northern Corridor Transport and Transit Agreement
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NICI	National Information and Communication Infrastructure
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructures
OAU	Organization of African Unity
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD-DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee
ORID	Other Related Infectious Diseases
OSISA	Open Society Institute for Southern Africa
OSIWA	Open Society Institute for West Africa
PEDA	Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture
POI	Plan of Implementation
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PRSP-LG	Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers - Learning Group
RCID	Regional Cooperation and Integration Division
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDI	Sustainable Development Index
SPA	Strategic Partnership with Africa
SPA-TG	Strategic Partnership with Africa - Technical Group
SRDCs	Subregional Development Centres of ECA
SROs	Sub-regional Offices of ECA
SRO-CA	Subregional Office for Central Africa
SRO-EA	Subregional Office for Eastern Africa
SRO-NA	Subregional Office for Northern Africa
SRO-SA	Subregional Office for Southern Africa
SRO-WA	Subregional Office for Western Africa

SSATP	Sub-Sahara African Transport Policy Programme
TRIMS	Trade Related Investment Measures
TRIPS	Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights
UEMOA	Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WAHO	West African Health Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WIEGO	Women in the Economy: Globalizing and Organizing
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSIS	World Summit on Information Society
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
ZMM-GT	Zambia-Malawi-Mozambique Growth Triangle

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present annual report which is being submitted to the Thirty-sixth Session of the Commission, organized as a Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development covers the period from May 2002 to May 2003. The report provides a synoptic overview of the major trends, events and activities undertaken by the Commission and its secretariat in the context of Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) broad mandate of fostering the economic and social development of Africa. The report will inform policy-making at the country, regional and global levels, and ensure that the challenges confronting the continent are firmly established on the international development agenda.

The socio-economic situation of Africa continued to be a major concern. Chapter 1 reviews economic and social developments in the region in the past one year against the backdrop of developments in the global environment. The review shows that economic performance in Africa slowed to an annual growth of 3.1 per cent in 2002, compared with a rate of 4.3 per cent in 2001. This slow - down is due in large part to the slow recovery of the global economy, decline in oil prices, drought and armed conflicts in some parts of the continent. The review also estimates an average growth rate of 4.2 percent in 2003, on the condition that there is improvement in the major determinants of growth in Africa, namely weather, international commodity prices, social and political stability, Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) flows and a stable macroeconomic framework. The review concludes that the social situation continues to deteriorate because the growth rate is not high enough nor sufficiently broad-based to make a dent on poverty reduction. This situation is further worsened by the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS and armed conflicts.

Several positive developments during the year however, give reason for optimism about the continent's development prospects. Progress in advancing the adoption of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the new vision for Africa's development was achieved. Chapter 2 provides an update of the major policy and programme developments at the regional and global levels.

The thirty-fifth Session of the Commission, which was held in Johannesburg last October, examined the challenges for policy makers of implementing NEPAD at the country level. The Conference adopted a Ministerial Statement focusing on the required actions by Africa and its development partners in translating the priorities and objectives of NEPAD into concrete projects and programmes for country level implementation. The Statement also underscored the need for periodic monitoring and tracking of progress in meeting the commitments made by countries under NEPAD. More than ten countries have since signed up to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which is designed as a tool for peer learning and monitoring of commitments towards achieving good governance in all its ramifications.

One of the most significant events of 2002 was the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002. The Summit was a watershed in the series of global conferences which began in 1990 under the auspices of the United Nations. A common thread that runs through these conferences was the commitment made by all member States to eradicate poverty and improve the conditions of the world's poorest people. ECA played an important role in assisting its member States to prepare for the Summit, and will continue to assist them in the implementation of the major commitments of the Summit.

A significant outcome of the Johannesburg Summit was its acknowledgement of sustainable development as the overarching goal of all human endeavors, and the indispensability of achieving a balance among economic, social and environmental concerns in achieving that goal. The Summit also brought to the fore the importance of the regional dimension of development, not only in its essential interrelationship with national and global initiatives, but also as a necessary platform for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. The Plan of Implementation, adopted by the Summit contains eleven chapters with over thirty targets. Poverty is a running theme in the plan. Two of the chapters are devoted to Africa which affirms the international community's commitment to support sustainable development in Africa, through addressing the special challenges facing the region by taking concrete actions to further implement Agenda 21 within the framework of NEPAD.

The substantive work of the Commission was carried out under *seven* complementary subprogrammes addressing themes that are broadly consistent with the major development challenges confronting the member States. The strategy for carrying out the activities consisted of policy analysis and advocacy; convening stakeholders and consensus - building on key development issues; technical assistance and capacity - building in support of member States; enhanced collaboration with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system. The implementation of activities under each subprogramme took into account the priorities identified in the Millennium Declaration, NEPAD and the outcomes of major international conferences as well as relevant legislative mandates and decisions.

Chapter 3 describes the major activities undertaken in the past one year under each of the seven subprogrammes.

In the area of *Facilitating economic and social policy analysis* where the secretariat has traditionally addressed the challenges related to poverty reduction, greater attention was given to improving indicators for monitoring progress towards attainment of the MDGs, as well as analysis of the development implications of HIV/AIDS and other diseases of poverty, in addition to addressing key issues related to Africa's position in the context of globalization. A major achievement under this subprogramme related to the preparation of the *Economic Report on Africa, 2002* which focused on the theme, *Tracking performance and progress*.

The Commission's work under the subprogramme, *Ensuring food security and sustainable development* continued to focus on promoting awareness of the linkages among the nexus issues of food security, population and environmental sustainability, and integrating these into national development planning. As part of efforts aimed at assisting member States in the implementing of the decisions taken at the WSSD, the secretariat commenced work on a new biennial flagship publication to be titled, *Report on Sustainable Development in Africa* which will provide key indicators of sustainable development featuring critical elements of the economic, social, institutional and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

Work under the subprogramme, *Strengthening development management* continued to promote measures aimed at fostering a capable State and enhancing the capacity of the public sector for improved service delivery. Particular attention was also given to the ongoing project related to the development of monitorable indicators of good governance in the administrative, political and economic fields, which will culminate in the publication of a major flagship on the state of governance in Africa.

Activities under the subprogramme, *Harnessing information for development* were aimed at strengthening national capacities for the adoption and utilization of ICTs in overcoming development challenges; and accelerating Africa's entry into the global information society. In this context, ECA played an important role in preparing African countries for the forthcoming World Summit on Information Society (WSIS). The African Regional Preparatory Conference held in Bamako, Mali in May 2002 adopted the *Bamako Declaration* as the African Common Position and a key input to the WSIS.

Under the subprogramme, *Promoting the advancement of women*, work continued on the development of the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) which will measure gender inequalities in various sectors and assist member States in accurately monitoring and evaluating progress in the critical areas of concern identified in the global and regional Platforms for Action.

The development and management of Africa's natural resources and energy remains one of the major challenges facing the region. In addressing this challenge, the Commission assisted member States to formulate appropriate policies and programmes. Specifically, it undertook a number of operational activities, mainly through the organization of meetings at which, among other things, the following emerged: formulation of programmes of action calling for the development of capacities and capabilities by African countries for the development and utilization of mineral resources, water and energy so as to enhance their contribution to the socio-economic development of the region; recommendations aimed at enhancing cooperation among governments and the private sector for the sustainable development and management of these resources as an important basis for boosting value added in processing and for industrial development generally. These activities were undertaken under the subprogramme, *Promoting regional cooperation and integration* where the focus was on promoting policies and measures for accelerating the integration process in Africa.

ECA continued to work in 2002 to integrate emerging regional and global initiatives into national development programmes and policies, and to strengthen the capacities of the regional economic communities (RECs) in the implementation of these initiatives at the national and subregional levels. Crucial to this process were the *five* ECA Subregional Offices located in the five subregions of the continent. They play a leading role in identifying, defining, developing and implementing regionally and globally - agreed strategies and policies that are integral to ECA's overall vision and mandate, and serve as a vehicle for the dissemination of ECA's policy analytical work in the various subregions. The activities of the Subregional Offices were undertaken under the ECA subprogramme, *Supporting Subregional activities for development*.

Technical assistance and policy advisory services to complement work in all the above areas were provided to countries and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) through the secretariat's regular programme of technical cooperation. Short - term advisory services were provided to 11 member States and their IGOs on request by a team of regional advisers deployed in each of the substantive Divisions.

Chapter 4 provides a summary of discussions, resolutions and major decisions and recommendations of the subsidiary organs of the Commission, which have held their meetings since the last session of the Commission.

Just as a corporation striving to remain competitive in the market - place has to innovate to improve the quality of its products and processes, so too must a knowledge institution such as ECA which is keen on serving its member States better, reinvent itself in order to be of high quality service. As part of efforts to ensure the relevance of its work to member States, ECA embarked on a major institutional strengthening programme (ISP) during the period under review. The programme is aimed at defining ECA's role as a knowledge institution, and to strengthen its capacity in assisting member States address the challenges they confront. Accordingly, the programme will focus on aligning management practices and improving administrative and information systems in order to leverage ECA's integrated core business processes to achieve greater coherence and impact.

CHAPTER I

OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA

Introduction

Africa's economy grew at a modest rate of 3.1 per cent in 2002, compared with 4.3 per cent in 2001, reflecting the impact of subdued growth of the global economy and heightened uncertainties in global financial markets and in geo-political relations. Continued conflict and adverse weather conditions in some parts of the continent also contributed to the slower growth. The deceleration in GDP growth was deeper, however, in the oil-exporting economies than in the non-oil economies.

The GDP growth of 3.1 per cent in 2002 translates in to a low 0.8 per cent growth in per capita income, compared with 1.9 per cent achieved in 2001. This level of growth in per capita income is not sufficient to significantly reduce general poverty on the continent. There is therefore an urgent need to accelerate the pace of growth.

Vigorous efforts should be undertaken to ensure continued improvement in governance and economic management, national and regional security, to promote coordinated and coherent policies among Africa's development partners, and strengthen production and institutional capacity as well as health and education delivery. As envisaged under NEPAD, African countries should work in a more concerted mode at the regional and subregional levels to realize these objectives.

Global economic situation in 2002 and its implications for Africa

The global economy rebounded during the first quarter of 2002, with the G7 economies posting 0.8 per cent growth, compared with 0.2 per cent in the last quarter of 2001, driven largely by recovery in consumer demand and in production in the high-tech sector. This initial growth impulse could not be sustained as consumer and business confidence remained historically weak and tensions in financial markets increased due to accounting scandals in the US and uncertainties in geo-politics. Globally, net FDI fell to \$160 billion in 2002 from about \$180 billion in 2001.

The marginal growth in the early stages of 2002 prompted the recovery of non-oil commodity prices, which improved by 20 per cent between July 2001 and June 2002, though they still remained low from an historical (1997) perspective.

Developments in the advanced economies affected developing countries differently. In East Asia and the Pacific, GDP growth accelerated in 2002, buoyed by expansion in China. In South Asia there was a slight improvement, as it was in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. GDP growth of African and the Middle East economies, however, decelerated in 2002, whilst in Latin America and the Caribbean, GDP growth was negative in 2002, resulting from the contagion effects of financial and political crises in several countries of the region, notably Argentina and Venezuela.

State of African economies in 2002

African economies slowed to a 3.1 per cent growth rate in 2002, compared with 4.3 per cent rate achieved in 2001, due largely to the sluggish recovery of the global economy, decline in oil prices, drought conditions in certain parts of North and East and Southern Africa, and civil conflicts. Compared with their performance in 2001, fewer countries were able to improve or maintain the growth rates achieved in the previous year.

All the subregions recorded lower growth in 2002 than in 2001, except Southern Africa where dividends associated with peace and increased oil output in Angola, as well as improved performance of the economies of South Africa and Namibia, led to higher subregional growth.

GDP Growth Performance, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Africa	3.1	3.2	3.5	4.3	3.1
Subregions					
North Africa	4.4	3.5	4.1	5.8	2.8
West Africa	3.6	3.2	2.7	3.3	3.1
Central Africa	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.9	4.0
East Africa	2.5	4.1	3.1	5.0	3.5
Southern Africa	1.7	2.2	3.0	2.4	3.3

Note: Data are weighted by country GDP relative to overall African GDP

Source: ECA

The slow-down of GDP growth in 2002 was severest in North Africa, as shown in the table, reflecting the impact of declining oil prices and drought conditions in some parts of the subregion. Nevertheless, North Africa contributed 41 per cent of Africa's GDP, West Africa 17 per cent, Central Africa 5.3 per cent, East Africa 8.4 per cent, and Southern Africa 28.3 per cent. The five largest economies, South Africa, Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria and Morocco, contributed 58.8 per cent.

In general, Africa's GDP performance is substantially influenced by oil prices, highlighting the dilemma the continent faces, namely: whilst higher prices contribute enormously to the GDP of the eleven oil exporting countries, they can cause macroeconomic instability on higher inflation and tighter foreign exchange constraints- in the forty-two oil importing countries.

Better macroeconomic management, coupled with historically low oil prices, enabled several countries to achieve lower inflation rates, especially during the first three quarters of 2002. Exchange rates were generally stable. In Southern Africa inflation rates were, however, higher due to food supply shortages arising from drought in many countries of the subregion.

Conflicts contributed to the slow growth of African countries, and imposed other macroeconomic costs. Conflict areas on average exhibited lower GDP growth rates, higher inflation rates and higher incidence of poverty, than non-conflict areas.

In terms of sector performance, the manufacturing sector of African economies generally continued to exhibit weakness in the face of global competition. The main source of this weakness is the low investment in infrastructure and in new plant and equipment, in

technology and skill development. The service sector, notably telecommunications, which has been the fastest growing, has had limited multiplier impact due to the fact that activities in the sector are concentrated in the urban areas.

African economies continue to be characterized by little diversification and rigid production systems. Years of reform have not dealt with deficiencies in production structures, and the economies remain extremely vulnerable to exogenous shocks.

At Monterrey in 2002, world leaders agreed to a shared responsibility to increase ODA and thereby enable low-income countries achieve the objectives of the MDG. Concrete efforts are being made to develop the modalities for actualizing the Monterrey Consensus. For example, many African countries have initiated new investment regulations or reviewed old ones. The involvement of civil society groups in development policy formulation is gaining acceptance. But many countries in the developing world, including Africa, are yet to incorporate trade facilitation into their overall development framework, while developed countries are yet to consider reviewing trade-distorting subsidies in agriculture.

Human development situation in Africa

Though many African countries have intensified efforts to improve human development, the challenge of achieving the overall objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remains quite enormous. General poverty still exists in the rural areas, indicating spatial biases in economic growth and poverty reduction.

Furthermore, the reduction in poverty achieved so far in many African countries is slower than the average growth in GDP, indicating a weakness in pro-poor growth strategies. Poverty reduction strategies papers (PRSPs) that many African countries have adopted remain largely unimplemented because of resource and capacity constraints.

The availability and quality of social services remain critical issues, whilst HIV/AIDS is afflicting a substantial proportion of the population, and threatening economic and social progress. To reduce pressure on government finances, some countries are promoting private sector participation in the provision of social services. There are many successful cases. But in general the main issue confronting policy makers is designing a framework that would ensure equitable access whilst assuring private sector operators reasonable returns on their investment. Continued exchange of ideas among Africa's policy makers on this issue could be helpful.

Many low-income African countries have adopted the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. While this initiative proposes debt relief to enable poor countries maintain public investments in poverty reduction programmes, the structural weaknesses, which are the source of the debt problem of eligible economies, have been left largely un-addressed. Countries that have attained full relief still face the risk of slipping into the debt trap.

Prospects, challenges and policy recommendations

The African economy is projected to grow by 4.2 per cent in 2003, from higher non-oil commodity prices and improvement in weather conditions. The main threats to faster growth in 2003 include: uncertainties in geo-politics, uneasiness in global financial markets, and volatility in commodity prices. The cycle of drought and floods, insecurity and conflict, and threats

posed by diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, could compound the effects of the global risk factors.

For accelerated economic growth, African governments should begin to incorporate trade facilitation into their overall development framework, through improved production capacity, linkages with global and regional marketing networks, flexible regulatory framework, and strengthened financial sector. The development of appropriate trade and investment policies and negotiations skills, buttressed by a more rigorous analysis of the issues is also required.

There is substantial external support for Africa's development. However, there are also serious issues about aid effectiveness that should be addressed more forcefully.

Finally, African governments should intensify their effort to enhance the implementation effectiveness of pro-poor growth policies. Strategic planning of the health and education sectors and for the effective containment of the effects of drought and floods should also be given new impetus.

The programmes and activities of the ECA in 2002 were subject to its overall mandate within the UN system, driven by the policy challenges facing member States, particularly, in the promotion of policy dialogue through round tables, forums and learning groups; trade policy formulation and training; analytical and special studies on various issues, notably, HIV/AIDS, PRSP, gender mainstreaming, governance, ICT, monetary unions and water resource management; and in capacity building, as envisaged under NEPAD and related Ministerial Declarations. Details of these programmes and activities are presented in Chapters 2-4 of this Report.

CHAPTER II

MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

Introduction

Africa is facing many and varied policy challenges, which are compounded annually by the ever changing dynamics within the global economic and political environment and by regional and subregional developments that impinge on the continent's drive to economic and political actualization. To meet these challenges African governments have intensified their proactive participation and contributions to global, regional, and subregional initiatives, through the instrument of regional institutions, in particular, the UN system agencies in coordinating and fostering a "common destiny" development strategy for the continent.

Notable policy developments and initiatives that the ECA, in fulfillment of its mandate to promote policies for the economic development of Africa, was engaged in during the year include: 1) Monterrey Conference, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the G8 summit at Kananaskis, 2) NEPAD consultations, and 3) ECA subregional offices' (SROs) ICE meetings, and other policy engagements. ECA also undertook a number of internal initiatives to improve further its capacity to deliver policy advice.

This chapter provides an update on the major policy initiatives and programme developments during the year under review. Details of specific activities undertaken are discussed in chapter 3.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

NEPAD remains at the centre of policy attention, as an African vision to bring the continent into a new age of peace, security, stability, economic growth and prosperity. Among African countries, NEPAD is becoming the organizing idea for the development of domestic economic policies and among donors it is becoming the anchor of their support. The leadership provided by African governments has led to a widening of support for NEPAD among the global community, whilst within member States public discussion is unfolding among experts and civil society at large.

ECA's work on NEPAD is guided by the applicable resolutions of the African Union and the Declarations of the 2002 ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 16-20th October 2002. The Conference, under the heme "*Accelerating Africa's Progress and Performance: The Challenge of NEPAD*", aimed at sharing information on the latest development in NEPAD and obtaining proposals on strategies for realizing its goals. The Conference focused on five sub-themes: (i) Sound Economic Policy-making and Execution for Operationalizing the Millennium Development Goals; (ii) Unleashing the Private Sector for Poverty Reduction; (iii) Capacity Building and Market Access for Deeper Integration into the Global Economy; (iv) Move to Self and Peer Reviews; and (v) Transforming Partnerships.

The Ministerial Declaration called on African Governments and all stakeholders to strive for increased commitment to implement the NEPAD priorities. It pointed out that immediate ways to show concrete results is to move quickly on the African Peer Review

Mechanism (APRM); to anchor the foundations of NEPAD in vigorous analysis and to build NEPAD's objectives into national programmes; and to engage parliaments and private and civil society stakeholders in country owned development strategies.

ECA is providing technical support in the conceptualization of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) that will enable the monitoring of adherence by countries to the mutually agreed codes and standards on economic and corporate governance, which will be essential to effecting mutual accountability for aid effectiveness. The ongoing ECA project on measuring and monitoring progress towards good governance, implemented with national research institutes, could also provide APRM with information for identifying key political issues within the national economic development environment.

NEPAD has been accepted as the "overarching" development framework for Africa by the United Nations and its agencies in Africa, and by the G8 countries, which is epitomized in their decision to engage in regional consultations and coordinate development effort around NEPAD. Thus, two of the most notable developments during the year were the re-orientation of the regional consultations among UN agencies in Africa and the consideration by the G8 of NEPAD proposals at the Kananaskis Summit.

International Cooperation in Support of NEPAD: The role of the United Nations

Following the October 2002 Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Executive Secretary of the ECA, in his capacity as the chairperson, convened the Fourth Annual Regional Consultations of UN agencies in October 2002. Besides UN agencies, the African Union, African Development Bank and the Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee, attended the meeting. The meeting agreed on the establishment of five priority clusters with their conveners around which the UN, as a system, will organize support for NEPAD, namely: a) Infrastructure (energy, water and sanitation, transport and ICTs) with ECA as convener; b) Governance, Peace and Security, with UNDP as convener; c) Human Resource Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS, with UNICEF as convener; d) Environment, Population and Urbanization, with UN-Habitat as convener; and e) Agriculture, Trade and Market Access with FAO as convener.

The objective of the new framework for consultations is to fast track programme implementation, which, on the part of the ECA, takes into account the crucial role of the regional economic communities (RECs) in the facilitation of the implementation at the sub regional level. This framework for fast tracking implementation encompasses (i) support to RECs in the elaboration of regional indicative strategic plans reflecting the principles and priorities of NEPAD; (ii) defining modalities for linking UN regional coordination mechanisms with inter-agency processes at the national level; and (iii) establishing the implementation arrangements through ECA Offices in the subregions. The detailed framework for fast track actions will soon be discussed with UN cluster conveners, Executive Heads of major RECs and the NEPAD Steering Committee.

The clusters have met at least once and have refined their initial action plans. At the request of the Committee for Programme Coordination (CPC), the clusters prepared their respective reports on their collective activities and on the basis of these submissions, a consolidated report was prepared by ECA and UNDP and submitted to CPC as well as to the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), and the Chief Executives Board (CEB) for consideration at their Spring sessions.

Progress regarding the implementation of collective activities has been slow. Therefore, the next annual consultation to be held in May 2003 is intended to undertake a critical assessment of the impediments confronting the clusters and to agree on the modalities for genuine progress.

G8 Africa Action Plan

In June 2002, the Heads of State and Government of eight major industrialized democracies and the Representatives of the European Union, met, for the first time on this platform, with African Leaders at Kananaskis, Canada, to discuss NEPAD. G8 leaders welcomed NEPAD as a bold and clear-sighted vision of Africa's development. Under the *Africa Action Plan* the G8 pledged support for NEPAD based on measured results, that is, demonstrated political and financial commitment by African governments to good governance and rule of law, investment in people, and pursuit of policies that spur economic growth and poverty reduction will be matched by G8 commitment to promote peace and security in Africa, to boost expertise and capacity, to encourage trade and direct growth-oriented investment, and to provide more effective official development assistance.

Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

Africa/OECD Ministerial Consultation The "Big Table"

The Big Table is an initiative designed by the ECA to promote frank, interactive dialogue between African Finance Ministers and their OECD counterparts. The first Big Table Consultations (Big Table I) was held in November 2000 in Addis Ababa, on the occasion of the Eighth Session of ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, which brought together 26 high level participants including eleven African ministers and their development partners from ten OECD countries as well as representatives of five international development organisations.

Big Table I discussed Pro-Poor Growth Policies and the International Development Goals (IDGs), lessons learned from the Poverty Reduction Strategies Paper (PRSP) process, and Emerging Capacity Building Needs. Because of success of the first Big Table, which was credited with placing focus on transforming Africa's development relationship with its partners, the ECA was encouraged to institutionalize the Consultation. Big Table II, which took place in Amsterdam, Netherlands in October 2001, with 29 high-level participants including thirteen African ministers and nine of their counterparts from OECD countries as well as representatives from seven regional and international institutions including the ADB, EU, IMF, OECD-DAC, World Bank, and UNDP sought to advance the dialogue on African ownership of development plans and strategies.

Big Table III took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2003. The discussions focused on the implications of the international consensus emerging from the WTO Conference in Doha, the Monterrey Conference on financing for development, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In particular, Big Table III discussed approaches to monitoring the performance of Africa and its partners in terms of shared goals and desired outcomes and in the context of mutual accountability. The meeting recognized the APRM as an innovative approach to reform and central to the success of NEPAD.

It was agreed that the APRM process should get under way as soon as possible in countries willing to be reviewed. In assessing country performance, it was agreed that the key objective should be to assess gaps and weaknesses with a view to assisting the countries in question to take the corrective actions.

African Development Forum

The African Development Forum (ADF), an ECA initiative that brings together government leaders, the private sector, civil society, academia and policy think tanks, intellectuals and researchers, international organizations, and other stakeholders, aims to facilitate policy dialogue and advocacy, and to seek consensus and ownership of development on the continent.

The first ADF (ADF I), held in October 1999 on the theme ***The Challenge to Africa of Globalization and the Information Age***, aimed at developing and building support for African initiatives that are fundamental to shaping the African information age. The meeting discussed the plan of action on the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) development. To date, twenty-one countries have completed developing ICT policies whilst a further 16 are in the process of developing one, under the NICI project.

ADF II, held in December 2000 on the theme ***AIDS: The Greatest Leadership Challenge***, led to the adoption of the African Consensus and Plan of Action: Leadership to overcome HIV/AIDS, which fed into the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and Other Infectious Diseases. ADF III was held in March 2002 on the theme ***Accelerated Regional Economic Integration in Africa***. Its major outcomes are mirrored in the African Union process.

ADF IV is scheduled for early 2004, and would be based on the theme: ***Governance for a Progressing Africa***. It will seek to highlight the key challenges facing Africa as it aims to improve governance.

Initiatives at the Subregional Level

During the period under review, ECA subregional offices (SROs) continued to promote policy dialogue and to support development initiatives through ICE meetings and through collaborative arrangements with major Regional Economic Communities and Inter-governmental Organizations for advancing the process of regional integration and cooperation on the continent. SRO-Southern Africa undertook follow-up actions in building synergies between the Zambia-Malawi-Mozambique Growth Triangle (ZMM-GT) pilot project and Spatial Development Initiatives being developed in South Africa and its neighboring countries. The Southern Africa Office also elaborated a guide for mainstreaming gender and human rights into the HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework of SADC. Furthermore, the office actively contributed to the popularization of NEPAD through seminars and special issue of the Southern Africa Development Bulletin.

SRO-West Africa focused its integration activities on advancing the agenda for the development for peace in the Mano River Basin. SRO-Central Africa took a lead role in developing a multi-modal transport master plan for ECCAS and CEMAC member States, which will be peer reviewed during the forthcoming special event (October 2003) on infrastructure development in the subregion. The Office is also driving the launching process of

a subregional Long-Term Perspective Study that would allow articulation of national developmental priorities with the subregional and even continental objectives of integration.

SRO-East Africa intensified efforts in advancing the Great Lakes post-conflict reconstruction, recovery and development initiative, especially in the areas of transport infrastructure and policies, human resource and institutional development and food security. Building upon the success of the North Africa Investment Forum (February 2002), SRO-North Africa undertook a number of follow-up activities to promote investment and trade in the subregion, including the preparation of a publication on North African Capital Markets, preparatory activities for the establishment of the North Africa Business Council and substantive contributions to meetings such as the Annual Meeting of the Arab Monetary Institutions, Meeting of Presidents of Banks in the Maghreb and the Algerian Investment Forum.

Capacity Building

Policy formulation and implementation in Africa is often constrained by weak capacity. ECA has, therefore, continued its programmes to assist capacity building in the most challenging areas of development, notably, poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, and trade policy.

The African Learning Group on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP-LG)

The ECA-initiated African Learning Group on the Poverty Reduction Strategies Paper (PRSP-LG) is to address gaps in the African policy firmament, namely to promote African ownership of the poverty reduction strategies, through the exchange of experiences, ideas and lessons learned among member States.

The African Learning Group also offers a forum for nurturing an African position on the PRSP process and to contribute to the policy debate. Held back-to-back with the Technical Group meeting of the Strategic Partnership with Africa (SPA), the PRSP-LG provides a vehicle for African participation in and contribution to that meeting.

The first meeting of the PRSP-LG took place in Addis Ababa in November 2001. The second meeting was in Brussels in November 2002 with participants drawn from over 15 countries, mostly HIPC. The third meeting will be held in October 2003. The Brussels meeting, like the first meeting, focused on the critical elements of the design and implementation of appropriate anti-poverty policies. The meeting made recommendations on five broad issues, including the comprehensiveness of growth strategies and linking PRSPs targets to the MDGs; strengthening capacity for costing, budgeting and financial management, and in monitoring and tracking expenditures; strengthening and institutionalizing public participation in sector plans, which are the foundation for the PRSP; in the budget process; in district PRSPs; in the implementation and monitoring of the PRSP objectives; strengthening and retaining national capacity in different areas; and harmonization of donor policies and practices.

It was also recommended that to ensure the sustainability of the PRSP-approach: a) more countries and societal actors should be invited to the LG-annual event; b) ECA should establish a PRSP Institute, in collaboration with regional and subregional training institutions and policy think tanks, c) ECA should establish a PRSP outreach initiative, to enhance

exchange among PRSP focal points, and strengthen its relations with private sector associations. ECA is considering the feasibility of these recommendations.

Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa

Since the United Nations Security Council pronounced HIV/AIDS a threat to political stability, the various governance implications of the pandemic have become more obvious and attracted attention at the highest level of political leadership. Governments in Africa are now more aware of the serious effects of the loss of capacities in key ministries, armies, police and security forces as a result of HIV/AIDS.

ECA's response to these challenges will be undertaken in the context of a new initiative - the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance (CHGA) which was established by the United Nations Secretary-General. The Commission, which is chaired by the ECA Executive Secretary will seek to address two key questions: How can African capacities for responding to HIV/AIDS be scaled up and sustained and what are the risks to governance, peace and security from the pandemic? This initiative will complement existing initiatives in the field of public health such as the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS and the International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa (IPAA).

CHGA builds upon ECA's engagement in the area of HIV/AIDS over the years, utilizing the Commission's expertise in economic and social policy analyses, and development management to raise the issue of HIV/AIDS and governance to a new level of international awareness, generating additional actions, identifying the training and capacity building needs for governments, international organizations and developing a specialist research agenda. It will produce outputs relevant to economists, medical and public practitioners, development planners, governance specialists and so on.

Trade-related Capacity Building

The main outcome of the 2001 Doha World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference was an agreement to launch a broad based and balanced work programme for continuation of multilateral trade negotiations. The work programme incorporates an expanded negotiating agenda and other important decisions and activities necessary to address the challenges facing the multilateral trading system. Many African countries, however, have weak technical capacities to meaningfully engage in global trade negotiations or devise needed policy interventions for utilizing opportunities in global trade.

ECA's intervention in trade capacity building is aimed at adding value to the attempts of other organizations to provide trade-related capacity building support to African countries. In this respect, the ECA's programme of assistance focuses on developing, on a "sustainable basis", a pool of African trade negotiators based in Geneva and African capitals with the capacity to assist African countries negotiate complex issues contained in the post-Doha agenda of the WTO as well as the ACP/EU Cotonou Agreement, especially the "Trade Protocol".

In order to continue to assist African countries in the current round of multilateral trade negotiations and in response to repeated requests from member States, and primarily their representatives in Geneva, ECA is establishing an office in Geneva to provide on the spot trade-related and capacity building support to African Trade Negotiators based in Geneva. ECA is also developing a comprehensive training programme at the African Institute for Economic

Development and Planning (IDEP) in Dakar, Senegal for African trade negotiators, and strengthening outreach programmes in the form of workshops and courses on trade services and trade policy.

The African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) Project

The African Trade Policy Centre is to be established by the ECA and the Canadian Government, as well as other stakeholders for the purpose of sharpening the skills of trade policy makers and negotiators at national, subregional and regional levels in mainstreaming trade in development policies and programmes; to promote intra-African trade; and effectively participate in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.

The ATPC is expected to act as a central locus where the African policy community and other stakeholders (e.g. the private sector and civil society, and bilateral and multilateral donors) can access information on trade and trade related business opportunities. The Centre will also map out and maintain an inventory of past and current technical assistance related to trade, which has been provided within the region, with the view to distilling and sharing lessons learnt.

Strengthening ECA to serve Africa Better

Substantial progress has been made since ECA started its own internal institutional reforms in 1996, which is being consolidated now through a number of programmes, notably the Institutional Strengthening Programme (ISP), with its sub-component on Knowledge Management.

Institutional Strengthening Programme (ISP)

The ISP is the climax of the self-examinations culminating in an Open Space forum in December 2002, with focus on aligning management practice, and supporting administration and information systems with its core business, that is, service to Africa's development.

The forum yielded hundreds of recommendations, which have been clustered and are being implemented under the ISP with a full time team constituted by the Executive Secretary in February 2003. The ISP team will propel and support internal changes in specified priority areas, which will strengthen ECA as a knowledge institution and ensure that it is configured in the long-term to meet the new demands and expectations of its various stakeholders, in particular member States.

Knowledge Sharing Initiatives

As a knowledge-based institution, ECA is re-equipping itself for the purpose of "building outwards" a network of key researchers, practitioners, and policy makers in Africa and elsewhere, through a more effective human-centered system of knowledge storing, location and sharing. The key elements of the new knowledge production and sharing system are the institutions: Association of African Universities, and other partners in the African Knowledge Networks Forum (AKNF), notably, continental research and policy institutes, and Africans in Diaspora.

Other elements include: studies of major policy issues of common interest to African countries in collaboration with African research institutions; strengthening of knowledge networks through enhanced electronic communication tools; ad hoc experts group meetings, including ADF process; faculty internships; and fellowship programme for young African professionals.

CHAPTER III

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

Activities under this subprogramme during the period under review were aimed at strengthening the capacity of member States to design and implement appropriate economic and social policies and strategies to achieve sustained economic growth for poverty reduction. Work under the subprogramme was organized around four main themes, namely, economic policy analysis; development issues related to social policy and poverty analysis; issues related to trade and finance; and statistical development. The goals and priorities of NEPAD, the Millennium Declaration, and the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other related infectious diseases provided added impetus to ECA's work under this subprogramme.

In the area of economic policy analysis, several policy inputs were provided by the secretariat to various important initiatives undertaken by the Commission during the period under review. Key among these inputs is the *Economic Report on Africa, 2002* which was published and released in the period under review under the theme, *Tracking performance and progress*. The focus of the reports on this theme was informed by the emphasis placed by NEPAD on rigorous monitoring and evaluation of country performance in the context of the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

The reports has two parts. The first part reviews the continent's economic performance in 2001 and prospects for 2002. It concluded that with a GDP growth rate of 4.3 per cent, Africa was able to escape the harsh effects of the global economic slow-down in 2001. This was attributed to several factors, the most important of which is structural – Africa's weak integration into the global economy and the composition of Africa's trade; good weather conditions; lower oil prices, the cessation of conflicts and the improved policy environment in several countries - all of which played a part in this improved performance. The report supplements the traditional region-wide analysis of trends with seven in-depth country studies on Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Future editions of the *ERA* will present in-depth studies of other African countries as part of efforts to capture lessons from shared experiences including best practices and identify special requirements for growth.

The second part of the report entitled, *Harnessing technologies for sustainable development*, deals with the challenges of achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication in Africa using new and emerging technologies. The report presents the sustainable development indicators (SDI), which capture country achievements in economic transformation, institutional development, and environmental conservation. This two-volume treatment is also planned for future editions of the *ERA*, with private sector development as the policy focus in the 2003 report.

In the area of trade and finance, the focus of the work programme in 2002 was on enhancing the capacity of member States to formulate and implement strategies for enhancing trade and mobilizing resources, both external and domestic, for development. In this regard, the ECA Secretariat, in collaboration with other regional and international organizations, assisted member States in preparing them for the Doha WTO Ministerial Conference and in the follow-up to the Conference. The areas covered included trade in agriculture and services; trade related intellectual property rights (TRIPS); and trade-related investment measures (TRIMS) and implementation issues. In this context, the secretariat organized a workshop on African trade negotiations in the area of agriculture in Addis Ababa in April 2003 and prepared a number of studies focusing on challenges to be addressed in accelerating Africa's integration into the global economy; lack of competitiveness of African exports and lack of market access; the debt burden; and the decline in the flow of foreign direct investment, ODA and other forms of finance into the region.

The main objective of ECA's work in the area of social policy and poverty analysis is to help its member States to understand the structural causes of poverty in order to help them design and implement effective pro-poor policies and strategies for eradicating poverty in the shortest possible time in line with the Millenium Development Goals.

During the period under review, ECA activities in support to its member States in achieving the MDGs were carried out under the cluster of social policy and poverty analysis, where emphasis was on promoting policies and measures for improving employment and other income-generating activities, including support to informal sector activities, skills development and acquisition programmes, improvement in the delivery of basic social services targeted at the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and tackling diseases that accentuate poverty.

As part of efforts aimed at strengthening poverty reduction strategies papers (PRSPs) process and other nationally-owned development strategies, which are deemed essential in achieving the MDGs, ECA launched the learning group on the poverty reduction strategy papers process (PRSP-LG) in November 2001 as a regular forum for African policy-makers and development experts to share experience on poverty reduction issues and identify weaknesses in the design and implementation of PRSPs. Building on the outcomes of the first meeting of the PRSP-LG, ECA convened the second meeting of the PRSP-LG in November 2002 in Brussels, Belgium.

The meeting brought together participants from government, civil society groups and development experts from fifteen countries as well as representatives of several bilateral and multilateral donor institutions to discuss the challenges that African countries confront in the design and implementation of their national poverty reduction strategies and programmes. The meeting considered five practical issues in the implementation of PRSPs, namely, the scope and content of growth strategies underpinning PRSPs to ensure that they benefit the poor; financing and expenditure management of PRSPs in national budgets to ensure that resources are allocated to priority sectors; the depth and legitimacy of the participatory process and national ownership; the need to address capacity constraints at the national level for the effective design and implementation of the PRSPs; and the need to harmonize donor aid policies and practices in support of the objectives of the PRSPs. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the meeting of the Technical Group of the Strategic Partnership with Africa (SPA-TG) which brings together representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Development Assistance

Committee of the OECD, as well as the European Union in support of poverty reduction programmes in Africa.

To ensure that anti-poverty policies are well-targeted, ECA embarked on an active research programme during the period under review aimed at improving anti-poverty interventions by analyzing the link between poverty and nutrition and health, as well as the link between poverty, growth and equity, using poverty mapping to disaggregate information on poverty levels and its spatial or geographical distribution. Poverty maps and profiles for ten African countries selected by subregion have been completed and served as a key input for the second meeting of the PRSP-LG.

A significant development under this subprogramme during the period under review related to the establishment of a new unit on health economics within ESPD to serve as the focal point for mainstreaming issues of HIV/AIDS into the work programme of ECA. The mandate for this derives from the *Millennium Declaration, the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Other Related Infectious Diseases (ORID)*, the Declaration adopted by the special session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2002, and the Consensus adopted at the Second African Development Forum (ADF II) in March 2001. ECA activities under this cluster were aimed at sensitizing policy makers on the development challenges posed by HIV/AIDS and other poverty related diseases in order to encourage appropriate policy responses at the national and regional levels.

The activities consisted of preparation of country studies and reports, conducting empirical research and analysis, organizing policy workshops and seminars, and providing technical assistance in support of building the capacity of member States in the implementation of the various commitments made with regard to combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Activities in this area have also benefited from collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations as well as regional organizations such as UNAIDS, WHO, UNIFEM, AU and the World Bank. A hallmark of this collaborative effort was the joint report prepared by ECA, UNAIDS, WHO and AU on the theme, *Leadership for Better Health*. The report underlined the importance of leadership at all levels – in government, civil society, grassroot communities - in stemming the tide of HIV/AIDS and in ensuring a multi-sectoral response in controlling the spread of the disease.

In the area of statistical development, several activities were undertaken aimed at strengthening the capacity of member States for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data in support of the policy and decision-making process at the country level. Particular attention was also given to improving the range and quality of data for tracking progress in the achievement of the MDGs and the priorities of NEPAD. Specific activities undertaken in this regard included the organization of workshops and seminars to highlight best practices and share experiences on the development of indicators for poverty measurement; assistance to member States in the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts and in strengthening the capacity of national statistical agencies for the collection, storage and analyses of household survey and the construction of time series data on important economic and social variables.

The Division organized or participated in several meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops on issues related to its work during the period under review. These included the annual session of the ECA Conference of Ministers held in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2002; an ad hoc experts' group meeting on the feasibility of monetary unions in Africa

held in Accra, Ghana in October 2002; a meeting of the HIV/AIDS focus group which was held as part of the side activities organized during the Third African Development Forum (ADF III) in March 2002; and a training workshop on model-building and forecasting of economic growth in Africa held in Yaounde, Cameroon in June 2002. The Division also launched a series of in-house seminars under the title, *ESPD Seminar Series*, to provide a forum for staff of the secretariat to present papers and key findings of research work in various areas. Since its launch in 2002, a total of sixteen seminars have been held. The workshops have contributed to improving the quality of ECA's analytical work and enhanced its policy relevance for the member States.

In partnership with other agencies of the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF, UNCTAD and WTO, the secretariat provided regional advisory services and other capacity building support to governments and intergovernmental organizations in the area of economic and social policy analysis. Assistance took the form of supporting the member States in the preparation of technical studies focusing on the following priority issues: WTO Agreements; trade and investment; competition policy and government procurement; the impact of the HIPC Initiative; the African debt crises; and strengthening business and commercial ties between African countries and the industrialized countries.

Ensuring food security and sustainable development

ECA activities in the area of enhancing food security and sustainable development were aimed at strengthening the capacity of member States in designing institutional arrangements, policies and programmes to reinforce the linkages among the nexus of food security, population growth and environmental sustainability and raising awareness on the need for holistic treatment of these issues in development planning; promoting awareness on the effective utilization of science and technology to achieve food security and sustainable development; and providing technical assistance in enhancing understanding and management of the complex interactions among the nexus issues.

A wide range of activities were undertaken by the ECA secretariat in support of these objectives. These range from policy analysis and advocacy to actions in support of the implementation of regional and global plans of action. Key highlights of these included the organization of three ad hoc experts group meetings focusing on the implementation of the Dakar-Ngor Declaration (DND) and the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD-PoA) which were held in Addis Ababa in December 2002; and emerging issues in the nexus of population, agriculture and the environment.

Several recurrent and non-recurrent publications were also prepared during the period under review in support of the secretariat's advocacy work on the nexus issues. These included one issue each of the *ESTNET* newsletter and the *Population and Development Bulletin*. Other materials produced included posters on the World Environment Day, 2002.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa and ECA played a central role in the African regional preparatory process for the Summit. In collaboration with other UN agencies, regional and subregional organizations, the secretariat organized several meetings, which were aimed at forging a common position on the issues of sustainable development ahead of the Summit. ECA participated in several side events at the Summit, and coordinated the session on regional

implementation, where it elaborated Africa's major sustainable development challenges and the requirements for action.

In addition to devoting two of the eleven chapters of the *Plan of Implementation* (POI) to Africa and regional initiatives, with specific programmes spelled out for each region, WSSD embraced the regional dimension as an essential element in achieving the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental sustainability, into development planning and poverty reduction strategies. Thus, in elaborating institutional mechanisms at the regional level, the POI emphasized the need to strengthen the capacity of the regional commissions by making sustainable development a key component of their mandate and ensuring effective monitoring of progress in achieving the WSSD outcomes; encourage multi-stakeholder participation in the process; support regional programmes and partnerships using an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach; and monitor and evaluate progress, including follow-up to the Summit outcomes.

As part of efforts to ensure integrated follow-up and implementation of WSSD outcomes in Africa, ECA is currently working on the development of a set of performance indicators to assess progress in achieving sustainable development objectives and its sustainability across countries and sectors. The findings will be published in a new biennial flagship, *Report on Sustainable Development in Africa* which will provide key indicators of sustainable development and livelihood (featuring critical elements of the economic, social, institutional, and environmental dimensions of sustainability), highlight best practices and provide in-depth analyses of selected themes in sustainable development. Ongoing research will also culminate in the following future publications: *State of Food Security in Africa; Land Tenure Systems and their implications for food security in Africa; and state of transition in population, environment and agriculture in Africa.*

Strengthening Development Management

The objective of this subprogramme during the period under review has been to enhance public sector management capacity, promote good governance, and ensure that broad-based stakeholder participation is encouraged in the development process in Africa. The activities undertaken in these thematic areas included a number of seminars, workshops and meetings aimed at facilitating the exchange of experience in good governance; and also research, studies and publications aimed at fostering public-private partnerships (PPPs) and creating an enabling environment for private sector-led growth and development.

The Division is also currently embarking on the preparation of the first *African Governance Report (AGR)* resulting from its work on the *Monitoring and Measuring Progress Towards Good Governance in Africa* project. The report will be an annual flagship publication that aims to establish criteria for measuring and monitoring progress towards good governance in Africa. A major objective of the report is to promote dialogue and build consensus on key issues and to develop, sustain and internalize the norms of good governance in Africa.

As part of work in preparing the report, a set of indicators was developed that focused on the three dimensions of governance - political representation, institutional effectiveness and economic management and corporate governance. Three survey instruments were designed to obtain data and pertinent information with respect to governance in 30 African countries. The countries selected for the study were divided into three clusters, namely phases 1, 2 and 3. The

country reports have been prepared by national institutions tasked to do so based on the three instruments provided. The countries in Phase 1 were Benin, Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Phase 2 included Burkina Faso, Gabon, The Gambia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Phase 2 also included Cote d'Ivoire, however the appointed institution has advised that it may not be able to implement the project in that country because of the state of unrest there. The countries involved in Phase 3 included Cameroon, Chad, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger and Rwanda. According to the current work plan for the production of the AGR, the first draft of the report is expected to be ready by June 2003. This draft will be subjected to series of peer reviews, both internally and externally, before publication.

The secretariat also participated in or organized several meetings, seminars and workshops on topics related to good governance and public sector management in the period under review. In May 2002, ECA in collaboration with UNDP organized the fifth Africa Governance Forum (AGF V) in Maputo, Mozambique on the theme, ***Local Governance for Poverty Reduction in Africa***. The forum brought together government officials, partners and representatives of civil society and the private sector to discuss the links between local governance and poverty reduction.

In February 2002, ECA participated in the ad hoc Expert Group meeting organized by the Division of Public Administration and Development Management of DESA in Bahia, Brazil on the theme ***Innovations in Governance and Public Administration for Poverty Reduction***. It was organized to serve as a forum for discussion, exploration and cross-fertilization of experience and ideas among leading experts and practitioners in the field of public administration. The final session of the meeting on ***The Way Forward – Recommendations of the Meeting and Setting Priorities for the Future*** was chaired by ECA. ECA also participated in the Fourth Global Forum held in Marrakech, Morocco in December 2002 where it presented a paper, entitled, ***Analytical and Monitoring Tools*** which focused on its work on the development of indicators for monitoring and assessing governance. The main objective of the forum was to explore new mechanisms that can lead to viable and innovative governance solutions based on the principles of dialogue and partnership.

In April 2003, ECA participated in the ninth annual Harvard International Development Conference held in Boston and also in the UNDESA /ECOSOC meetings on Public Administration in New York. The Harvard International Development Conference is an annual event that is organized by the graduate students and faculty members of the Kennedy School of Government (KSG) and the theme this year was ***Governance and Development in a Dynamic Global Environment***. ECA made a presentation at the panel session on ***Regional Approaches to Good Governance***. At the UNDESA meetings, the Committee of Experts tackled such topics as strategies for high-quality staffing in the public sector and the role of public administration in mainstreaming poverty reduction strategies within the MDGS.

Several meetings were also organized during the period under review focusing on the role of CSOs in NEPAD. These included the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee of the African Centre for Civil Society (ACCS) held in Addis Ababa in March 2002; and the consultative meeting of representatives of civil society which was also held in Addis Ababa in June 2002. Both meetings were attended by ECA and the discussions focused on how to facilitate the participation of CSOs in the African Union (AU) and NEPAD. ECA also attended the Inter-Agency Task Force for the preparation of the first OAU/AU Ministerial Conference

on drug control and crime prevention held in Addis Ababa, in May 2002. A paper, jointly prepared with UNDP on *Poverty and Drug* was presented at the meeting.

Upon request from the Government of Sierra Leone, the secretariat fielded a technical advisory mission to that country to provide assistance to the Government in the formulation of national policies for the energy and water sectors. The advisory team presented the Government with a broad set of recommendations under the theme, *Good Governance, Energy and Water and Sanitation*.

In recognition of the complementary roles of the public and private sectors in sustainable development, the ECA secretariat organized an ad hoc Expert Group meeting on the theme, *Improving the Policy Framework for Private-Public Partnerships* in Addis Ababa in November 2002. The aim of the meeting was to review public-private partnerships (PPPs) in Africa and to identify and evaluate best practices in this area. A number of case studies were identified such as the *Stutterheim Affirmage* project in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa and the *Water and Sanitation Services* project in Gweru, Zimbabwe. A number of recommendations for improvement were made and it was generally agreed that PPPs would thrive in an enabling environment. Such an environment requires reforms, a stable international political environment, good governance and transparency.

Harnessing information for development

With growing awareness of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as the main defining element of the new economy, ECA provides assistance to its member States in building capacities to create an enabling environment for harnessing ICTs to achieve accelerated growth and development. An increasingly important tool for achieving these objectives is the National Information and Communications Infrastructure (NICI) policies and plans which articulate long-term policy, infrastructure content and application strategies as an integral part of overall national development programmes.

During the period under review, the ECA secretariat continued to play a key role in assisting member States in the development of their NICI plans. As a result of this assistance, NICI plans were launched in three countries – Ghana, Mali and Niger; sectoral plans for Ethiopia; and a pilot e-government initiative in the Gambia.

ECA also played a significant role in organizing the African Regional Preparatory Conference to the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) which was held in Bamako, Mali in May 2002. The Conference was aimed at promoting a common understanding and vision on the benefits to be derived by Africa from the information society, and Africa's contributions to the development of the information society. The Conference adopted the *Bamako Declaration* which provides the blueprint for Africa's participation in the forthcoming WSIS, and served as a key input to the first global preparatory meeting in Geneva in July 2002. Follow-up activities to Bamako 2002 included the establishment of an electronic discussion forum and the organization of training workshops which brought together relevant stakeholders to help define their respective roles and contribution to the development of the new information society.

Other important activities undertaken in the area of ICTs development and applications included a workshop on ICTs and higher education held in July 2002, in collaboration with the Four Foundations Partnership on Higher Education, namely Carnegie, Ford, MacArthur and

Rockefeller Foundations. In addition to strengthening existing partnerships through established networks like the African Stakeholders Network and the United Nations ICTs Task Force, some new partnerships were established. These included foundations such as the Open Society Institute for Southern and West Africa (OSISA/OSIWA); Communications Assistance Foundation (CAF); and the International Institute for Communications and Development (IICD).

The secretariat also launched a major outreach and communications programme to raise awareness about the objectives of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI). The major outputs of the programme included a radio series, a media award, briefing papers, a bulletin on ICTs policies in Africa (*Connect Africa*), and electronic discussion fora focusing on ICT policy-making on e-governance.

In the field of geoinformation, the secretariat played a vital role in the establishment of National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) and has quickly established itself as a major geoinformation knowledge hub, with the establishment of geoinformation clearing house node which provides the space for member States to publicize their metadata holdings. It will also continue to serve as a source of geographic information in support of research work undertaken by other ECA Divisions. The secretariat also provided technical assistance to member States in strengthening their capacity for managing geoinformation for decision-making. Nigeria, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Botswana and South Africa benefited from technical assistance in this area.

Most of the activities undertaken in the area of library and technical information services were mainly geared towards preparing for the launch of the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN) which was conceived in 2001 as a platform for sharing development information and knowledge about Africa. The activities included the establishment of an Advisory Committee to provide direction and guidance on the initiative.

To underscore the growing importance of timely and accurate information for effective decision-making and policy analyses, and as a follow-up to CODI II, the ECA secretariat organized the Third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI III) in Addis Ababa from 10 to 16 May 2003 on the theme, *Information and Governance*. The meeting drew participants from national statistics offices, population agencies, university libraries, telecommunications agencies, national mapping agencies, archives and documentation centres and geoinformation management organizations. The discussions underscored the importance of information and good governance in Africa, and made recommendations on strategies for harnessing information to enhance good governance practices in Africa.

As part of activities during CODI III, the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Secretariat and the ECA secretariat jointly organized the second GKP Africa Day on 13 May 2003 which focused on, among other things, ICT and governance experiences in different African countries, strategies for promoting e-governance in Africa, progress on ICT policies, and information and knowledge developments. As a key component of the GKP Africa Day-2, the GKP market place was held to showcase best practices in the use of ICTs.

Other major highlights of CODI III included the presentation of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) Media Awards to media practitioners and organizations who have made significant contributions to the development of ICTs and the information society in Africa. The awards series is an initiative of ECA and is supported by OSIWA, OSISA, IICD

and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. This year's awards went to 11 individuals and organizations from 11 African countries in different categories.

Promoting the advancement of women

The gender dimensions of poverty is particularly acute in Africa, where women find themselves marginalized in the economic and social development process. As a result of this, poverty alleviation policies and strategies need to be geared towards empowering women to participate meaningfully in the development process, and close the gender gap as a step towards addressing the poverty problem in Africa. Although, significant progress has been achieved in improving the status of African women, there is still a large gap between rhetoric and actions to maintain the momentum of this progress.

Over the years, ECA has sought to contribute to promoting the advancement of women in the economic and social development process through training, research, awareness-raising, and dissemination of information on women's issues. ECA has worked closely with national machineries to build the institutional and technical capacity of member States in the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive policies and programmes.

During the period under review, the activities undertaken were aimed at promoting the integration of gender concerns into the policies, programmes and structures of member States in order to achieve the goal of gender equality set by the global and regional platforms for action and other gender-related commitments. In this regard, much effort and resources have been devoted to the development of appropriate tools and instruments for measuring progress in attaining the priorities identified in the twelve critical areas of concern of the Platforms for Action. A key tool for achieving these objectives is the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI), a new tool for measuring the extent of gender inequality and the effectiveness of policies aimed at minimizing and eliminating those inequalities. Work in developing the index has gone through several crucial stages, and is heading into a new phase in 2003, with trials of the index in 13 selected countries. The results of this work will be reported through two forthcoming publications, the *African Women's Report, 2002-2003* and the country *Gender Profiles*. The index will also serve as a tool for promoting political awareness of gender issues.

The Beijing Declaration (1995) identified women's unpaid or non-market work as a key area of concern. In addition, the United Nations Statistical Commission has also recommended that national statistical offices prepare accounts for unpaid work based on time-use surveys. Although, time-use surveys are widely used in many developed countries to capture the contribution of women's unpaid work in national accounts, it is often ignored in the budgetary and national accounting processes of African countries. ECA's work in this area is aimed at promoting awareness of member States and strengthening their capacity for the integration of women's unpaid work into national accounts and budgetary processes. A key accomplishment in this respect was the adoption of a Ministerial Statement by the thirty-fifth session of the Conference of Ministers in Johannesburg in October 2002, which endorsed the recommendations of the meeting of the Committee on Women and Development (also held in Johannesburg in October 2002) urging member States to increase the use of time-use surveys to measure and integrate women's unpaid work into national planning instruments as a step towards poverty reduction.

As part of efforts to enhance information dissemination and communication outreach on gender-related issues, the secretariat launched a bulletin, *GenderNet*, during the period under

review. The publication, which was produced in both English and French, provided a comprehensive review of the major activities and programmes of ECA in the area of gender and development. Together with the up-dated website, this publication will facilitate knowledge and information-sharing on gender-related issues.

ECA's support to member States in enhancing the economic empowerment of women continued through the operationalization of two subregional enterprise development facilities (EDFs) for women established in 1998 in Lome, Togo (for the West Africa subregion) and Kampala, Uganda (for the Eastern Africa subregion). A website on this initiative is under construction and will soon be launched to provide African women entrepreneurs with access to information and enhance their business skills and economic empowerment.

Promoting regional cooperation and integration

The period under review was marked by a strengthening of the regional integration process through the activities of the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division (RCID). The Division continued its work as a catalyst for promoting regional cooperation and integration in Africa, focusing mainly on policy issues, infrastructure development and related services in transport and communications, minerals, energy and water resources sectors.

These efforts were underpinned by enhanced support to the regional economic communities (RECs) in building their capacities for the implementation of the Abuja Treaty which established the African Economic community (AEC). In this context, several policy-relevant studies were undertaken by the ECA secretariat. Highlights include a study on the harmonization of fiscal policies which focused on the structural rigidities inherent in African economies which make the harmonization process difficult; a study on convergence of the programmes of the RECs with the objectives and programme for the establishment of the AEC; a study on macroeconomic and monetary convergence in selected regional integration groupings, using COMESA as a case study. Other key studies undertaken included two feasibility studies on the establishment of free trade areas for both the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Community of Sahel and Sahara States (CEN-SAD). In addition, preparatory work on the second issue of the periodic *Assessment Report on Integration in Africa (ARIA)* began. The report will focus on the policy and institutional challenges of regional integration in Africa, with emphasis on the rationalization of the RECs towards achieving effective regional integration of the continent.

In the area of transport and communications, the secretariat organized and participated in several policy meetings and workshops, where it presented policy framework papers and the findings of major studies. These included a study focusing on e-commerce, human resources development and the transport of dangerous goods which will be presented for validation by an ad hoc experts' group meeting scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa in October 2003; the final evaluation of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACD II) programme which reviewed the impact of the implementation of the programme on transport and communications development in Africa; and a progress report on the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the liberalization of air transport in Africa. Other notable accomplishments in the area of transport and communications included support to member States in integrating the new air transport policy into their national transport programmes and support to some RECs (COMESA, SADC and EAC) in the adoption of competition rules for air transport liberalization in the three subregions. In addition, the secretariat played a key role in the formulation of the infrastructure component of NEPAD, and

was designated as the secretariat for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision.

In the area of mineral and energy resources development, the secretariat organized several workshops and meetings, and worked closely with other organizations in strengthening regional cooperation as well as enhancing public-private partnerships in the development of these sectors. Highlights of the activities undertaken in this area included seminars on the management of mineral wealth in Africa held in Lusaka in August 2002; a workshop on the establishment of an African Mining Network, organized in collaboration with UNCTAD in February 2003 which identified a number of broad themes and potential areas of work of the network; and a seminar on artisanal and small-scale mining in Africa which was organized in collaboration with UN-DESA in Yaounde, Cameroon in November 2002, with the objective of supporting member States in integrating small-scale mining activities into their poverty reduction strategies and programmes. Other activities carried out in the area of minerals resources development included the preparation of a *Compendium of Best Practices in Small-scale Mining in Africa*.

In the area of energy resources development, the activities undertaken by the secretariat were aimed at promoting regional and international cooperation for the development of the sector. In this context, two reports were prepared: *Assessment of power pooling arrangements in Africa*; and prototypes of framework documents on rural electrification. The secretariat also provided technical assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone in the formulation of a national energy and water policy.

In the area of water resources development, the secretariat contributed to organizing and servicing the ninth annual meeting of the Inter-agency Group on Water in Africa (IGWA) which was held in Nairobi in December 2002. The consultative meetings for the National Report Writers of the African Water Development Report from West and North Africa were held in Addis Ababa during the period under review. ECA also contributed to the launch of the African Water Facility at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002 through substantive inputs to the preparations and conduct of the Water Dome parallel event held during the Summit. Other meetings in which ECA participated or contributed to included a workshop on water supply and sanitation in poverty reduction strategies organized by the World Bank in Nairobi in June 2002; the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Water Partnership (GWP); the thirteenth session of the Africa Regional Association on Hydrology organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Mbabane, Swaziland in December 2002; and the various regional preparatory meetings to WSSD. Furthermore ECA in partnership with other United Nations agencies began implementation of a major programme, *Institutional Strengthening of the Inter-agency Group on Water in Africa for implementing the African Water Vision* funded by the Government of The Netherlands to highlight the role of water resources in promoting regional integration.

Supporting subregional activities for development

The activities of this subprogramme were implemented by ECA's Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs) which were re-named Subregional Offices (SROs) during the period under review. Located in the five subregions of the continent, the SROs provide a vital link between the ECA Headquarters and the various regional economic communities (RECs) at the subregional level, thereby strengthening ECA's outreach. They also provide a subregional

dimension to ECA's policy analytical work by identifying, defining, developing and implementing regional and globally-agreed initiatives or strategies that are integral to ECA's overall vision and mandate.

In addition, the SROs collaborate with other UN agencies in their respective subregions within the context of the United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the CCA/UNDAF in the implementation of operational activities at the national level.

A major priority in the work of the SROs during the period under review related to providing support to member States and the RECs in translating the priorities and objectives of NEPAD into concrete projects and programmes at the country level, and in popularizing NEPAD to ensure that its implementation is more participatory. The following section highlights the major achievements of each of the SROs during the period under review.

ECA-North Africa

The Office focused primarily on the implementation of two core activities, namely, the organization of a forum on human capital and the meeting of its Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE). The priority issue of human capital in the subregion was addressed from three perspectives: (i) training and youth employment; (ii) youth and entrepreneurship; and (iii) the Euro-Mediterranean perspective. This task was a culmination of previous undertakings on the development of labor markets in North Africa, including a related long-term perspective study.

ECA-NA, in collaboration with ECE and ESCWA, organized an interregional preparatory seminar in Geneva in January 2003 on the role of electronic business in capacity building in the Mediterranean. Several countries from the three regions attended the seminar.

ECA-West Africa

The Office strengthened its collaboration with major intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and other UN agencies during the period under review. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) continued to receive support in the following areas: capacity - building for gender mainstreaming; macroeconomic convergence criteria and monetary integration; and in the area of ICTs development. Cooperation with Union Economiqué et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA) was also strengthened in the development of a programme on agriculture. SRO-WA also played an important role in the preparation of a strategic plan for the West African Health Organization (WAHO), a specialized institution of ECOWAS. In addition, the Office was actively involved in the programme of assistance on post - conflict reconstruction in the Mano River Basin countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which was launched in 2000.

ECA-Central Africa

The main achievements of the Office included the finalization of a study on a transport master plan for the subregion as well as a study on financing infrastructure development. These two studies will be presented at the Special Event on transport scheduled to take place during the first half of 2003. Other significant accomplishments are the report on economic and social conditions in Central Africa and two books entitled, *The Challenges of NEPAD and African Development, and The Status of Regional Integration in Central Africa*. These publications are in high demand as they have become major reference documents in the subregion and

beyond. In addition, the Office provided support to the Government of Cameroon in the preparation of its PRSPs, and at the request of three member States, is in the process of elaborating some of the NEPAD priorities.

ECA-East Africa

The Office pursued NEPAD-related activities within, *inter-alia*, the Great Lakes post-conflict reconstruction, recovery and development initiative, focusing on the areas of infrastructure, human resources, food security and institutional development. These activities were undertaken in cooperation with WHO, UNESCO and FAO. In the same vein, the Office prepared a number of studies on the implications of the WTO agreements and the EU/ACP Cotonou partnership agreement for countries in the subregion. The Office was also involved in the preparation of studies and follow - up activities in the areas of Natural Resources, Accounting and the promotion of agro-forestry as a PEDDA application model; as well as building capacities on new approaches in sustainable development policy formulation. Other major achievements of SRO-EA included (i) providing assistance to Rwanda in area of ICTs development and in the implementation of its NICI plans and strategies; and (ii) in Gender mainstreaming activities. The Office provided assistance in the re-structuring of the secretariat of the Northern Corridor Transport and Transit Agreement (NCTTA); and initiated the assessment of the Central and Northern Tier Corridors, covering Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, within the framework of the Eastern Africa Transport Master Plan Project. This work served as a major input to the African Regional Preparatory meeting held in Addis Ababa in May 2003.

ECA-Southern Africa

During the period under review, the ECA Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) devoted much effort and time to the preparation of parliamentary documents for its ICE meeting and a special event on ICTs and Governance. Other major achievements included the preparation of the ***Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa***, which focused on the economic impact of environmental degradation; the ***Southern Africa Development Bulletin***, which was devoted to elaborating key issues related to NEPAD; and ***Labour Markets and Employment in Southern Africa***, which was reviewed by an ad hoc experts group meeting and its major recommendations adopted by the Southern African Development Community's Employment and Labour Sector (SADC - ELS) Committee of Ministers and Social Partners; and a report on the evaluation of the project on the ***Promotion of the Informal Sector for Development in Africa***.

Several countries in the subregion and IGOs received technical assistance in addressing a number of challenges: Namibia in the design of a national gender mainstreaming programme; Zambia in strengthening of its national machinery on gender issues; and Uganda and Zambia on the African Peer Review Mechanism of NEPAD. Technical assistance was also provided to Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in developing an Infrastructure Master Plan, a framework for assessing the impact of HIV/AIDS in smallholder agriculture, and in the formulation of human resources development programmes. Both SADC and COMESA received support in the development of a joint long-term development plan for the Sub-Sahara African Transport Policy Programme (SSATP); vehicle axle load control programme and road safety for the Beira Corridor. Cooperation with several UN agencies was further strengthened during the period. With ILO in the areas of ICTs and employment; UNCTAD in the establishment of an African Mining Network; and UNDP in promoting the

Zambia-Malawi-Mozambique Growth Triangle Project; the informal sector development project in Zambia; attaining the priorities of NEPAD and the MDGs.

B. SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

ECA has a mandate to assist its member States and their institutions in developing and strengthening capacities to design and implement development policies and programmes through technical cooperation activities. In this sense, ECA's technical cooperation activities are a useful complement to its regular activities.

Technical cooperation, which takes the form of on-demand regional advisory services; training workshops and seminars; fellowships; and field projects are geared towards supporting national capacity building in addressing critical development challenges. The ECA team of regional advisers, deployed in the various programme Divisions, undertakes advisory missions and provides technical assistance to requesting member States in addressing clearly defined policy and technical challenges in different sectors. There is also a strong focus on the needs of countries emerging from conflict.

During the period under review, ECA responded to a number of requests for technical assistance in areas covering the entire spectrum of its work programme, taking into account the priorities and objectives of NEPAD, the Millennium Declaration as well as the outcomes of major global conferences. The main areas of focus included external debt management; management of national statistical systems; promoting the economic empowerment of women; and promoting women's legal and human rights.

In the area of external debt management, assistance took the form of training in strengthening capacity for debt management. In this regard, the secretariat organized two regional training bringing together senior officials of national debt management offices? one at the Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) in Dakar, Senegal in June 2002; and another at the Ecole Supérieure de Banque in Algiers, Algeria in September 2002.

In the area of customs reforms and modernization, assistance was provided to the Secretariats of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in the harmonization of their customs clearance procedures as a means of facilitating trade flows between the two subregions.

Advisory services in the area of statistics focused on assistance to member States in strengthening capacities for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data in support of the decision-making process at the country level, particularly as it relates to attaining the goals of the Millennium Declaration and NEPAD. In this context, assistance was provided to several member States in the assessment of their statistical capacities as well as in the development and adoption of international guidelines for poverty measurement and the use of household surveys.

In the area of promoting economic empowerment of women, two regional NGOs, the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) and Women in the Economy: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) received assistance in addressing issues related to women's socio-economic empowerment and enhancing the role of women in the informal economy.

Within the context of promoting women's legal and human rights, the secretariat provided assistance to several member States, IGOs, and NGOs in the implementation of their National Action Plans on promoting the legal status of women, and promoting awareness of international and national human rights instruments. Assistance in this regard was provided to the Governments of Niger and Burundi, and the International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa. Assistance was also provided to the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights in Africa in the elaboration of the plan of action on women's rights education and the administration of justice. Several member States and IGOs also received assistance in capacity building for mainstreaming gender concerns into national policies and programmes, as well as in monitoring and evaluating progress in the implementation of the global and regional Platforms for Action. In this regard, a training workshop was organized by the secretariat in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in June 2002.

CHAPTER IV

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, INCLUDING THE ICES OF ECA'S OFFICES IN THE SUBREGIONS

The intergovernmental machinery of the Commission consists of organs focused on overall development issues and subsidiary/sectoral bodies. The number of organs and subsidiary bodies has been rationalized pursuant to the decisions of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at its Thirty-Fifth session held in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2002 to reorganize the subsidiary organs of the Commission. The current intergovernmental machinery is as follows

(a) Organs dealing with overall development issues:

- (i) The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

The Conference meets annually in accordance with the decision of its thirty-fourth session held in Algiers, Algeria, in May 2001. The Conference is preceded by an intergovernmental group of experts.

- (ii) Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICES) of ECA's five offices in the subregions. Each ICE meets annually and reports to the Commission through the intergovernmental group of experts.

During the period under review all the five Offices in the subregions held their respective ICES meetings.

(b) Subsidiary/sectoral bodies

- (i) The Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration (CRCI)
- (ii) The Committee on Women, Gender and Development (CWGD)
- (iii) The Committee on Development Information (CODI)
- (iv) The Committee on Human Development and Civil Society (CHDCS)
- (v) The Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD)
- (vi) The Committee on Industry and Private Sector (CIPS)

All the above sectoral bodies meet in ordinary session once every two years. The biennial meeting of the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration and of the Committee on Women and Development were held in March 2002 and October 2002, respectively in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Johannesburg, South Africa. The outcomes of the deliberations of these two committee meetings were presented to the last session of the Commission. Out of the remaining four planned sectoral meetings, the Committee on

Development Information (CODI) and that on Human Development and Civil Society held their biennial meetings, from 10 to 17 May 2003 and 26 to 27 May 2003, respectively, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The discussions, decisions and major recommendations adopted at the meetings of the subsidiary organs that met since the last session of the Commission are summarized below.

1. The Committee on Human Development and Civil Society (CHDCS)

The second meeting of the Committee on Human Development and Civil Society of the ECA was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26-27 May 2003. UNAIDS collaborated with the ECA as part of the Commission's ongoing UN inter-agency cooperation and partnerships. It was attended by experts from the Civil Society, as well as from the Public and Private Sectors. The deliberations focused on the theme, "Participation and Partnership in Africa's Development" which, particularly, underscored the importance of participation and partnership as the basis for addressing issues related to ethics and accountability in public service delivery; HIV/AIDS; and the special development needs of countries emerging from conflict.

Specific recommendations were made on how to forge partnerships between African governments, development partners and other stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS, at the national and regional levels. These recommendations will serve as the basis for providing a regional input to the informal high-level panel discussion on HIV/AIDS to be held at the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2003.

A framework for enhancing and promoting participation and partnerships was developed, which will, among other things, create modalities for dissemination of "best practices", within and without the continent, institutional reforms and capacity building initiatives needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals, by 2015. In addition, a list of indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of this framework was developed at the meeting.

2. The Committee on Development Information (CODI)

Building upon the technical deliberations and outcomes of the first and second meetings of CODI, the third session of the Committee (CODI-III), which was held under the theme "Information and Governance", reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of CODI-II and discussed strategies for harnessing information for good governance in Africa.

The meeting also discussed and recommended strategies for sustained resourcing and maintenance of information services, systems and institutions to make relevant information available and accessible to decision makers and the general public in a form that is ready for use. More specifically, the meeting made the following key recommendations:

- (a) ECA should establish a framework for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for Africa in the use of ICT-enabled equitable development;
- (b) Member States should adopt a process for assessing the statistical capacity of member States. Initially, volunteer countries should undertake the testing and adoption of tools and processes for peer review of statistical capacity for

adoption as part of the NEPAD commitment support by an expert group provided by UNECA/PARIS21;

- (c) Member States, ECA and the international community should promote coordinated ICT initiatives to narrow the digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world with the objective of establishing a digital solidarity fund for Africa;
- (d) CODI should develop a coordinated task group to integrate and publish common policies and technical strategies in order to optimize access to development information;
- (e) CODI should convene a multidisciplinary and multinational work group to formalize data models and access methods that address both data provider and consumer needs for geographic and statistical information in support of NEPAD.

3. The Sixth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICEs) for West Africa

The Sixth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa was organized at Banjul, The Gambia, from 22 to 24 May 2003.

The ICE meeting reviewed the activity report of ECA Office in West Africa during the period June 2002 to May 2003 and a number of technical publications, including the Report of the Economic and Social Conditions in West Africa (2003); the Status of Food Security and Sustainable Development in West Africa; Mainstreaming Gender Perspective in National Policies and Programmes; Status Report on the Implementation of National Information and Communication Infrastructures Plans (NICIs) in West African countries; Biotechnologies Applications in Agro-industries and Development of Small and Medium-scale Industries; Progress Report on the Application of Macroeconomic Convergence Criteria and Status of the Creation of a Single Monetary Zone in West Africa; and Development Challenges of Management of Water Resources in West Africa.

On statutory issues, the ICE reviewed the proposed programme of work of the Office for the biennium 2004-2005, the status report on the implementation of the Peace Programme for the Mano River Union countries, as well as the orientation and implementation plans for the second phase of the programme. The meeting was also briefed on major initiatives and programme developments at the Commission; preparations for the Forth edition of the African Development Forum (ADF IV), including schedules and modalities for the organization of a subregional pre-ADF workshop on Governance. Participants were also provided with the text of the public lecture on "Regional Cooperation and Integration in West Africa: A critical assessment" that was undertaken during the Fifth ICE meeting held in Niamey, Niger, in June 2002. The public lecture was given by the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS.

On the same subject, the ICEs took note of two major conflict-related initiatives under way in ECA Office in West Africa, namely: the Development for Peace Programme in the Mano River Union; and the study on the economic implications of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for discussing the implementation modalities of NEPAD, with special emphasis on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

4. The Eighteenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICEs) for North Africa

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for North Africa was organized in Tangier, Morocco, from 16 to 18 May 2003.

The meeting considered reports dealing with the following thematic issues: Activities during the 2002-2003 biennium and programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium; economic and social conditions including a special study of the private sector in North Africa; regional cooperation and integration focusing on the trade dimension; status of food security and sustainable development; mainstreaming gender perspectives in national policies and programmes; progress in the implementation of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans in North African countries; combating drought and desertification in North Africa.

The Committee made the following main observations and recommendations:

- (a) The special study of the private sector was very important for the subregion and an in-depth analysis of the sector had to be continued along with the study of the evolving role of the State;
- (b) On subregional integration and cooperation issues, ECA Office in North Africa should undertake the following:
 - i. A review of choices and strategies that can be pursued in the context of many and overlapping Free Trade Zones;
 - ii. Focus research on the integration of production systems;
 - iii. Study the question of making the participation of member States in the WTO negotiations more effective; and
- (c) Organize a meeting of experts on gender issues to enable exchange of experiences and develop a strategy for education, communication and information in the area of gender.

5. The Twenty-First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICEs) for Central Africa

The Twenty-First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for Central Africa was held in Yaounde, Cameroon from 15 to 17 April 2003.

The meeting addressed the following issues in the subregion: progress in the implementation of ECA programmes at the subregional and regional levels; status of regional integration; assessment of physical integration; and state of governance in the countries of the subregion. The meeting also reviewed the report on the economic and social conditions in the subregion.

The Committee made the following major observations and recommendations:

- (d) As a means of popularizing NEPAD, ECA should highlight in all its technical publications key activities undertaken in support of the implementation of the initiative continent-wide;
- (e) The Report on the Economic and Social Conditions should systematically include an analysis of the status of gender mainstreaming in national policies and programmes;
- (f) The next edition of the report on economic and social conditions (2004) should devote an important section to the issue of labour market and employment in the subregion. Equally important to the subregion would be the assessment of the contribution of the oil sector to the overall economic growth of the subregion (2005);
- (g) ECA should undertake a study on intersectoral dynamics so as to assist member States in identifying conditions under which the economies of the subregion could best attain structural maturity;
- (h) ECA should take advantage of ICE meetings to assess progress made in advancing regional integration in the subregion for wider dissemination of the conclusions of the meeting in this respect. This may be used by ECA as an important evaluation tool for the preparation of its Assessment Report on Integration in Africa (ARIA);
- (i) In order to assist research institutions operating in the subregion in their outreach activities, ECA should prepare a compendium outlining their respective mandates, programmes of work and budgets for wider dissemination within and without the subregion.

6. The Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICEs) for Southern Africa

The Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for Southern Africa was held from 24 to 26 February 2003 in Maseru, Lesotho.

The meeting considered several reports dealing with a broad range of sectoral and thematic issues in the Southern Africa subregion. These issues included progress in the implementation of ECA programmes at the subregional and regional levels; key economic and social developments with special reference to the impact of environmental degradation; status of regional cooperation and integration; status of governance; mainstreaming gender perspectives in national policies and programmes; status of food security and sustainable development; progress in the implementation of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans; skills development in the mining sector; strategies for women's access to and ownership of land; and promotion of the informal sector for development.

The Committee recommended that:

- (a) The Report on the Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa should contain disaggregated sectoral statistics so as to reflect the contribution of each

sector to GDP, with special emphasis on the performance by the Agriculture sector;

The report should also address the critical issues of income distribution and access to social services in the context of poverty reduction strategies;

- (b) Sensitization workshops considering the critical importance of public awareness of the role of the NEPAD initiative and its interrelation with the African Union should be organized with substantive support from the ECA;
- (c) In order for government and development partners to address gender issues effectively, data and information on gender would need to be developed at country level;
- (d) Recognizing the importance of attaining food security, the methods of agricultural production should be revolutionalized in a manner consistent with NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. A Marshal Plan would be needed to transform Africa's agriculture;
- (e) The Joint COMESA and SADC ICT Task Force should look into the possibility of harmonizing the programme of the two institutions;
- (f) Customary laws should be harmonized with those of the State with respect to land tenure and inheritance provisions, so that they could both address issues of gender equality and gender equity objectives. This harmonization should also include enabling laws and instruments to implement it.

7. The Seventh Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICEs) for East Africa

The seventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for East Africa was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 7 to 10 October 2002.

The meeting addressed the following issues: the economic and social conditions in East Africa, including the regional cooperation and integration processes within the existing subregional groupings; conflict resolution across Eastern Africa; participation of the subregion in the NEPAD process and related initiatives; and gender related issues. The meeting also considered some policy issues, including proposals for reinforcing statistical capabilities in the subregion and an agenda for capacity building in natural resources accounting.

The main observations and recommendations made by Committee revolved essentially around the need for ECA to continue lending its support to the subregion in the following areas:

- (a) Assessing the costs of conflicts so as to sensitize member-countries and partners on the need to prevent resumption of such crises and to promote a culture of peace. The need for a consolidated post-conflict agenda for recovery, growth and development in the subregion was underscored, including the strengthening of the Great Lakes Initiative;

- (b) Charting out directions for fostering regional cooperation and integration processes amongst the existing regional economic groupings. In this regard, the need for the RECs to harmonize their trade liberalization schemes and member States to fully integrate their commitments to regional groupings into their national policies, programmes and priorities was recognized; and
- (c) Strengthening the participation of the subregion in the NEPAD process, especially in the areas of governance and the evolving role of the States and infrastructure development, particularly in the area of harmonizing transit regulations along existing corridors.