

INSIGHT

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Economic Commission for Africa

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ECA Launch! fltr- South African High Commissioner to Zambia, UN Resident Coordinator Ms Kanni Wagniraja, Acting Officer-in-Charge SRO-SA, Mr Sizo Mhlanga and Chief, Macroeconomics Analysis Section , Economic Development and Nepad Division, ECA.

ECA's 2011 Economic Report on Africa launched in Lusaka

UN Officials call for increased role of the State in development planning and structural transformation of African economies

The 2011 Economic Report on Africa (ERA) was launched in Lusaka, Zambia on 13 September 2011, by the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative Ms Kanni Wignaraja.

SRO-SA Acting Head Mr Sizo Mhlanga in his opening remarks, called for an increased role of State in managing economic affairs, stating that the State "can no longer afford to take a back sit as a spectator in economic development as leadership, dynamism and vision are paramount in addressing the quagmire of underdevelopment".

In her key note address, Ms Wignaraja called for necessary structural transformations for

African countries to address modern economic challenges. She noted that the current global economy presented both opportunities and risks for developing economies, and technological advances had opened up international markets of products and services to tap into. She however underlined that "the liberalization of the world trade system heightens the stakes, and Africa is forced to compete in less protected markets, and emerging economies, who are yet to be fully competitive entrants, are competing for the same prize market".

The highlights of the launch included a comprehensive presentation on the findings of the report by ECA Chief, Macroeconomic

Analysis Section, Economic Development and NEPAD Division Mr Adam Elhiraika, followed by a panel and open discussion. ERA 2011 was highly commended by participants as a substantive knowledge publication whose recommendations, if adopted, could be key in addressing development issues in Africa.

The launch, organised in collaboration with the University of Zambia was attended by more than 50 participants including government officials, private sector, civil society, and academia. Several UN agencies and representatives of the international and diplomatic communities were also in attendance.

ECA- Southern Africa Office covers eleven SADC countries - Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe

MISSION

"To leverage on our multidisciplinary analytical skills, convening power and consensus building strength to facilitate the harmonisation of policies and strategies for harnessing regional resources to meet the development priorities of the Southern Africa subregion"

AGOA Forum considers ECA's publication on impact of US unilateral trade preference scheme in Africa

TECA participated at the Africa Trade Policy Centre 2011 African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum Commission and regional economic commissions to undertake a continental survey of the impact of the Increased Competitiveness, Value Addition and Deeper Regional Integration.

The Forum's agenda centred on the scheduled expiration of AGOA focusing on the extent to which AGOA was meeting its objectives of increasing African-US trade and investments, diversifying African exports and facilitating Africa's integration in the global economy. In answering the question, the ECA Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa collaborated with ECA's

A publication of the main findings of the survey entitled "Report on a Survey of AGOA's Past, Present and Future Prospects: The Experiences and Expectations of Sub-Saharan Africa" was presented during the AGOA Mid-Term Review, which preceded the Forum. The Report provided factual evidence, which contributed to discussions and consensus-building around key issues of concern to the AGOA Forum.



Delegates at the AGOA forum listen to US Secretary of State Senator Hillary Clinton.

ECA showcased flagship publications at Lusaka Intl Commercial & Agricultural Show



Show revellers visit the UN stand at the Lusaka international commercial & Agricultural show.

ECA exhibited and distributed hundreds of publications and materials at the three day Lusaka International Commercial and Agricultural Show held between 28th June - 1st July. ECA also exhibited and distributed its publications on the calendar, attracting thousands of people, local and international exhibitors provided ECA an invaluable platform to promote its programmes and work on the continent.

The show, one of the biggest annual events in Ndola, Zambia at the International trade Fair between 1st and 4th July 2011 and at the 50th Anniversary of Dag Hammarskjold's death on 18th September.

Hundreds of people visited the 'One UN' stand where ECA exhibited its publications whose demand was so high finishing by

SRO-SA seeks to use national and regional events from book fairs to commercial shows to distribute its hundreds of publications.

Officials agree to establish a permanent Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique Growth Triangle (ZMM-GT) Coordinating Secretariat

The ECA Sub Regional Office for Southern Africa held a two-day Strategic Planning Workshop to re-launch the Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique Growth Triangle (ZMM-GT) initiative from 29 to 30 August 2011 at the Crossroads Hotel, Lilongwe, Malawi. More than 40 senior government officials and private sector representatives from Zambia, Malawi and

Mozambique attended the Workshop.

The workshop sought to restart the ZMM-GT initiative, first launched in 2000 to complement and enhance national economic development programmes in the largely marginalized and economically depressed areas that characterise much of the border areas in the Growth Triangle's geographic space.

Participants agreed on a detailed time-bound plan of action to rekindle Growth Triangle activities and reposition it as an economic space that investors will find attractive. Another key action to be taken is the establishment of a permanent ZMM-GT Coordinating Secretariat in Malawi by the end of the first quarter of 2012. In the interim, a temporary

Coordinating Secretariat, is to be housed in the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre. The ZMM-GT aims, among other things, to pursue all possible sources of financing including the establishment of a venture capital fund.

It is envisaged that the identification and costing of potential ZMM-GT projects would be completed by 15 November 2011.

Regional and Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCM/SRCM) meeting in Addis Ababa aims to define priority areas of focus and identify programmes for joint implementation

ECA's multi-stakeholder meeting on RCM/SRCM held in July 2011 Addis Ababa aimed at enhancing coordination and support of the UN system-wide and other development partners such as the AfDB, AU and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme as well as regional economic communities in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The meeting was a follow up from a meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in March 2010 which discussed a framework for the establishment of a functional SRCM for Eastern Africa and Southern Africa sub-regions. The SRCM, is meant to help the UN reduce fragmentation in its operations and increase coherence in its work in support of programmes and priorities of regional

economic communities and inter-governmental organisations operating in the two sub-regions. as well as establish an implementation mechanism.

The key objectives of the Joint UN/RECs/IGOs Task Force Meeting on the SRCM for Eastern and Southern Africa was to define the priority sectors of focus for the SRCM, identify flagship programmes and activities for joint implementation

Major outputs of the Joint Task Force Meeting include the production of a template and finalization of a matrix for the operationalisation of the SRCM. The meeting was attended by several UN Agencies, regional economic communities and regional bodies.

Report on South-South & Triangular Cooperation recommends cooperation among countries in the sub-region

A report on new trends in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in Southern Africa suggests NEPAD as an effective framework that could be used for triangulation of international cooperation at country and sub-regional levels.

The report which sought to identify practices that have impacted positively on aid effectiveness and economic development of the countries in the sub-region assesses how Mauritius and South Africa, the two pivotal countries, are performing in triangulating development cooperation to the rest of the sub-region.

It also calls on member States to reflect on how best to unlock the potential that South Africa and Mauritius offer as pivotal

countries and how the sub-region could effectively position itself to benefit from SSTC arrangements including identifying policy or capacity gaps to take advantage of such cooperation.

The report's key recommendations to member States include calls for beneficiary and pivotal countries to meaningfully engage through sub-regional institutions such as SADC and COMESA, in formulating a framework for international cooperation that would render SSTC more effective; and the promotion of cooperation among developing countries in the sub-region with other partners in triangular arrangements, especially in the areas of regional integration, technology development and capacity building.

UN Auditors to SRO-SA Office donate books and other educational materials to Zambian Community School

A team of external auditors from the United Nations Board of Auditors were at SRO-SA offices from 1st to 19th August to undertake a two week long audit of activities and implementation of programs at the office.

While in Lusaka, the audit team comprising four personnel from China, visited a local community primary school where they donated books and several educational materials to school children most of them orphans.



New faces at SRO-SA.....



Bernard Patrick Bamin - Joined ECA on the 7 May 2011 as Associate Administrative and Finance officer. Mr Bamin, a Sierra Leonean, holds a Masters degree in Administration and brings to ECA many years of administrative and financial experience. Prior to joining ECA, he worked for the British American Tobacco Group and Pacific Architect and Engineers.



Henry Lubinda - Joined ECA on 16 May 2011 as Programme Officer. Mr Lubinda is an Agricultural Economist by training, and holds a BSc and MSc from the University of Zambia and University of Hohenheim-Stuttgart, Germany respectively. Before joining UNECA, he worked as Planning Officer in the Ministry of Lands and as Programme Assistant at the UN World Food Programme, Zambian Country Office. He is a Zambian national.



Sizo Mhanga, PHD - Joined SRO-SA on 17th April as Senior Economic Affairs Officer, after serving in the Information, Communication Technology, Science and Technology Division (ISTD) as Chief of ICT Policy and Development Section at ECA HQ in Ethiopia. Before joining ECA in 2004, Sizo worked at COMESA as Senior ICT Expert. He is Zimbabwean.



Sampa Kangwa-Wilkie - Joined ECA on 6 June 2011 as Communications Officer. Ms Kangwa-Wilkie, a Zambian national holds a Masters Degree in Mass Communication and brings to ECA over 10 years experience in managing communication strategies, advocacy and policy development. She served as Regional Programme Specialist: Freedom of Expression and Media Law Policy at the Media Institute of Southern Africa, before joining ECA. Sampa, a mother of two, is also an artist.



Anthony Ademola Taylor - Joined SRO-SA on 7 July 2011, as Economic Affairs Officer, after serving as Programme Management Officer in the Office of the Executive Secretary since February 2009. Mr Taylor has post-graduate training as an Economist/Planner with experience in Policy Analysis, Programme & Project Management. He served in the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission before joining ECA in 2009. Anthony is a Gambian national.

Nozipho Freya Simelane - Joined ECA on 15 August 2011 as Economic Affairs Officer. She worked as Policy and Planning Officer for a telecommunications operator/regulator, part-time Lecturer at the University of Swaziland and part-time ICT Consultant before joining ECA. Ms Simelane has a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering and M.Sc. Communication Management. She brings to ECA 18 years experience in ICTs. Nozipho is a national of Swaziland and a mother of two.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Parliament of the Kingdom of Swaziland ICT Master Plan

Report on South-South & Triangular Co-operation: Implications for Southern African Countries

Report on Economic Diversification in Southern Africa

ECA-SA 2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

Ad-hoc Expert Meeting Port Louis, Mauritius 27-29th Sept

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