

INSIGHT

E C A - S A

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The Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Office (ECA-SA) is one of the five ECA subregional offices (SROs) serving as vital links between policy-oriented analytical work generated at headquarters and policy making at the subregional level.

The office monitors the evolution of regional integration in support of the African Union Commission's regional integration agenda with a special focus on activities vital to the regional integration process. It seeks to strengthen capacity and provide technical assistance to institutions driving the regional integration agenda most importantly SADC and COMESA. The Office undertakes subregional preparation on programmes addressing Africa's special needs and emerging global challenges such as the MDGs, and spearheads subregional follow-up of global conferences. The Office also serves as a sub regional hub for the dissemination of ECA's policy analytical work-employing extensive public information and outreach activities including workshops, training and publication of the quarterly newsletter.

About the ECA-SA Office

"Our mission is to facilitate increased contact and collaboration among member States to deepen the process of concerted and collective response for harnessing regional resources to meet Southern Africa's development priorities by conducting research and analysis, and providing policy advice and technical assistance to COMESA/SADC and their memberships."

Harmonisation of mining policies in the SADC countries: A bridge towards wealth creation, poverty alleviation and sustainable regional growth

By Mr. Wilfred Lombe, Economic Affairs Officer

The mining sector has always been the bedrock on which much of the southern African economy is founded. The sector accounts for 60% of the region's foreign exchange earnings and is a significant employer. As a matter of fact, the development of the major part of the economic and social infrastructure in southern Africa has historically been underpinned by the economic rent from the industry. This situation is of course expected to continue in the medium term as southern Africa strives to exploit its exceptional mineral endowment to not only grow but diversify its economic base.



There is therefore little doubt that the sector has the potential to significantly contribute to the attainment of the SADC long-term objectives of economic growth, poverty alleviation and an enhanced quality of life for the regional community. It is in recognition of this, that the SADC Heads of State and Government signed a Mining Protocol, which came into force in February 2000. Its central tenet is to harmonise mining policies in the SADC region. This forms part of the RISDP strategy to align policies, programmes and activities to SADC's main objective to deepen regional integration. Harmonisation of mining policies is also part of the SADC Common Agenda, which seeks to achieve complementarities between national and regional strategies, and programmes. The SADC Common Agenda further seeks to achieve the sustainable use of mineral resources as part of the strategy to promote the sustainable economic and social growth of the region as a whole.

Harmonisation refers to the merging of national systems for managing and administering the sector in a manner that reduces differences in the operating environment between countries of the SADC

region. This entails the establishment of common arrangements, simplification of processes and sharing experiences and facilities for the common good of the region, while maximising the benefits accruing to each country from its mineral endowment. Harmonisation entails both the development of a common set of standards - for example engineering or environmental standards - as well as the alignment of national policies, laws and regulations towards a common framework. The latter includes licensing procedures, mineral and land rights, industry responsibilities to communities, and fiscal regimes.

Of course there are many benefits that accrue to the member States from a harmonised regime in the SADC region. For a start, harmonisation is a fundamental requirement for regionalism and the creation of a much bigger economic space capable of consolidating its position in the global economy. More important, however, harmonisation promotes the sharing of capacities for development through a liberal movement of economic factors. Thus capital, labour and technology find it easier to move between countries. This is important for SADC as capacities for human and knowledge development, as well as sources of capital, are unevenly distributed across the region.

In terms of FDI flows, external investors tend to look at the prospectivity of a region even though the mines they develop are located in individual countries. Investment promotion campaigns are therefore better undertaken at the regional level, based on a regional sense of expectation. Conflicting national requirements for investment, as well as for managing the minerals industry, can only harm the individual countries seeking to exploit their mineral resources. Thus harmonisation not only promotes the sharing of best practice but also helps to ring fence the region from global predators in the investment arena.

Given the many advantages of harmonising policies in such a crucial sector, it is not surprising that the SADC Secretariat has been, in the last few years, working with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's Southern Africa Office (ECA-SA) to harmonise the SADC mining sector. For example, in 2004, UNECA-SA undertook a study on behalf of SADC on *"Harmonisation of Mining Policies, Standards, Legislative and Regulatory Framework in Southern Africa"*. The study developed a broad Harmonisation Framework, which the SADC Mining Ministers, at their meeting held on 31 March 2006, in Antananarivo, Madagascar, approved. The Ministers of Finance also endorsed the Framework in July 2006. The Mining Ministers directed the Secretariat, through the Directorate of Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI), to develop a comprehensive multi-year, multi-partner programme for implementing the Harmonisation Framework.

The multi year, multi-partner approach is in line with SADC's Windhoek Declaration of April 2006, which defined new avenues for engaging International Cooperation Partners (ICPs). It is also in line with UNECA's reorientation, which identifies regional integration as one of two major pillars of support to its member States, as well as with the UN Secretary General's Report to the 61st session of the General Assembly in which he outlined the multiyear approach as the vehicle for building the capacities of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for them to swiftly move the agenda for regional integration forward.

In 2007, UNECA-SA stepped up its collaboration with the SADC Secretariat to transform the Harmonisation Framework into a thematic programme of work, as directed by the Ministers of Mines. The draft five-year programme is now complete and was scrutinised in detail at an experts meeting jointly organised by UNECA-SA and SADC in October 2007. The experts were drawn from both Government and the private sector in the member States. The Implementation Plan identifies eight critical areas or themes for harmonisation activities. These are:

Theme 1: Geological and Mining Information Systems in which the main objective is to standardise geological data as well as increase the availability of geological information to stimulate investment in the SADC mineral industry;

Theme 2: Value Addition, Innovation and Research and Development which aims to promote downstream value creation through an improved understanding of value-addition opportunities for SADC minerals; assemble information on tariffs and market opportunities and develop a system of innovation for increasing the competitiveness of SADC mineral value chains;

Theme 3: Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining targets upgrading the knowledge and skills of small-scale miners as well as providing information and services to address their traditional lack of access to such services;

Theme 4: Safety, Health and Environment which will focus on developing and implementing a common set of health, safety and environmental standards across the SADC mining industry, including addressing the impact of HIV and AIDS in the industry;

Theme 5: Human Resources and Institutional Capacities which will seek to improve the quality and quantity of available skills, and standardise qualifications as a basis for the free movement of skills in the region;

Theme 6: Policy, Regulations and Administration which aims to adopt similar objectives for national mining policies and align administration procedures in the mining sector;

Theme 7: Social Issues and Gender to encourage linkages between society and mineral developments as well as uplift the role of women in mining; and

Theme 8: Investment promotion aimed at institutionalising SADC-wide mining investment forums, improve the fiscal space and target the physical development of infrastructure in potential mining areas, particularly where such infrastructure qualify as public goods.

The implementation programme has been envisaged as a multi partner programme in which ICPs are expected to participate as well as the United Nations family. As the next steps, the implementation programme will need to be approved by the SADC Ministers of Mines, as well as the Intergovernmental Committee of Ministers (ICP). There is little doubt that when implementation starts sometime in 2008, the SADC harmonisation programme will make a major contribution to unlocking the abundant mineral wealth in the SADC region as well as contribute to the upliftment of rural communities, who have a legitimate right to benefit from the resources that occur in their areas, but for whom development has largely been elusive.

Recent Events

■ Workshop on Harnessing Traditional Governance in Southern Africa

The UN Economic Commission for Africa-Southern Africa Office (UNECA-SA) convened a Workshop on *"Harnessing Traditional Governance in Southern Africa"*. The event took place on 18-19 October 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Workshop's main objective were to boost the content of a study of similar title by inviting traditional leaders and other stakeholders with a view to finding ways on how traditional leadership structures could be incorporated into 'modern' system of government for public service delivery purposes. Specifically, the Workshop's goals were to (i) assess what the current role traditional leaders are playing in public service delivery (health, education, agriculture, the judiciary, etc.); (ii) identify the modalities for enhancing the role of traditional leaders in public service delivery; and (iii) deliberate on possible ways to boost good governance in resource management, and to ensure delivery on development projects.

Participants were traditional leaders, some of whom were representatives of traditional leaders at national and sub-regional level. These included Nkosi Sango Phathekile Holomisa, the chairperson of the SADC Council of Traditional Leaders; and Chief Eshiloni Jonathan Mumena, the chairperson of the House of Chiefs in Zambia. Further participants came from the civil society organizations and local governments of various SADC countries.

The Workshop took place against the backdrop of a renewed emphasis on democratization in Africa in which traditional forms of authority have come back into the spotlight of interest. Many countries have failed to recognize the role of traditional leaders in development, thereby forgone the opportunity that formal relationship between the contemporary African state and traditional authority could reduce poverty. This occurs despite the prevailing view that African democratization should draw from its cultural traditions. Thus this Workshop and the study contribute to the need to analyze systematically the extent to which a symbiotic relationship between 'modern' state and traditional system of governance could be created for development.

The Workshop's participants warned that the longer the governments delay the formal recognition of the traditional institution the more they deprive people of much-needed public services. They stressed that traditional leaders have long displayed their capability to deliver services to their communities. In this regard, traditional leadership has played a tremendous role in conflict resolutions as these pertain to land, chieftaincy, succession, criminal and civil cases. Traditional chiefs have forwarded the education agenda by marshalling resources from within and outside of their respective countries to ensure education for the children. They have further played a role in providing health services, including efforts to stem the tide of HIV/AIDS prevalence in their regions. Moreover, some traditional chiefs have taken their concerns to international donor community, such as the World Bank, calling for more resources and partnerships to improve social conditions of their people. A case in point is the Ashantihene of Ghana and how he has been able to mobilize resources to support social programmes.

Following lively and well-informed discussions, a set of recommendations centered on key main focus areas, all aimed at enhancing the role of traditional system of governance in public services delivery, poverty reduction, and thereby working to achieve the MDGs. These areas are

as follow: first, *institutional strengthening and capacity building*. This area entails, inter alia, a renewed political commitment and courage to take bold decisions on the role and involvement of traditional authorities in the service delivering and good governance process. It further calls for introducing ICT infrastructure in rural areas to ensure availability of services such as birth certificates, marriage and death certificates. There is a further need to establish mechanisms that enhance the traditional leaders' interaction with the various arms of the government (legislative, executive and judiciary).

The second area is the *information and knowledge sharing* that includes encouraging and supporting success stories and best practices available in different countries. Moreover, traditional leadership should be provided with platforms at national, sub regional and continental levels to enhance their voice, including through the SADC Traditional Leaders' Council. Knowledge sharing and training should underpin the capacity development process including the development of a sustainable information system.

The third area calls for measures to *boost good governance* within traditional structures, including the need for participatory traditional leadership, information-sharing with the subject, accountability and ensuring political neutrality, especially with respect to dispensing traditional leaders' public roles and duties. Participants recommended needs assessments undertaken jointly by the state and traditional leaders in their respective communities, thus eliminating the unilateral needs assessment by local government in areas dominated by traditional governance structures. Finally, there should be mechanisms for tracking progress where communities under their traditional leaders embark upon development projects; including monitoring and evaluating such projects for impact on poverty, and ensuring efficient and effective use of resource management.

■ A Workshop on Improving Electoral Quality in the Southern African Region

UNECA's SRO-SA, in partnership with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA) jointly convened a Workshop under the theme: *"Improving Electoral Quality in Southern African Region"*. The Workshop was held from 28 to 29 November 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia. Attendees were the Heads of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries' electoral management bodies (EMBs), representatives of the Electoral Commissions Forum (ECF) of SADC countries, the SADC-Parliamentary Forum, the African Union (AU), the Pan African Parliament, academic institutions, and of the civil society, including a large contingent of media representatives.



Hon. Justice Irene Mambilima, Chairperson, Electoral Commission of Zambia, giving a keynote address to the workshop

The purpose of the Workshop was to contribute to the deepening of democratization processes in the sub-region by evaluating elections and the electoral systems, and to recommend ways of improving the quality of elections. Admittedly, many countries in the SADC have some of the best electoral laws and codes of conduct in the continent and indeed the world. However, at issue is whether these blueprints are being adhered to around election times. Accordingly, the Workshop took stock of the manner in which elections are conducted in the region, and covered in detail during break-out sessions the following topics: design issues and regulatory frameworks; electoral process; cost of elections; citizen participation in elections; electoral disputes resolution; and technology and elections.

Robust discussions and recommendations from the Workshop are covered in its Report. One of the most recurring themes of the Workshop was that the electoral processes have to take country specifics into account, including its history, the level of development, cultural and demographic factors, and other peculiarities and idiosyncrasies. However all elections have to be free and fair.

The participants deemed the issue of fairness as a crosscutting element that incorporates all topics mentioned above. To be fair, elections must, inter alia, (i) grant no special privileges to any political party or social group; (ii) be inclusive in that no one eligible should be excluded from the voters' list; (iii) ensure an independent and impartial EMB; (iv) be underpinned by orderly election campaigns, including strict observance of laws and codes of conduct; (v) be supported by adequate and safe electoral infrastructure, including adequate ballot papers and boxes and secrecy of voting; and (vi) be able to deal effectively and expeditiously with any post-election complaints. To measure fairness the authorities have to, inter alia, (i) assess the quality of various aspects of the electoral process; (ii) compare one election with another in the same country; and (iii) compare the electoral quality in two or more countries.

Key recommendations were wide-ranging and include the ones that are of particular interest in the sub-region. These include the following ones. First, countries should take primary responsibility for financing their own elections. In particular, each country should strive to have its own efficient and effective electoral commission and meet election costs as much as possible from its own internal sources, thus limiting reliance on external assistance.

Second, any donor support should be mostly channeled through non-state institutions involved in the electoral process to reinforce their capacity and undertake their electoral support activities like voter education. Moreover, such donor support for resource-constrained governments should be pooled in a basket and made public and channeled towards mostly non-core election activities.

Third, the funding of political parties should be given priority in order to create a level playing field amongst political parties and prevent the abuse of incumbency with regard to the use of state resources.

Fourth, technology is unavoidable and should be deployed progressively in the management of the electoral process, including in voter registration, voter recording, data analysis and national network of election result management. Important also is that the technology adopted for electoral processes should enjoy the acceptance and confidence of all major stakeholders, including political parties.

Fifth, civic and voter education should be extended to political parties in order to better appreciate the electoral process, and be able to identify and initiate the process of electoral reform when and where appropriate.

Sixth, SADC countries should increasingly share electoral resources, including on capacity reinforcement and information. They should also create a database of available electoral resources in SADC countries (human and material), and consider establishing an 'Elections Fund' that may be used to support countries with weak financial base.

Finally, major regional institutions like ECA, AU, SADC, EISA, ECF, SADC-PF, and IDEA should consider documenting best practices on financing elections and electoral practices and laws.



Participants to the workshop Improving Electoral Quality in the Southern African Region

■ Bringing the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) to Zambia

A one-day training workshop was held by SRO-SA and African Center for Gender and Social Development in Collaboration with Gender in Development Division (GIDD) Cabinet and Office of the President in Lusaka Zambia on the 5th December 2007. The workshop was preceded by the Launch of the AGDI by the Honourable Minister of Gender and Women in Development Patricia Mulasikwanda MP. The launch of AGDI was attended by invited guests and senior government officials, representatives of UN agencies, cooperating partners and representatives of the NGOs, the training workshop was facilitated by Mss Thokozile Ruzvidzo Officer- In- Charge and Stella Makhanya Acting Senior Economic Affairs Officer African Center for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD) while participants to the training workshop were mostly drawn from different government ministries and departments, UN agencies and representatives of the NGOs. The training introduced members of the advisory panel to the AGDI process, how the tool was envisaged to be applied in assessing the GRZ efforts in gender in development; in addition, the panel was inducted on their mandate as an overseer and monitoring structure and on their role in supporting the AGDI process in Zambia.



Hon. Patricia Mulasikwanda, Minister of Gender and Women in Development MP, officially launched the AGDI and opened the workshop.

The AGDI developed by the ECA-ACGSD is a tool that maps the extent of gender inequality in Africa and assesses government performance on addressing the twelve critical areas of concern outlined in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. AGDI is a composite index that combines both quantitative and qualitative indicators through its two parts,

the Gender Status Index (GSI) and the African Women's Progress Scoreboard (AWPS). This tool was developed to address the inadequacy of monitoring mechanisms to track progress towards gender equality and women's advancement. Prior to rolling out the AGDI in Zambia, it was piloted in twelve African countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda.

In developing the AGDI, UNECA aims to achieve (amongst others) the following objectives:

- Provide African governments with data and information on the status of gender equality and the effects of their gender policies on reducing women's marginalization as well as an appropriate tool to measure gender equality and women's advancement in various spheres, namely, economic, political, social and women's rights;
- Strengthen the capacity of Member States to effectively monitor the progress made in implementing conventions that African countries have ratified, as well as other gender commitments;
- Democratize statistics and qualitative monitoring tools that are effective and easy to use;

In launching the AGDI Minister Mulasiwanda emphasized the importance of this tool in monitoring progress made by African governments in keeping track of advancements made to better the lives of men and women in their countries. The minister pointed out that bringing AGDI to Zambia was timely, as the government has just completed development of the Gender Support Programme in cooperation with cooperating partners that will run for the remaining period of the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP). Further, the GRZ places gender equality as a key priority area in the FNDP. She pointed to the challenges in the attempts to measure gender inequalities and determination of the extent to which governments are bringing positive impact to their people. She emphasized the importance of generation and utilization of sex disaggregated data in monitoring Zambia's efforts to closing the gender gaps and addressing socio, economic and political challenges facing the country in attaining MDGs.

■ Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Measurement of the Informal Economy in Africa

The informal sector accounts for over 50% of non-agricultural employment and nearly 30% of non-agricultural GDP. Despite its importance, informal employment and the informal sector itself are poorly covered by official statistics. Standard establishment and labour force surveys – the basic instruments for collecting data on the informal economy – usually capture, or separately identify, only a small fraction of those whose livelihood depends on the informal economy. In many African countries, results of informal sector surveys are yet to be integrated into national income accounts as less information is available on the contribution of the informal sector to the GDP. The data are often not comparable across countries and are mostly collected on an ad hoc basis, hampering the construction of harmonized time series. The lack of data often results in distorted estimates of the real economy and limited public understanding of the social and economic issues specific to the sector including earnings and working conditions. These data and measurement problems, in turn, weaken the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development policies and programmes.



Participants to the workshop on Measurement of the Informal Economy in Africa

In light of the importance of the sector to African economies and the challenges in documenting the sector's contribution to economic well-being on the continent, the Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Office in collaboration with the African Center for Statistics Division at ECA Headquarters in Addis Ababa and the ILO organised an Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting (AEGM) on Measurement of the Informal Economy in Africa. The meeting, held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 26 to 27 November 2007, was attended by experts from National Statistics Offices in Africa, academics and representatives of the ILO, IRD and AFRISTAT. The experts

concluded that the definition of the informal sector was important in the overall framework to correctly measure the contribution of the informal economy. They agreed that although a universal definition was possible as a none size fits all approach was not realistic, it was appropriate to seek for convergence and international comparability around a broad range of criteria covering issues such as size, regulatory requirements (licence, registration...), nature and scope of economic activities, employment, type of production units that will allow countries to choose the criteria applicable to their specific context and other dimensions specified within the framework of the UN Statistics Commission.

On approaches and tools for measuring the sector, the experts recognized the strengths/merits of an integrated approach and its potential for sustainability but were also cognisant of the financial and human resources challenges of its adoption by African countries. The integrated approach was considered able to overcome some of the weaknesses inherent in the other survey methods. The experts agreed that good information on the sector was important for policy purposes. For example, informal sector survey results can be used in decentralization decisions and they inform policy on issues such as gender, quality of life and decent work in as they relate to the MDGs, social security and hence there was need for accurate measurement of activities in the sector. The experts also recognized the challenges posed by the migratory aspects of cross-border activities in attempts to measure the sector. The experts urged the UN Statistics Commission to take into consideration the recommendations from in order to provide a detailed picture of the sector's characteristics on the African continent.

Upcoming Publications and Events

Macroeconomic Policy and Institutional Convergence in member States of Southern African Development Community: This report presents an overview of developments in the world economy and implications for Southern Africa and reviewed the progress towards the achievement of macroeconomic convergence (MEC) targets in SADC member states. It compares the actual performance against agreed macroeconomic indicators and targets in the SADC macroeconomic convergence programme, and presents prospects for the year 2007 and beyond. The report further discusses the regional integration process and issues affecting the macroeconomic convergence programme in the SADC region.

Overall, the SADC member states have made some progress in attaining the MEC criteria over the past 5 years, particularly with

respect to four primary indicators: *inflation; budget deficit, public debt and current account balance as percentage of GDP as well as secondary indicators: economic growth, external reserves (import cover months), central bank credit to govt (% of revenues), Domestic saving (% GDP) and domestic investment (% GDP).*

In implementing SADC MEC programme, of the several interrelated issues identified, one key issue is that of inadequate maintenance of track record of compliance with MEC criteria for an extended period of time of 5-10 years. This problem can be attributed to two key factors: lack of a permanent statistical monitoring system and authoritative statistics on sectoral development issues such as population, gender, poverty etc; and lack of availability of comprehensive, timely and accurate statistical information.

Trade Development and Transport: The publication presents the findings of a desk study on the challenges of trade development and transport integration in Southern Africa focusing on COMESA and SADC and the Free Trade Area in SADC and the Customs Union in COMESA in 2008. The study reviewed the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade and the COMESA Treaty and showed that despite efforts to improve trade in Southern Africa, the volume of trade between the two regional economic communities remains low due to many challenges. These include; the non-complementary trade structure; low purchasing power; supply-side constraints; high dependence on taxes; trade imbalances; non-tariff barriers; complex rules of origin and trade development and coordination. Although potential for intra-regional trade exists, the low levels of industrial development and the lack of product complementarities imply only limited potential for expanded intra-regional trade. Integration in the transport sector is key for regional integration. It permits the development of integrated, seamless transport infrastructure and services to support the smooth functioning of a SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) characterised by free movement of goods, services and people.

The study identified challenges to transport integration in the sub region to include; inadequate capacity for industry regulators and service providers to enforce required standards, inadequate legislation and enforcement to enhance road safety, low private sector participation in road infrastructure development, ownership and operation, inadequate support and enhancement of implementation of transport policy, and the general lack of capacity to enforce regulations. Despite these challenges, the study shows that considerable progress has been made in the harmonization

of policies in the transport sector. Effort has also been made in financing and managing of the transport infrastructure through public/private partnerships most notably in the road sector. The study also outlines the role of development corridors and Spatial Development Initiatives (SDIs) in transport in general and transit transport in particular.

To overcome these challenges and enhance trade development and transport integration, the study recommends; adoption of a harmonized system of legislation, development and implementation of a coordinated framework for transit facilitation, matching of ratification of instruments with implementation of provisions, setting up of a pool of resources to spearhead projects to avoid dependence on donors, creation of a decision making organs to minimize delays in implementation and ensuring that provisions of protocols offer better options for member States than bilateral arrangements. A holistic approach in which trade development and transport integration issues are dealt with is required in the sub region for progress in regional integration to be achieved. As part of the convergence process the effort being made by SADC and COMESA should be seen as an innovative approach to regional integration and should be used as a vehicle for achieving the aspirations on the continental agenda on regional integration.

■ Expert Group and Consultative Meetings, and Workshops

In the quarter covering January to March 2008, the following activities will be organized:

Joint AUC-AfDB-ECA Meeting on Regional Integration in SADC: ECA-SA organized a *Joint meeting of AUC-AfDB-ECA on Regional Integration in SADC* in Maputo in December 2007 with the following objectives:

- To establish a AUC-AfDB-ECA Task Force to implement UN Secretary General's proposal contained in his Report in 2006 for a joint sub-regional prospectus on regional integration;
- To review the strengths of each party at sub-regional level;
- To identify potential areas of collaboration which reflect clear division of labour among the three institutions and enable donors to buy into SADC activities;

- To develop a joint prospectus on regional integration in the SADC region.
- To define way-forward

The consultative meeting endorsed the Joint AfDB, AUC and ECA collaboration on Regional Integration in SADC and established a task force comprising senior officials from the three institutions to prepare the modalities for collaboration including details of deliverables with time frame and division of labour. To discuss the draft work plan and deliverables of the compact, members of the task force will meet with representatives of SADC at Lusaka on 08 February 2008.

Southern African Development Forum: The Implementation of Protocols in Southern Africa: The major milestones of the SADC regional integration agenda include the creation of a SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) by 2008, a Customs Union (CU) by 2010 and a Common Market by 2015. The achievement of these aspirations will create a wider economic space where goods and services can move without both tariff and non-tariff barriers. An evaluation of the implementation of programmes developed from the key intervention areas specified in Protocols can assist in tracking progress towards regional integration in Southern Africa. Progress in key intervention areas in the SADC Protocol on Trade can provide an indication of what the sub region has achieved and what remains to be done given the regional integration roadmap.

As part of its mandate to provide advisory services and technical assistance to Regional Economic Communities (RECs), ECA-SA will convene a multi-stakeholder forum in early 2008 to review progress towards the creation of a FTA and a Customs Union in the sub region. Such a platform will help identify constraints faced at both national and sub regional levels and develop mechanisms to enhance the expeditious execution of programmes and projects to ensure that sub region is on course to attaining regional integration. An issues paper highlighting key requirements for the realization of an FTA and the framework for monitoring progress and the challenges faced will form the basis for discussions at the Forum.

Keiso Marite joins ECA-SA

Ms. Keiso Matashane-Marite has joined ECA-SA as Economic Affairs Officer responsible for Gender. She previously worked as National Coordinator for Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) in Lesotho for 13 years.



Win Myint moves to HQ on promotion

Mr. Win Myint, Associate Admin and Finance Officer, has moved on promotion to ECA HQ in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia after serving in ECA-SA from July 2006. He will be based in Budget and Finance section. The efficiency and contribution he brought to the Finance and Admin function in ECA-SA is something the Office will cherish for some time. He described his stay at ECA-SA as “professionally satisfying, and everyday was a learning experience”.



Mr. Win Myint (seated in middle in front row) poses with colleagues at the farewell party

The Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Office (ECA-SA), launches this quarterly newsletter to connect ideas and information to our constituencies. We sincerely hope you will find the information useful and enjoyable.

We encourage you to please contact us for any further information regarding ECA-SA.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Kargbo
Director, ECA-SA

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