



KAKAKI NEWS

Kakaki is a traditional musical instrument (trumpet) which has a wide echo. It is widely used in Niger and Nigeria

ECA SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA NEWSLETTER N° 01, JUNE 2021

Topics In this issue:

- ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa: results
- Regional integration and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- Supporting countries in achieving Demographic Dynamics for Development (DDD)
- ECA support to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Highlights of the 23rd Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts and Senior Officers (ICE 23) of the ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa

Editorial: Welcome to the first issue of *Kakaki News*

Welcome to the first issue of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Sub-Regional Office for West Africa (ECA-SRO-WA) newsletter.

The Sub-Regional Office represents ECA in West Africa. It is based in Niamey, Niger, and covers all the 15 Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Our mandate is to contribute to the structural transformation of West African countries by fostering inclusive and sustainable development. As part of the ECA's 2017 reforms, SRO-WA's area of specialization is focused on Demographic Dynamics for Development, which, in light of the West Africa's population challenges, is the key to unlocking the region's myriad potentials.

Transforming these potentials into opportunities and lasting change requires the right mix of policies and investments. The Sub-Regional Office for West Africa supports the pace and path of such a transformational change, by providing countries with policy options and solutions, as well as building their capacities to respond effectively to development challenges.

This quarterly newsletter will serve as a channel to provide information and foster dialogue between our Sub-Regional Office,

Member Countries, Regional Economic Communities, and the many other important development actors. The newsletter represents an internal and external communication tool for greater outreach that will enhance the visibility of the ECA-SRO's interventions, strategies and goals, as well as facilitating feedback and discussion on emerging issues, challenges and mitigation techniques among all stakeholders.

Representatives from our Member States and Regional Economic Commissions, among others, will be invited to contribute to the production of the ***Kakaki News***.

In this issue, we present five major topics: (i) the successful results attained by the ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa (ECA-SRO-WA) despite the Covid-19 pandemic; (ii) activities related to regional integration and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), (iii) support provided by the ECA-SRO-WA to its Member States to achieve Demographic Dynamics for Development, (iv) support given by the SRO-WA to ECOWAS and (v) Highlights of the 23rd session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts and Senior Officers (23rd ICE) of the ECA-SRO-WA.

Happy reading!

Ngone Diop
Director, ECA-SRO-WA

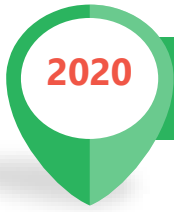
A SUCCESSFUL YEAR DESPITE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE RESPONDS TO ITS MEMBER STATES' REQUESTS

The ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa has developed a visual tool to present its 2020 results. It has been produced to self-evaluate the Office's performance, including an assessment of the results.

“It is extremely well done. We can't progress or improve our performance if we don't undertake a self-assessment of our activities... This is the kind of thing we need to do in our institution to continuously raise the bar.”



*Dr. Vera Songwe
Executive Secretary of ECA*



Beneficiaries:

	Non-country of focus
	Country of focus
	RECs/Sub Group / IGOs









Core function of support:

-Think Tank
-Convening
-Operational









Areas of Support: Demographics dynamics for development

Budget sensitive to DD	Gender DD Monitoring Index	Population Model	Sub-regional National Transfer Account (NTA) Profile to assess progress toward achievement of DDD.	Capacity building: 62 Official & Experts & policy dialogue on DD	Assessment of DDD data Ecosystem	DDD & Sustainable development in West Africa: Progress assessment in West Africa
Operational	Operational	Think Tank	Think Tank	Convening	Think Tank	Think Tank
1	1	1	3	7 2	10 5	10 5
Mali	Niger	Sahel region	ECOWAS, WAMZ, UEMOA	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Niger, Senegal	15 ECOWAS Countries	15 ECOWAS Countries








Areas of Support: Statistics and Development Planning

Capacity building for monitoring recent economic development & prospects – 20 officials trained	Public policies assessment methodological manual and capacity strengthening in M&E and reporting (IPRT)	Central database UEMOA	ECOWAS Vision 2020 Final Evaluation & VISION 2050 Development	Acceleration of SDGs including VNRs (HLPF & ARFSD)
Convening	Operational	Operational	Think Tank	Operational
10  5  2 	2  2 	1 	1 	3 
15 ECOWAS Member States , UEMOA, West African Monetary Institute (WAMI)	Benin, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Niger	UEMOA	ECOWAS	Benin, The Gambia, Niger









Areas of Support: AfCFTA and Macroeconomic Capability

Development of Countries' AfCFTA Strategy (completed or in progress)	Sensitization, Dissemination, Capacity building and advocacy	STEPS Profile	Policy Dialogue on structural reforms	West Africa Macroeconomic Model
Think Tank	Convening	Think Tank	Convening	Think Tank
8  3  1 	6  1 	1 	1 	1 
<u>Completed:</u> Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Guinea, The Gambia, Togo, Niger, Sierra Leone <u>In progress:</u> Cabo Verde, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, ECOWAS	Nigeria, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Togo	Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	ECOWAS Member States

Areas of Support: Response to COVID-19 Crisis

Policy dialogue, African countries' status on debt– (Finance Ministers' Virtual Meeting)	Virtual Youth Policy Conversation on “Building Back Better with Young Africans”	West Africa: socio-economic impact analysis for policy actions and orientations	Country socio-economic analysis and UN support (socio-economic responses and recovery plans)
Convening	Convening	Think Tank	Think Tank
10  5 	10  5 	1 	5  3 
15 ECOWAS Member States	15 ECOWAS Member States	ECOWAS Member States	Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Senegal and Togo

Areas of Support: Civil Registration & Vital Statistics / Identity and Other Areas

Capacity building of 30 Officials	CRVS Reforms	Development of integrated CRVS & ID management system	Women's leadership	Sahel prospective analysis / Support to UNISS	Institutional and operational support to Liptako Gourma Authority (ALG)
Convening	Operational	Operational	Convening	Think Tank	Operational
10  5 	5 	2  1 	1 	1 	1 
ECOWAS Member States	The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone	Niger, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	Sahel region	ALG-Cross border Institution

AWARD TO THE ECA FOR ITS VALUABLE SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES



March 29, 2021: The Africa Economic and Financial Journalism Forum (FAPEF) presented an award to ECA in recognition of its commitment and support to stakeholders and its Member States, especially in this challenging period of COVID-19. The Forum also highlighted the ECA's leadership in the economic field and its support for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The award was received virtually by the Director of the Sub-Regional Office for West Africa of ECA, Madame Ngone Diop, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, Dr. Vera Songwe.

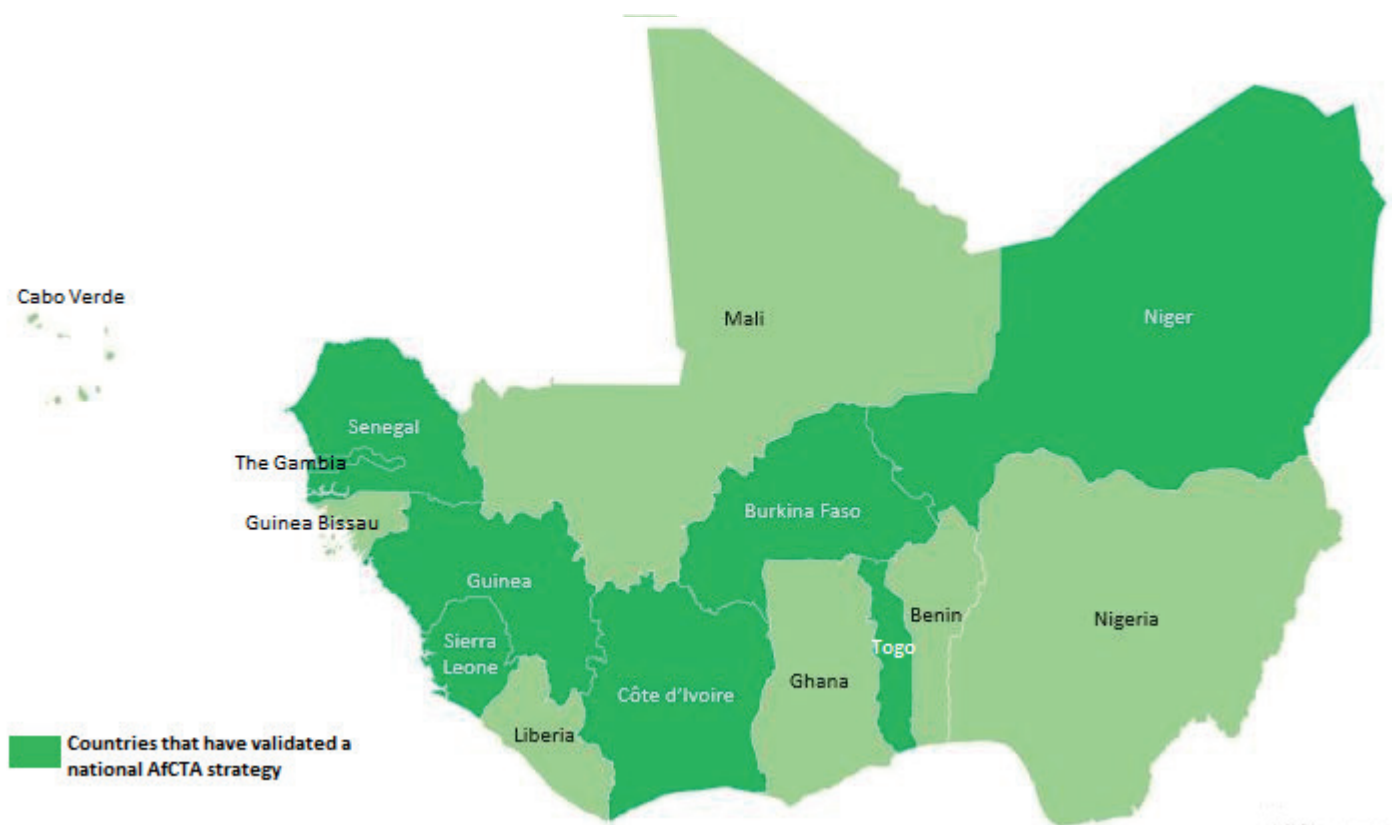
Transforming African Economies The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) at a glance

- Africa is a massive market, fragmented into small pieces.
- 22 African countries have populations of less than 10 million.
- Trade is frustrated by 107 unique land borders between 54 states.
- AfCFTA consolidates Africa into a USD2.3 trillion market of 1.3 billion people.
- AfCFTA creates market opportunities, economies of scale, improved competition, and lower business costs.
- Signature of the Agreement: 54 out of 55 countries have signed: only Eritrea has yet to sign.

Timeline of AfCFTA:

- 21 March 2018: signature of the Agreement to launch the AfCFTA.
- 30 May 2019: Entry into force of the Agreement.
- 05 December 2020: Decision on the transfer of the provisional secretariat to the dedicated secretariat.
- 07 July 2019: Launch of the operationalization phase.
- 01 January 2021: Beginning of trade.
- 05 February 2021: 36 countries have deposited their instruments of ratification.
- To date, May 2021: 12 AfCFTA national strategies validated, including 8 in West Africa: Guinea, Senegal, Niger, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Burkina Faso.

Status of Countries' AfCFTA National Strategy Validation in West Africa





Validation of the AfCFTA national strategy of Burkina Faso



Validation of the AfCFTA national strategy of Côte d'Ivoire



Validation of the AfCFTA national strategy of Guinea

Implementation of the AfCFTA in West Africa



Working with Niger to accelerate its path towards economic transformation and contribute to fostering regional integration



The ECA Sub Regional Office for West Africa in partnership with the Ministry of Trade and the Promotion of the Private Sector and the Organization of Industrial Professionals in Niger (OPIN), launched on October 22, 2020 a high-level panel to boost Nigerien production and encourage intra-African trade.

Theme: "Boost local production: promote the 'Made in Niger' label within the framework of the implementation of the AfCFTA"

Objective:

Create a forum for dialogue between decision-makers, the private sector, civil society organizations and partners to discuss actions and policies to be implemented to promote national production and better position Niger as a major player in African markets, within the framework of the AfCFTA.

Favorable sectors for effective implementation of the AfCFTA in Niger:

- Agriculture
- Breeding livestock
- Mining and Metals

Participants from within the Niger government and the ECA SRO-WA:

- Former First Lady of Niger, H.E. Aissata Issoufou, President of the Guri Vie Meilleure Foundation and sponsor of "Buy Local"
- Minister in charge of Trade and the Promotion of the Private Sector
- Minister of Industry
- Minister of the Cultural Renaissance
- Minister of Agriculture
- Director of the ECA Sub-regional Office for West Africa
- Managers of the Departments and Agencies in charge of the 3N Initiative, the Post Office, IT Systems, Culture, Crafts, Commerce, Industry and Vocational Training

Supporting Member States in Demographic Dynamics for Development



West African think tanks and experts meet virtually to discuss generational economy and structural transformation in the COVID-19 era

Theme: "Generational Economy and Structural Transformation in the COVID-19 era in West Africa"

Objective:

To highlight the particularly acute demographic challenges in West Africa and underscore the close link between population dynamics and the sustainable development objectives that Member States are pursuing. This is set against the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the attendant risk that the pandemic may divert efforts from population policies.

ECA support to ECOWAS

The ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa supports ECOWAS in various areas:

- Evaluation of ECOWAS 2020 Vision
- Formulation of ECOWAS 2050 Vision
- Monitoring and Evaluation framework and tools

Highlights of the ICE 23 of the ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa

Theme: *“Maximizing Investments to Optimize Demographic Dynamics in a COVID-19 Era: The Imperative of Building Back Better”*

Objective:

To discuss recent developments that could impact the economic and social development of West African countries. The aim is to identify the main challenges to be addressed, and to propose orientations for accelerating sustainable development by transforming the economies of the sub-region.

The 23rd Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa (ICE23) was organized by the ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa and the Government of Nigeria.

The meeting was attended by about **200 participants**.

Key Recommendations of ICE 23 for West Africa

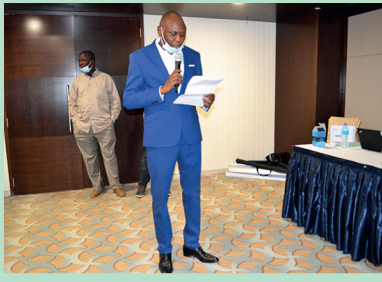
ECA :

- Improve the structure for presenting the implementation status of ICE recommendations. This includes specifying the activities that have been carried out, those that are in the process of being implemented, and those that have yet to be carried out.
- Consolidate support for the rebasing of countries' GDPs, with a view to harmonizing/updating the base year of national accounts in all countries. The aim is to improve performance on the assessment of the macroeconomic convergence criteria at the Community level.
- Contribute to the reinforcement of the capacities of the national observatories of population and the demographic dividend.
- Assist Member States in evaluating the potential impacts within the framework of the implementation of the AfCFTA.

Member States:

- Strengthen national leadership in the process of formulating and implementing national AfCFTA strategies for more effective operationalization.

ECA WEST AFRICA 23RD ICE IN PICTURES





United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

SUB REGIONAL OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA

P.O. BOX 744 Niamey, Niger Tel; (+227) 20 72 73 21

Registry : eca-sro-wa-registry@un.org

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Our mailing address is: gouro2@un.org