

**Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee
of Experts (ICE)**

**Theme: “Enhancing Food Security
in the Eastern African Subregion**

**Progress report on the implementation of regional and international
agendas including NEPAD, MDG’s and other special initiatives
in the subregion**

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AfT	Aid-for-Trade
AMCF4D	African Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development
AMESD	African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
CAFRAD	African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development
CET	Common external tariff
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
CLIMDEV	Climate for Development in Africa Programme
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	East African Community
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
FTA	Free Trade Area
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICGLR	Intergovernmental Conference on the Great Lakes Region
ICPAT	Igad Capacity-building Programme against Terrorism
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
ILC	International Land Coalition
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NCTTCA	Transit Transport Coordination Authority of the Northern Corridor
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OSIWA	Open Society Initiative for West Africa
OSSREA	Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PRS/MDGs-LG	African Learning Group on Poverty Reduction Strategies and the Millennium Development Goals
RCM	Regional Coordination Mechanism
RECs	Regional economic communities
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN-Habitat	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, would channel its support to Africa's development. In this regard, the UN system developed a comprehensive structure at the global, regional and country levels to support the initiative and ensure maximum results. In its capacity as the regional arm of the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was assigned the responsibility for coordinating UN support to NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels (General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 2002). To this end, the Regional Consultation Mechanism (RCM) was established in 2002 for the purpose of coordinating all United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of NEPAD, and ECA was designated coordinator. Thematic clusters, based on the priorities of NEPAD, were created within the framework of the RCM. These clusters have undergone continuous reconfiguration to effectively support the implementation of NEPAD. Currently, there are nine thematic clusters as follows:

- Infrastructure Development, convened by ECA;
- Governance, convened by UNDP;
- Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development, convened by FAO;
- Environment, Population and Urbanization, convened by UN-Habitat;
- Human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS, convened by UNICEF;
- Science and technology, convened by UNESCO;
- Advocacy and communications, convened by the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA);
- Peace and Security, convened by the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA); and
- Industry, Trade and Market Access, convened by UNIDO.

2. However, present report will review some activities undertaken within six thematic clusters.

3. Regarding Africa's performance on the implementation of the MDGs, recent surveys conducted by the United Nations and other organizations have shown that despite significant efforts made on public policy reforms, a great majority of African countries will not achieve these objectives by 2015. The third section of the report highlights the level of achievement on MDGs which remains disquieting in many East African countries. In the framework of NEPAD agenda, Eastern African countries acknowledge the need for peace and security as a precondition for sustainable development. Major initiatives in this regard have been succeeded in the subregion notably by Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Intergovernmental Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) who are more than ever determinedly engaged in the peaceful settlement of conflicts in several countries.

4. The overall aim of the report is to inform ECA member States of the subregion on the UN system-wide support to the AU and its NEPAD programme during 2009. The report also features the main outcomes of the five RCM and highlights issues and recommendations on implementation of the multi-year programme in this subregion.

II. ACTIVITIES TAKEN UNDER THE NEPAD PROGRAMME

2.1 Governance

2.1.1 The status of APRM acceded countries

5. In 2009, ECA undertook a number of activities in support of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process and the African Governance Forum (AGF). In close collaboration with ECA and African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided consultative services at high level and participated on regular basis in the NEPAD steering Committee meetings; the Heads of States and Government meetings, as well as to the Africa Partnership Forum (APF). UNDP also supported the implementation of two important initiatives, namely: the Strategic Framework for Capacity-building and the *Advocacy and Communications Strategy for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)*. UNDP, ECA and AfDB also provided financial contribution, advisory and consultative services in support of the APRM Secretariat for the implementation of the APRM process in many countries. So far:

- Twenty-nine AU member countries have acceded to the APRM process. These are Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
- Fifteen out of the 29 have launched the process by receiving support missions and follow-up support missions, namely: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda.
- Fourteen of the fifteen have completed the APRM process: all the above except Ethiopia.
- Out of the above fourteen, twelve countries, namely Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda, have now completed the APRM Review process and have gone through the Heads of State Peer Review.

2.1.2 The Ad Hoc Experts Group Meeting on “Assessing the efficiency and impact of national anti-corruption institutions in Africa”

6. In partnership with the ECA/GPAD, and with the collaboration of the Bureau for Development Policy of the UNDP, New York, SRO-EA facilitated the Ad-Hoc Expert Group Meeting (AEGM) on “*Assessing the efficiency and impact of national anti-corruption institutions in Africa*” held from 16 to 17 February 2009 in Kigali, Rwanda. The meeting was well attended by participants including heads and officials of national anti-corruption institutions, civil society, academia, media practitioners, members of parliament, international and regional institutions like the African Union Commission, CAFRAD, UNDP, and the UNODC.

7. Among major outcomes achieved, the meeting provided data, information and policy recommendations towards:

- Enhancing technical capacity of anti-corruption institutions/agencies to combat corruption both in the public and private sectors;
- Strengthening institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks of member States;
- Enhancing public transparency, external checks and balances on government and improve efficiency and accountability in public service delivery; and
- Better involvement of non-State actors in the fight against corruption;

8. The meeting reviewed the study report produced by ECA, on “Assessing the efficiency and impact of national anti-corruption institutions in Africa” and discussed national experiences and existing international and regional instruments with regard to their domestication and implementation.

2.1.3 The Preparatory Workshop on a Thematic Approach to the African Governance Report (AGR III)

9. In synergy with ECA/GPAD, SRO-EA provided a substantive contribution to the preparation and holding of the “Preparatory Workshop on a Thematic Approach to African Governance Reports (AGR III)” from 22 to 23 July 2009 in Kigali, Rwanda. The workshop considered two background reports commissioned by ECA/GPAD in the context of the reflection on the adoption of a thematic approach to the third edition of the African Governance Report (AGR III), namely (a) Adopting a thematic approach to AGR: Issues, Processes, Themes and Challenges and (b) Methodology Review for a Thematic Approach to AGR., as well as brainstormed on the way forward in this regard.

10. The workshop was attended by 25 leading African experts and institutions including the AUC, CODESRIA, OSSREA, APRM, UNDP, AfDB and OSIWA), on governance issues who have mostly been associated with the AGR process from inception. Among major outcomes emanating from the workshop, participants provided accurate and well focused guidelines on the implementation of a thematic approach to the AGR III; formulated three alternative themes for the fourth edition of the AGR; and provided comments and inputs for the two background papers for the workshop, which facilitated their final review and production by ECA.

2.2 Infrastructure

11. The low level of development of Africa’s infrastructure remains a major bottleneck in the coming years and a priority area in the short to long-term, and more so as NEPAD considers that poverty reduction depends above all on good infrastructure.

12. In the face of these challenges, SRO-EA continues to provide significant support to NEPAD within the framework of infrastructure programme implementation. Indeed, East Africa presents a major deficiency in terms of infrastructure. This shortfall is particularly marked by the poor state of its infrastructure, such as electricity and water services, roads and information and ? technology (ICT) services. According to a World Bank report, there is an annual loss of 2 percentage points of economic growth, and its productivity is reduced by over 40 per cent.

13. The overall objective of this support is to boost the profile of United Nations system assistance to the NEPAD implementation process at the subregional level, by improving the processes, content and result of the United Nations interventions in support of programme implementation in the four areas of infrastructure, i.e. sanitation, energy, transport and telecommunications. Within the framework of its work programme for 2009, SRO-EA in collaboration with NEPAD, has put in place a set of actions in support of infrastructure development across the subregion.

14. The pertinent actions have been focused on:

- Strengthening coherence, coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies in support of the NEPAD Programme implementation;
- Enhancing cooperation and coordination among United Nations agencies, African continental organizations such as AU and the regional economic communities (RECs) in order to ensure the effective implementation of the programme at the subregional level;
- Strengthening capacities of organizations at the subregional level, such as the RECs in order to put in place and implement the NEPAD infrastructure programmes;
- Promoting the programme at the subregional level; and
- Establishing a networking system at the subregional level, for the purposes of socio-economic development (Observatory on Regional Integration).

2.2.1 Regional Conference on Northern Corridor Transport and Trade Facilitation

15. In September 2009, SRO-EA participated at this meeting organized by the Northern Corridor Transit Transport Coordinating Authority (NCTTCA) in Mombasa, Kenya. The conference whose theme was *“Towards Reducing the Cost of Doing Business”* brought together key Ministers from the five EAC countries including Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan to address transit and trade facilitation challenges on the Northern Corridor within a public-private partnership approach. The conference identified some of the salient issues that continue to make the businesses uncompetitive; agreed on the needed policies and identified those responsible for ensuring that the necessary policy reforms are affected and within agreed timeframe. The conference also considered the improvement and development of Northern Corridor infrastructure, with specific focus on roads, rail and pipeline modes of transport. The introduction of Spatial Development Initiative (SDI) methodology to mobilize resources for infrastructure development was also considered.

2.2.2 2009 NEPAD Transport Summit

16. This summit, which was held in Midrand, South Africa, from 25-26 November 2009, was aimed at the prioritization, development and speeding up of the creation of the whole set of cross-border transport links in Africa, including roads, rail, airlines and sea transport, with a view to boosting trade, investment and growth by means of integration of national action plans and national economies. This inaugural summit was expected to lead to subsequent annual summits to be held in turn in the major transport hubs in Africa and will also serve as a window into the countries comprising the regional transport networks and corridors.

2.2.3 The annual consultative meeting of experts of RECs, the AU Commission, NEPAD Secretariat and UN Agencies on the Implementation of AU/NEPAD's ICT Programmes in the Subregion.

17. The meeting held on 17-18 December 2009 in Kigali, Rwanda, is a clear manifestation of the commitment of SRO-UNECA to support the use of ICTs for Africa's development. The main objective of the meeting was to undertake a comprehensive stock-taking exercise on the status of implementation of ICT programme being spearheaded by NEPAD and RECS in Eastern Africa. It was also intended to promote a dialogue among key stakeholders on how to accelerate ICT programme implementation, especially as a vehicle to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). During the workshop the participants requested the AU and NEPAD member States to promote growth of ICT infrastructure by removing constraints to the establishment of broadband cross-border networks. Participants also urged governments to contribute to the funding of basic broadband infrastructure in order to lower the cost of communication. The meeting adopted a framework for coordination and harmonization of ICT programme formulation and implementation in the subregion. The key actors in the coordination mechanism were identified and included the NEPAD Secretariat, RECs, IGOs, ECA and member States.

2.2.4 Harmonization of national development policies and ICT programmes to strengthen regional integration initiatives within the NEPAD Context.

18. In order to push implementation of ICT policies in support of economic development and regional integration, especially in the East African region, SRO-EA organized in May 2009, a meeting on Harmonizing national development policies and ICT programmes to strengthen regional integration initiatives

19. The meeting provided an opportunity to review and update ICT policies and programmes being undertaken by the member States and RECs, and map their needs for technical assistance. This workshop analysed the formulation and modalities for adoption of legal and regulatory frameworks which is one essential element towards the creation of an enabling environment for the knowledge economy. Concrete policies and strategies were adopted, to improve harmonization of ICT development in Eastern Africa.

20. The meeting invited all East African countries to agree to the Kigali Protocol in order to get the project off the ground. But fewer than 15 countries out of over 45 have signed the protocol. The Kigali Protocol is the policy and regulatory framework agreement through which African countries can coordinate regulations and facilitate the construction and operation of regional broadband services. Countries are, however, shying away from signing the protocol, fearing that incumbent operators will be forced to close owing to increased competition.

2.2.5 NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Programme.

21. SRO-EA supported the NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Programme. The NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Programme aims to connect all African countries to one another and, in turn, to the rest of the world through broadband fibre-optic submarine cables. A broadband network that links all 54 African countries will provide abundant bandwidth, easier connectivity and reduced costs. It will help to integrate the continent by facilitating trade, social and cultural exchange between countries.

2.3 Agriculture and Food Security

2.3.1 Joint ICGLR-IGAD-EAC-CEPGL framework for a Programme on Food Security for Eastern Africa

22. UNECA supported the development of a joint ICGLR-IGAD-EAC-CEPGL framework for a Programme on Food Security for Eastern Africa targeting six pilot countries including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The initiative emanated from the Regional Planning Workshop on the implementation of protocols and projects of the Economic Development Thematic Cluster of ICGLR held on 9-12 September 2008, in Kigali, in Rwanda, where ICGLR regional project on food security was presented.

23. All RECs/IGOS in the subregion have decided at the highest political level to focus on similar fields for intervention towards improved food security, and have explored ways and means of cooperation for economies of scale, policy harmonization and rationalization of resources. IGAD is overseeing the development and implementation of a Regional Food Security and Disaster Risk Management Project (REFORM), EAC finalized a Food Security Action Plan for the next twenty years (2010-2030) in September 2009 and CEPGL is reviving their Food Security Programme including rural development.

24. Based on their common aim, ICGLR, IGAD, EAC and CEPGL decided to join their forces in developing a programme on food security for Eastern Africa aimed to (a) support them in strengthening their respective strategies and projects on food security emphasizing coherence and synergy to the greater benefit of those countries members of both institutions and contributing to further regional integration; (b) promote creative partnerships and enhance trade exchange among member States for improved food security in the whole subregion, and disseminate related information and data for improved decision-making. To assist the RECs and IGOs in this endeavour, UNECA and ICGLR convened a workshop on 14-15 September 2009, in Bujumbura, Burundi. The workshop was attended by experts from, *inter alia*, member States, UN Agencies (FAO, IFAD, etc.) research centres from the CGIAR Group, foundations and AfDB, and led to the adoption of a roadmap for the finalization of the Programme on Food Security for Eastern Africa.

2.4 Environment

2.4.1 Climate change ministerial conference

25. UNECA assisted the Government of Rwanda (Ministry of Economics and Finance) in the organization of the Third African Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development (AMCF4D) on the theme, Climate Change: Financing Opportunities and Challenges to Achieve the MDGs in Africa, held on 21-22 May 2009 in Kigali, Rwanda. The conference was an opportunity and a catalyst for the African Ministers of Finance and Environment to better grasp the impacts and implications of climate change on African economies and the issues at stake in the UNFCCC discussion. The meeting contributed towards forging a common African strategy and negotiating position on generating new, additional and adequate financing for climate change in preparation for the UNFCCC Copenhagen Conference in December 2009.

26. To address the climate change challenges and exploit financing opportunities, the participants called on National Governments to take the necessary actions.

27. At the national level:

(a) Strengthen their planning and budgeting frameworks taking into account climate change needs, and their integration into national and sectoral development strategies;

(b) Mobilize domestic resources through new financing instruments, appropriate pricing and payment mechanisms, and the creation of opportunities for investment by the private sector;

(c) Implement an accelerated programme of capacity-building that will address knowledge gaps on climate adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer;

(d) Strengthen the national coordination function for climate change; and

(e) Strengthen advocacy and presence in the regional and global climate change dialogue, particularly through regional collaboration and jointly implemented programmes such as early warning systems or climate information sharing.

28. At the regional level:

(a) Promote regional initiatives, e.g. Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), the Climate for Development in Africa Programme (CLIMDEV) and the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD);

(b) Strengthen the capacity of regional institutions handling climate change issues; and

(c) Develop sustainable regional strategies and follow-up of key actions on the road to COP 15.

2.4.2 Involvement in mining-related issues

29. UNECA conducted a consultation workshop on the International Study Group (ISG) Study on Mining Regimes in Africa, on 2-4 December 2009, in Kigali, Rwanda. It brought together around a number of stakeholders from across Africa, including member States, regional economic commissions (RECs), Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), government officials in charge of mineral resources and development, the private sector and civil society groups as well as bilateral and multilateral partners, who undertook a detailed review of the report, looking to improve its usefulness and relevance for future generations of mineral development regimes.

2.4.3 ILC/ALPFG

30. The International Land Coalition (ILC) hosted by IFAD requested assistance from SRO-EA for the organization of a workshop on “*Concerted efforts to implementing the Africa land Policy Framework and Guidelines: a CSO roadmap*”, which was held in Kigali on 10 – 11 November 2009. SRO-EA helped the ILC and other partners involved such as the Rwanda Initiative on Sustainable Development (RISD), and the National Land Centre (NLC) in finalizing the workshop programme, securing presenters and reviewing documentation. A Kigali Declaration on the *Civil Society and the AU Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa*

was adopted and represents a valuable platform and framework for cooperation in the implementation of the AU Africa Land Policy Framework and Guidelines

2.4.4 One UN Programme in Rwanda

31. UNECA has been an active member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Rwanda. Its key input is to mainstream regional integration dimensions to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and help Rwanda domesticate regional integration instruments. UNECA contributed to two thematic groups: Environment Theme Group (ETG) and Sustainable Growth Theme Group (SGTG).

2.5 Industry, Commerce and Market Access

2.5.1 ECA's report on Surmounting Africa's Trade Capacity Constraints: Assessment of the Effectiveness of the Aid for Trade

32. Africa on the whole has been unable to realize sustainable positive results from trade. It has exhibited poor trade and growth performance for most of the past four decades. Its global and intra regional trade share has been below their potential. The region has also failed to take full advantage of market access extended through preferential schemes permissible under the Enabling Clause of the GATT. Economic transformation has been slow. Exports are concentrated on low or no value-added primary commodities. While an early series of studies concluded that internal factors were the main causes of the African trade malaise, the literature in the 2000s started to broaden the components of the set of domestic (internal) causes. The empirical puzzle has been that factors that are high in determining trade performance have been low, with limited effects in promoting trade, growth and development in Africa. The Aid for Trade (AfT) is part of the answer to this conundrum. It is widely accepted that Africa must address its most binding trade capacity constraints. The question then is whether the solution for which AfT is part of is working. This briefing is about how the question whether AfT works is addressed. To gather and present the evidence, three things are proposed. First, evidence needs to be gathered piece by piece, bringing together the various strands of evidence on the effects of aid on trade. This is the evidence on how trade costs reduces trade in Africa; evidence on the benefits of trade facilitation in reducing trade costs; and evidence on how aid promotes growth and trade via investment in Africa.

Conceptual framework for assessing the effectiveness of Aid for Trade

33. The starting hypothesis is that more aid to specific categories such as infrastructure and productive sectors should foster trade and growth. This allows a more precise identification of channels through which aid affects trade and growth and so departs from the aid-growth puzzle by isolating the impacts of specific types of aid on specific outcomes. The focus of the conceptual framework here is twofold. In the first step, what has to be established is whether the AfT that Africa has been receiving has addressed the most binding constraints.

34. If this is established, the second step is to see if the improved trade capacity has helped promote trade in Africa. Ultimately, any improvement in trade should boost growth and development.

35. The conceptual framework is meant to test the effects of total trade-related aid and specific types of AfT on trade-related outcomes, including the costs of trading and the level of trade. According to aid statistics, African countries have been receiving increasing amounts of AfT. The first question is whether this AfT has been able to address most of the trade capacity

bottlenecks. The first specification is the link between different categories of AfT and trade capacity indicators. The trade capacity indicators must be representative of the binding trade constraint(s). The results from this specification, complemented with the review of evidence and data analysis, should help in determining whether AfT in Africa has been beneficial in tackling the most binding trade capacity constraints.

36. After establishing that AfT works in eradicating or minimizing the most binding trade constraints, the next question is whether the change can be linked to specific trade performance outcomes. The conceptual framework proposes a quantitative estimation of the effects of the trade capacity indicators, controlling for other factors, on trade indicators. This will allow the establishment of whether addressing the most binding trade capacity constraints promotes trade in Africa. Thus, specific trade outcome indicators are linked to specific trade capacity indicators. Results from these two steps will enable AfT to be channelled to the most binding trade constraints. These would lower trade costs, and consequently boost trade, diversify exports, increase trade competitiveness, and export productivity, and maximize linkages with the domestic economy.

2.5.2 COMESA: Launching of the Customs Union

37. The Summit of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Authority of Heads of State and Government took place on 7-8 June 2009 at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe to launch the COMESA Customs Union. The COMESA Authority endorsed the key principles and rules that will be the basis for the operation of the Customs Union. These principles and rules are contained in the two key legal instruments of the Customs Union, namely, the Council Regulations Governing the COMESA Customs Union and the Common Market Customs Management Regulations. The Council Regulations Governing the COMESA Customs Union provide for establishment of the Customs Union, the internal free trade area, relations with third countries including the application of the common external tariff (CET), trade remedies, export promotion, and dispute settlement. The Common Market Customs Management Regulations provide for the imposition and collection of duties and taxes; the control, management and administration of Customs; the conclusion of Customs and Trade Agreements, among other matters.

38. In addition, the leaders endorsed “the establishment of the COMESA Task Force on the Customs Union for monitoring the implementation and operation of the Customs Union” (to address any future developments). The continuous operation of the Customs Union will require adaptation to regional and international development from time to time, as well as the finalization of any outstanding issues such as the implementation of a road map for the transition period. The Task Force will report annually to the higher organs of COMESA. This means that there is an institutional framework in place for dealing with outstanding issues and for responding to any developments that can affect the operation and implementation of the Customs Union.

39. It was agreed, also, that member States should submit their lists of products with rates that are the same as those under the CET (that is, the rates of 0 per cent, 10 per cent, 25 per cent), as well as their lists of sensitive products where current national rates will be aligned to the CET rates during the transition period. It was agreed that the transition period would be three years, but could be extended to a period not exceeding five years. There will be a mid-term review after one year and a half (that is, after eighteen months), to take stock of the progress made by member States in implementing the Customs Union.

40. The CET of COMESA is harmonized with the CET of the East African Community. This means that the member States in both Customs unions do not have to choose one of the two; for

with the same CET, COMESA and EAC in effect have moved closer towards becoming a single Customs union. This is in line with the decision of the Heads of State and Government of COMESA, EAC and Southern African Development Community (SADC), adopted at their Summit of 22 October 2008 in Kampala, that the three organizations should form a single Free Trade Area and eventually a single Customs Union.

41. Several other trade instruments and programmes are also harmonized or coordinated, and this will further assist the formation of the single free trade area (FTA) and Customs Union. For instance, the Rules of Origin of COMESA and EAC are similar. These rules will continue to apply until there is free circulation of goods within the Customs Union. At the tripartite level, a common approach has been adopted for elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade. The tripartite work programme covers other areas for harmonization, such as infrastructure, energy, trade in services, movement of business persons, Customs procedures, health and technical standards, unfair trade practices, and institutional arrangements.

42. Member States may lose some revenue in the short to medium-term as a result of applying the CET. Consequently, a COMESA Fund has been put in place. The COMESA Fund has two windows. The Adjustment facility caters for revenue loss arising from the implementation of the COMESA trade liberalization programmes and the other window is the Infrastructure Fund to finance infrastructure projects in the region. It is, however, expected that in the medium to long-term, revenues may increase as import structures change as a result of the application of the CET. In addition, it is expected that member States will undertake reforms in their domestic tax systems in order to raise more revenue.

2.6 Regional Coordination Mechanism

43. The tenth Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union (AU) and NEPAD Programme was held on 5 and 6 November 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

44. The RCM reviewed, among other items, the **progress made on the Subregional Coordination Mechanism.**

45. The meeting recognized the lack of a system-wide coordination mechanism akin to RCM at subregional level. However, it took note of the existence of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as an effective mechanism for system coordination at the national level. The meeting stressed the need for a subregional coordination mechanism as recognized in the Secretary-General's report to the 61st General Assembly on SROs mainly for alignment of the work of the Organization to priority areas of the RECs and for monitoring the impact of its work at the subregional level.

46. The meeting recalled several recommendations made from previous (7th, 8th and 9th) RCM meetings on the need for a better coordination mechanism at the subregional level and reiterated its commitment to look for better modalities in setting up a subregional coordination mechanism towards fulfilling the Secretary-General's request. The meeting also emphasized the need for exploring an optimal model of coordination at the subregional level.

47. The challenges identified included:

- The overarching constraints of time and overlapping activities among different agencies at country and REC levels which called for a specific definition and understanding of the role and nature of subregional coordination mechanisms;
- The difficulty for many RECs to participate and contribute effectively to RCM meetings particularly at the cluster level, and the need for the RCM and its clusters to promote the active involvement of the RECs in their activities;
- The fact that some United Nations agencies and organizations do not have regional bureaux and would require special consideration to be involved in a subregional coordination mechanism;
- The reality that AU's configuration of subregions was quite different from that of the United Nations ;
- The possibility that creating a third level of coordination might result in duplication and lack of timely response to events owing to capacity constraints and the plethora of on-going activities at the country, subregional and regional levels ;
- The major challenge in fostering coordination and harmonization of regional integration through the domestication of subregional protocols and agreements at the national level; and
- How United Nations agencies and organizations should respond to the evolving reconfiguration in terms of RECs and IGOs.

48. The meeting recognized that a subregional coordination mechanism would be essential to provide a link between regional-level activities and country-level national priorities, actions and implementation, as well as respond to the needs of the RECs.

49. The meeting recommended that a task force composed of the RCM secretariat, RDTs, RECs and the AUC should be set up for the next six months to look into existing coordination mechanisms at the subregional level and recommend options for establishing the subregional coordination mechanism, including building on existing mechanisms. The exercise should take into account the realities, specificities and priorities within each subregion, in particular those of the RECs and the expected roles and responsibilities of the various players to be involved in the subregional framework.

III. ACTIVITIES TAKEN UNDER THE MDGs

3.1 MDGs Report 2009

50. This ECA report reiterates much the same message as the 2008 report: The continent is making steady progress on a few MDGs but relatively little progress on others. There is no convergence either in levels or rates of progress across the subregions. Achieving the MDGs in North Africa presents less of a challenge than it does for the rest of the continent.

51. Africa continues to make progress toward the achievement of the MDGs, but this progress remains uneven across goals and subregions. Progress in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) continues to considerably lag behind all other regions of the world. Nonetheless, during 2008 there continued to be high-level political support both inside and outside Africa for the MDGs. In July, at the African Union Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, African leaders discussed and adopted a resolution urging all countries to deploy every means necessary to achieve the targets by the set dates.

52. The Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's MDG Africa Steering Group was launched and considered at the AU Summit held in July 2008. In September, at the UN High-Level Event (UN-HLE) on MDGs, world leaders expressed concern about the slow rate of progress, especially on the human development indicators. In the MDGs Call to Action that resulted from the September UN-HLE, countries were requested to scale up efforts to achieve the MDGs. The Secretary-General's MDG Gap Task Force Report highlighted shortfalls in meeting Goal 8, on Partnerships, and urged major development partners to honour and fulfill their previous commitments on aid and trade. On a more positive note, there have been significant improvements in data collection and monitoring, both in terms of reporting and in terms of coverage. This is largely due to enhanced efforts at the country level to collect MDG-relevant data by national statistical agencies. Improvements have been bolstered by intensified advocacy for data by continental institutions, such as the African Union Commission and the United Nations Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDGs indicators.

53. A number of new challenges to meeting the MDGs in Africa emerged in 2008. Notable among these were the fuel crisis, the food crisis, and the global economic and financial crisis. The global financial and economic crisis presents major obstacles to the achievement of the MDGs in Africa, threatening to stall, erode, or reverse hard-won gains in the region. For example, preliminary evidence suggests that the slump in exports is resulting in an increase in the incidence of poverty. Artisanal mines have closed, as a result of which many artisanal miners have lost their source of income. Inflation is rising, local currencies are depreciating, and the prices of staple foodstuffs and imported commodities are on the increase.

54. These changes will have an adverse impact on the strength of national economies. In particular, balance of payments are deteriorating and are bringing in their wake many secondary effects such as shortage of imports and weak domestic currencies. In some cases, it is making it more difficult for governments to import medicines to advance progress toward the health targets. Lower incomes and reduced demand for finished goods will negatively impact on manufacturing, leading to a rise in unemployment in many countries, and the possibility of social unrest. Governments have to be careful in the policy choices that they make to attenuate the impact of the crisis and ensure that these do not result in reversals of progress made to date.

55. To summarize progress made on specific goals and targets:

- Goal 1: Although data on income poverty are not readily available, the current crisis is likely to erode some of the progress already made in countries like Ghana in reducing the poverty headcount. The crisis could also undermine actions already taken by governments to reduce poverty. Progress toward full employment in the region has been slow, despite positive economic growth over recent years in many African countries. Labour productivity growth was positive across all regions during 2006 but it was not strong enough to accelerate progress toward full and decent employment for all. Labour productivity growth remains vulnerable to exogenous shocks and cyclicity;

- Goal 2: The region is on track to meet the primary education enrollment target. However, progress toward the target for primary completion, although improving is unlikely to be achieved if current trends continue. The urban and income gradient in enrollment underscores the need to focus more attention on rural areas and poor households in order to meet the targets;
- Goal 3: The trend toward gender parity remains strong in primary education but the gender gap continues to be wide at secondary and tertiary levels. One encouraging sign is the growing number of women in national parliaments, as evidenced in recent elections in a number of countries;
- Goals 4, 5, & 6: Progress toward the health goals continues to present a serious challenge, particularly for child and maternal mortality rates. However, immunization coverage is approaching universality and is thus reducing infant mortality rates significantly in many countries. Reduction in the prevalence of HIV/ AIDS is also being achieved, but not at a rate to reverse the spread of the disease ;
- Goal 7: The proportion of the population with access to improved water supply and sanitation is growing but is mostly concentrated in urban areas. More effort needs to be directed to rural areas ; and
- Goal 8: Significant gaps in fulfilling the global partnership for development remain. These include the inability to conclude the Doha Round of trade negotiations, and the inability of major OECD/DAC countries to reach the ODA/GNI ratio target of 0.7 per cent. The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) continue to pose a risk to Africa's trade development.

56. Meanwhile, trade with emerging economies like China, India, and South Korea is growing, particularly in the mining sector.

57. The current global financial and economic crisis presents both opportunities and risks. In particular, it provides opportunities for African countries to deepen their financial systems, persevere with structural and economic reforms, and adopt economic and social policies aimed at providing safety nets for the poor and socially vulnerable. Such actions will reinforce and secure progress already made toward achieving the MDGs. Overall, this report reiterates much the same message as that of the 2008 Report: The continent is making steady progress on a few goals, but less so on others. There is no convergence either in levels or rates of progress across the subregions. Achieving the MDGs in North Africa, though, appears to hold more promise than for other subregions.

58. With approximately five years remaining to the target date of 2015, urgent action is required on the part of African governments, their citizens, and the private sector to scale up efforts toward achievement of the MDGs. Undoubtedly, the current global economic and financial crisis presents special challenges to sustain progress already made. But the current crisis will eventually end, while the challenge of meeting the MDGs will remain. While much effort has been expended in dealing with the crisis, a similar level of effort needs to be devoted to meeting the MDGs.

59. The outcome document of the 2005 mid-term review of progress toward achievement of the MDGs called on countries to expand public-sector investments. But nearly five years on,

many countries still lack the resources to do so, and this situation is likely to be accentuated by the global economic and financial crisis. Fiscal space is still constrained by a host of factors, including loan conditionalities imposed by international donors.

60. Nonetheless, this short-term difficulty should not distract countries from continuing to pursue structural and fiscal reform policies that have underpinned the progress already made in the region. They need to continue to reform their economies and to improve governance and accountability. Further, intensified efforts should be made to mobilize domestic resources to scale up public-sector investments in order to achieve the MDGs. Countries should not panic in their response to the current global financial and economic crisis, as ill-considered measures could jeopardize the hard-won gains already achieved. To deal with the immediate adverse effects of the crisis, African countries need well-targeted and flexible social protection measures. Such measures could include public works programmes, food-for-work programmes, contributory pensions, and health insurance policies.

61. It is also important for countries to begin to consider the unintended consequences of policies and programmes which were adopted to promote and accelerate progress toward the MDGs. For example, the emerging problem of increasing under-representation of young men in secondary and tertiary education presents enormous challenges. Progress in female enrollment must not be at the expense of male enrollment. In some countries, increasing male under-representation in education and subsequently in the skilled labour market, risks driving young men into crime, religious fundamentalism, and ethnic jingoism. These have the potential to result in conflict – both religious and ethnic – as well as increased domestic violence, all of which could undermine the successes achieved in the empowerment of women.

62. African governments should also ensure that short-term measures adopted to deal with the crisis do not create unsustainable fiscal burdens for the future. MDG-based planning and policy implementation should continue to be emphasized. Governments should cascade MDGs-based development plans and poverty reduction strategies to lower tiers of government or subnational jurisdictions, as these are generally better placed to produce local public goods and to assure the efficiency of social services delivery. In doing so, care must be taken to ensure that increased assignment of fiscal responsibility to lower tiers of government does not result in coordination failures or undermine macroeconomic stability.

3.2 Fourth Meeting of the African Learning Group on Poverty Reduction Strategies and the MDGs (PRS/MDGs - LG)

Background

63. Various reviews of progress in Africa toward achieving the MDGs by ECA, the AUC and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and those done by other organizations show that if current trends persist, the continent will not meet all the targets of the MDGs by 2015. There are many challenges to meeting the MDGs in Africa, challenges which were made all the more onerous by the triple crises of 2008 – viz. food, fuel, and financial and economic crises. These challenges underscore the need for careful and deliberate planning as a prerequisite for concerted efforts to achieve the MDGs. The case for planning was underscored in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit and Mid-term Review of the Progress towards the MDGs which urged countries, particularly those with extreme poverty, to adopt, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally-agreed goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

64. In spite of the many challenges, African countries are making sustained efforts to achieve the MDGs. The continent's commitment to the MDGs remains strong at the highest levels of political leadership. Africa's commitment to the MDGs was reaffirmed at the AU Summit held in Banjul, the Gambia, in 2006 and at subsequent AU Summits and Ministerial Conferences, as well as ECA Conferences of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, specifically the Fortieth Conference which called for firmly grounded action plans to achieve the goals. This commitment has also been underscored by the decision of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government mandating the AUC, ECA and the African Development Bank to prepare for presentation at its Summit on an annual basis, a report assessing the continent's progress toward the MDGs targets. These annual reports have served as the basis for recent AU decisions and resolutions on the MDGs. The continent's commitment to the MDGs is further demonstrated by the increasing number of countries that have formulated and are implementing MDG-based poverty reduction strategies or national development plans and the many that now prepare on a consistent basis national MDGs report.

The Mombassa Meeting

65. But not much is known about the MDGs-planning experience in African countries and what lessons they present. Recognizing that peer-learning and knowledge exchange can help strengthen and reinforce national planning capacity to achieve the MDGs across the continent, ECA convened the fourth meeting of the African Learning Group on Poverty Reduction Strategies and the Millennium Development Goals (PRS/MDGs-LG).

66. The meeting, which focused on MDGs-based planning in response to the resolution of the 2005 World Summit Outcome that countries with extreme poverty adopt by 2006 and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally-agreed development goals and objectives, including the MDGs, explored the MDGs-based planning experience in Africa. It drew on draft country studies commissioned by ECA in 15 African countries: Cape Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Objectives of the Meeting.

67. With slightly over five years to the MDGs end-date of 2015, efforts are being intensified across Africa to accelerate progress to attain the targets. Comprehensive planning is integral to these efforts. Keeping this in mind, the main objective of the meeting is to contribute to the strengthening of MDG-based planning through peer-learning and knowledge exchange. The meeting will also contribute to the articulation of an African viewpoint on the MDGs for the 2010 High-Level Event on the MDGs. It will also propose recommendations for consideration and adoption by policy makers on how current PRSs/national development strategies can be made more MDG-consistent. It will also identify strategies for improving plan implementation.

68. The meeting had seven main sessions and a special session on the role of subnational jurisdictions (provinces, states and districts) in efforts to achieve the MDGs in Africa. This lower tier of government is an important development actor yet not much is known about its (possible) contribution to the MDGs effort. Other sessions have:

(a) Assessed the degree of articulation of a national vision that pays attention to the MDGs;

(b) Analysed to what extent the national vision is rolled out into coherent medium-term plans and strategies;

(c) Assessed how the MDGs are tailored to fit a specific geographic and institutional context;

(d) Reviewed the effectiveness of MDGs monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems; and

(e) Provided recommendations on how existing PRSP/national development can be made more MDG-consistent.

IV. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME (MYP)

69. In line with the main thrust of the repositioned ECA and in pursuit of implementing the ECA Business Plan 2007-2009 where ECA and especially Subregional Offices (SROs) are to support and build the capacities of RECs by providing technical and advisory services, SROs are “privileged” partners of RECs and support their efforts on regional integration programmes because they are the building blocs for the African Economic Community. ECA has been supporting the process of regional integration as part of Africa's strategy towards achieving robust and self-sustaining economic recovery and growth. As at today, SRO-EA has concluded four (4) MYPs with IGAD, ICGLR, CEPGL, and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). Discussions with the EAC are progressing well. These joint undertakings have helped SRO-EA and its partners to realize economies of scale, and enhance focus and impact in programme delivery. It has also helped partners fashion common positions on key development issues affecting the region.

4.1 Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

70. Following the inception of the MYP, SRO-EA provided a significant contribution to the formulation of IGAD’s “Minimum Integration Plan” (MIP). This input helped the IGAD Secretariat to define its priority areas of focus and better understand how to assist its member States on development issues. The MIP defined a framework for integration on peace and security, trade and macroeconomic policies, natural resources management, social development policies, transport and infrastructure development, industrial development, and ICT. On trade and as a follow up to the formulation of the MIP and at the request of IGAD Secretariat, SRO-EA has commissioned in 2009 a comprehensive study for the formulation of “IGAD Trade Policy Framework”. The study focuses on issues furthering harmonization of national policy and regulatory regimes to support the development of transport infrastructures and services in order to facilitate trade integration within the subregion. The ultimate aim is to strengthen IGAD operational capacities in programme design and implementation of trade facilitation and infrastructure development in its member States

4.2 Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL)

71. The relaunching of cooperation and economic integration within CEPGL would appear to be the ideal framework for member States to find solutions to the problems pertaining to economic development. This relaunching tiers in with the strategy of the AU, NEPAD and the MDGs.

72. Considering regional integration as a key developmental tool for the subregion, SRO-EA concluded a cooperation agreement with CEPGL, with an emphasis on the pivotal role of ECA in supporting the development efforts and initiatives of CEPGL in the five priority areas:

- (a) The peace and Security, Democracy and Good Governance programme;
- (b) Agriculture and Food Security programme;
- (c) Energy, Infrastructure and Communication programme ;
- (d) Education and Research programme ; and
- (e) Investment programme.

73. This cooperation framework is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which also emphasizes the need to integrate the CEPGL projects with NEPAD programmes. Accordingly, SRO-EA is pursuing the efforts set in motion to assist CEPGL to finalize the formulation of its medium-term strategic plan for 2010-2014 as well as a resource mobilization paper. The objective of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan is to spearhead CEPGL is the development of its vision in regard to approaches towards the attainment of the goals set by the Conference of Ministers as well as implementation of the mechanisms for obtaining the optimal synergies in line with the strategic objectives..

4.3 The East African Community (EAC)

74. ECA has closely collaborated with EAC on programmes which centred on capacity-building at EAC secretariat to improve its capacity in the formulation and implementation of sound trade policy and trade negotiations. As a subregional partner, the SRO-EA will play an active role in the work of the Trade Policy unit at the EAC Secretariat since the focus of this phase is on supporting Regional Economic Communities (RECs), trade-related institutions and other regional groupings in building their analytical capacities in trade-related issues as well as cross-cutting issues of gender, environment and HIV/AIDS.

75. The conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the multi-year programme remains a major missing link in ensuring concrete and more meaningful cooperation between the two institutions. It is hoped that this will soon be resolved with the adoption of the draft proposed Multi-year Programme between SRO-EA and EAC.

4.4 The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)

76. ECA and ICGLR have developed a multi-year programme and concluded a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2008. This multi-year programme encompasses 15 core projects. It was agreed on a step by step process selecting initially three priority projects, namely Microcredit, Food security and Transborder Development Basins to be jointly implemented. The first two of them are advanced following the initial agenda and close to the ultimate stages. The third one has been delayed following consultations with partners and changes of priorities. In 2009, two additional projects were launched on governance and natural resources.

77. In 2009, ICGLR, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) organized a roundtable in Bujumbura. The overall goal of the Round Table was to mobilize support for the implementation of the Pact. The pact has 33 projects, 10 protocols and four programmes of action namely peace and security; democracy and good governance; economic development and regional integration; and humanitarian, social and environmental issues.

78. It was an opportunity for the conference and partners to review progress and agree on strategic investment and funding priorities going forward.

4.5 Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

79. The IOC Secretariat and SRO-EA prepared a programme of cooperation which focused on: Capacity-building of the IOC Secretariat; Management of natural disasters; and Harmonization of macroeconomic policies and poverty reduction.

80. The MoU of the Multi-year programme is signed. The activities will start soon after the next ICE meeting.

V. OTHER INITIATIVES: PEACE AND SECURITY

81. In the Eastern Africa Subregion, three RECs namely ICGLR, IGAD and CEPGL are engaged in peace and security-related programmes. Since CEPGL is a sub-set of ICGLR and has not already finished its revival process, we analyse the peace and security programmes and initiatives in the two remaining RECs.

5.1 IGAD

82. Since its launching, IGAD has worked extensively on peace and security. Many programmes and projects have been initiated, including ICPAT and CEWARN.

5.2 Capacity-building Programme against Terrorism (ICPAT)

In IGAD, the Capacity-building Programme against Terrorism (ICPAT) is working to build capacity to fight against terrorism. It is administered by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), a non-profit applied policy research institution based in South Africa.

5.3 Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN)

84. CEWARN was born in 2002, following a protocol agreement signed by the IGAD Council of Ministers. In June 2003, it was officially opened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

85. The decision also reflected IGAD's realization that timely interventions to prevent escalation or mitigate the worst effects of violent conflicts was more effective and much cheaper than the material and human costs involved when dealing with full-blown crises.

86. Initially, CEWARN has a mandate to monitor and report on cross-border pastoral and pastoral-related conflicts. Its operation fields grew and cover a wide range of projects including livestock rustling, conflicts over grazing and water points, nomadic movements, smuggling and illegal trade, refugees, land mines and banditry, among others.

87. Furthermore, IGAD has worked extensively on the regional conflict particularly in Somalia. As a regional institution, IGAD remains strongly involved in peace-building the process and peaceful resolution of conflicts within the subregion at large.

88. In the Eastern Africa subregion, three RECs namely ICGLR, IGAD and CEPGL are engaged in peace and security-related programmes. Since CEPGL is a sub-set of ICGLR and has

not already finished its revival process, we analyse the peace and security programmes and initiatives in the two remaining RECs.

89. The Great Lakes is an unstable region. It is in this context that ICGLR has been created. Accordingly, ICGLR is conducting a Programme on Peace and Security. The objectives, strategy, institutional mechanisms and priority projects have been adopted by member States of ICGLR in order to create, reinforce and sustain peace and security in the Great Lakes Region. The main objective is to transform the Great Lakes Region into a space for sustainable peace and security through coordinated efforts and within a regional framework for the prevention, management and peaceful settlement of conflicts. The so ? called pact on security, stability and development falls under this framework.

90. From the recent past up to now, ICGLR has been involved in conflict resolution in the region, particularly in Democratic Republic of the Congo; and, to build border security architecture in the region, four specific projects have been identified: (a) management of border zones and promotion of human security in the Great Lakes Region; (b) disarmament and repatriation of all armed groups in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; (c) disarmament of armed nomadic pastoralists and promotion of sustainable development in Zone 3 (North-western Kenya, South-eastern Sudan and North-eastern Uganda); (d) demining and mine-action in the Great Lakes Region.

91. Additional initiatives exist to promote inter-State cooperation on general security issues and two additional projects exist, namely: combating illicit small arms and light weapons; and fighting transnational crime and terrorism. New development projects are built around this strategy to create favourable conditions for security, stability and sustainable development among the member States. We should mention the transboundary development basins among others.

VI. THE WAY FORWARD

6.1 NEPAD

92. The effective implementation of activities undertaken on the wide initiatives is a must, if the momentum is to be sustained, support to the AU and its NEPAD programme enhanced, and the desired impact made. This calls for increased commitment and institutional leadership, as well as a concerted effort on the part of all concerned including; UN agencies and organizations on the one hand and the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and RECs on the other. Cooperation among the participating agencies is also essential

6.2 Multi-Year Programmes between ECA/SRO-EA and RECs and other IGOs

93. The multi-year programmes are the frameworks within which collaboration between Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) through Subregional offices should be agreed upon and implemented.

94. Generally, the major constraint that is faced by SRO-EA in the implementation of MYPs has been financial resources especially as regards:

- Adequacy;
- Timeliness; and,

- Predictability so as to plan specific timelines for the various MYP activities.

95. The lessons learnt for better outcomes and successes in the implementation of MYPs include:

- Joint mobilization of resources and securing “buy-ins” of external partnerships is important to a dynamic implementation process;
- Inclusion of “generic MYP elements” in the biennium budget. This calls for early consultations with RECs before the ECA biennium programme budget exercise is started;
- Inclusion of MYPs in next “ECA Business Plan” might facilitate the allocation of XB resources to specific activities of MYPs.
- For the sake of practicability in the collaboration it would be useful for each REC/IGO to assign a focal point to directly liaise with a corresponding focal point in the SRO-EA. For each REC/IGO there is already a focal point in SRO-EA.