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**ECA Office for North Africa**

Twenty First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of  
Experts (ICE)

Rabat, Morocco  
4-6 April 2006

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD  
APRIL 2006 - DECEMBER 2007**

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## **Introduction**

In the light of ECA biennial Action Programme of 2006-2007, adopted by the Conference of Ministers held in Abuja (Nigeria) from 11 to 15 May 2005, and the already achieved activities of the sub-programme 7, the activities listed hereafter will be carried out by the North Africa Office.

### **A. Servicing of Intergovernmental Meetings and Expert Bodies**

#### ***1. Substantive Servicing of Meetings***

##### **(i) A session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) in 2007**

The twenty-second Intergovernmental Committee of Experts will be held in 2007. The theme of this meeting will be determined in consultation with the Member States.

#### ***2. Parliamentary Documentation***

##### **(i) Report on the economic and social situation of North Africa** (a report to be presented in 2007)

The report on economic and social conditions in the year 2006 will detail the conjuncture of the year, give an in-depth analysis according to the ICE orientations, and take account of the recommendations of the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee.

##### **(ii) Report on North Africa and the international and regional agendas for development** (a report to be presented in 2007)

Following the first report presented to the ICE at its 21st session, the Office will present a second report on the international and regional agendas. It will take into consideration the observations and comments put forward by the experts.

##### **(iii) Report on the progress and prospects of the attainment of MDGs and the implementation of NEPAD in North Africa** (a report to be presented in 2007)

This report follows the one which was presented to the ICE in 2005, in which the ICE highlighted the progress made and the challenges to rise to in order to achieve MDGs in the region. It succeeds also the Final Document of the 2005 World Summit, in which Member States decided to adopt, in 2006 at the latest, and implement national development strategies to meet the internationally agreed-upon goals and objectives of development, MDGs in particular.

#### ***3. Ad hoc expert group meetings***

##### **(i) Ad hoc expert group meeting on inter-regional trade (2006)**

This meeting is scheduled for June 2006. It will deal with the state, prospects and potential of trade between North-African countries.

**(ii) Ad hoc expert group meeting on the integration of the gender dimension in development policies in North Africa: Tools and methods**

This meeting will call in gender experts from North-African countries to exchange experiences on the tools and methods used to integrate gender in development policies.

It will specifically evaluate their impact and efficiency, and reflect on ways and means to reinforce the efforts made to integrate gender, especially through further sub-regional cooperation in this field.

**(iii) Ad hoc expert group meeting on the promotion of codes and norms for economic and corporate good governance (2006)**

This meeting will focus on the governance of financial institutions and bank systems. It follows the meeting that took place in December 2005. It will be held in the second semester of the year 2006.

**(iv) Ad hoc expert group meeting on sustainable development strategies: experiences and lessons (2007)**

A group of experts from North Africa will meet to discuss the theme of sustainable development and the necessary strategies to adopt. They will have the opportunity to exchange the experiences of their respective countries and the lessons to draw therefrom.

**B. Other Substantive Activities**

***1. Recurrent publications***

**(i) Biannual report on the development of water resources in North Africa (2006)**

The report on the enhancement of water resources is published every two years to serve as a follow-up mechanism of the progress achieved in the implementation of the African Vision of water for the year 2025, and to provide the officials of the region with a reliable source in the management of water resources. This second edition of the report will emphasize the national and regional policies and programmes implemented to ensure the sustainable use of water resources and the protection of the environment.

***2. Non-recurrent publications***

**(i) Study on inter-regional trade: rules of origin in North Africa (2006)**

A first note was submitted to the ICE in 2006. It will be enriched by the comments and recommendations put forth by ICE as well as by the experts who will meet to examine inter-regional trade.

**(ii) Study on capital mobility in North-African countries (2007)**

Regional integration among North-African countries involves the investments made in each country coming from the other countries of the region. These inter-regional foreign direct investments (FDIs) are governed by the rules regulating money convertibility and the laws on FDI. However, derogations may be made in the frame of free trade agreements. This publication will attempt to study this issue as far as North Africa is concerned, and deal with its relevant aspects.

**(iii) Study on sustainable development strategies: experiences and lessons in North Africa (2007)**

This publication will concern the final report presented to the experts' meeting, enriched by the conclusions and recommendations reached in this meeting.

**3. Special events**

**(i) Forum for development of North Africa: support for the implementation of NEPAD in North Africa (2006)**

This event is scheduled for November 2006. It will deal mainly with trade in North Africa.

**(ii) Meeting on migration in North Africa**

North African countries are countries of extensive migrations that may have advantages (currency inflows) and drawbacks (brain drain, insecurity, etc). The discussion of the economic and social dimensions of this phenomenon will constitute the subject of a meeting to be held in the second semester of 2006.

**C. Technical cooperation**

**1. Advisory services**

- (i)** Six missions, upon request, to the Member States, RECs and IGOs regarding institutional or sector-based questions relative to the reinforcement of regional integration and the implementation of NEPAD in North Africa.

**2. Group training**

**Workshop on the Indicator of Development and Gender Inequalities in Africa (2006)**

ECA, through the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD), has developed tools for the follow-up and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, among which appears the Indicator of Development and Gender Inequalities in Africa. This training will hence allow acquainting statisticians of the region with this tool.

**3. Field projects**

**(i) Joint Mediterranean initiative ECA/ESCWA/ECE**

Alternative approaches for the financing of projects geared to new energies and renewable energies.

**(ii) Observatory for regional integration in North Africa**

The major objective of the observatory consists in establishing a platform of knowledge and interaction that will make it possible to follow up the process of regional integration in the sight of reinforcing it. The observatory will focus, therefore, on creating, collecting, exploiting, analysing and spreading the relevant information. To this end, a website is under construction.