

# Introduction



## 1.1 Background

The production of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA) was initiated in the 2004-2005 biennium, as one of ECA's flagship publications. The report is intended to be an important medium for monitoring and assessing sustainable development in Africa, and is among other things, aimed at promoting a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development. The theme of the second issue of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA-2)- *Five-Year Review of the Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development Outcomes in Africa (WSSD+5)*, is inspired by the thematic cluster of issues that would be deliberated on by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, which include "Africa". Regional Commissions are mandated to organize Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs), taking into account the thematic clusters contained in the programme of work of the CSD. In this context, the Africa Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD), at its third meeting in October 2003, requested ECA to regularly undertake a review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of WSSD. ECA organizes RIMs as an integral part of the meetings of the Africa Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD).

WSSD reaffirmed sustainable development as a central element of the international agenda and paved the way for the practical and sustained steps needed to address many of the world's most pressing challenges. The three outcomes of the Summit were the Political Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the type II partnerships initiatives. The Political Declaration reaffirms global commitment to the objectives of sustainable development. The Plan of Implementation, contains targets and timetables to engender actions on a wide range of issues, most of which converge with and reinforce the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The partnership commitments numbered over 200 at the time of the Summit and included major initiatives by development partners. In order to better focus efforts to address the development needs of Africa, the international community, identified the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for special attention and support.

Five years is an important milestone in the implementation of any development initiative. This issue of SDRA-2 coincides with six years since the adoption of NEPAD and the midpoint between the adoption of the MDGs and the 2015 target date. It is therefore special. The JPOI, and in particular its chapter eight, entitled "Sustainable development for Africa", guides SDRA-2. The report is based on an extensive desk review involving many experts, but it is not intended to address all pertinent issues in an exhaustive manner. The intent is to provide the reader with an overview of Africa's progress in implementing its sustainable development agenda and to engender action on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments, civil society, the private sector and development partners, with a view to accelerating progress towards meeting

Africa's sustainable development goals. The Regional Review Report on Africa from which the SDRA-2 is derived, was tabled at the Fifth Meeting of the ACSD, held on the 22-25 October 2007. This report takes into account comments and inputs provided at the meeting, and by the NEPAD Secretariat.

## 1.2 Organization of the report

SDRA-2 is divided into seven thematic chapters. Each chapter provides an overview of WSSD commitments, including those that reinforce the MDGs, NEPAD goals, and related international and regional policy objectives. They highlight concrete actions taken and progress made, challenges and constraints, lessons learned and the way forward for sectoral issues addressed under each theme. The sectoral issues addressed may not fit neatly into each chapter, as some issues may be relevant to more than one chapter. For example, while energy is an important means of implementation, it is addressed under “sustainable consumption and production” given its centrality to production processes and the need to ensure efficiency in its consumption. Efficient transport systems are pertinent to sustainable consumption and production patterns, but the importance of transport in enhancing interconnectivity between the different subregions of Africa, thereby promoting regional integration, is also an important “means of implementation”. Additionally, although institutions and policies are integral components of “means of implementation”, these are discussed under the last chapter “harnessing the interlinkages”, as they are also vital to ensuring coordinated and integrated approaches to implementation.

Chapter 2 looks at sustainable development governance in Africa. Issues addressed are sustainable development framework, peace and security, human rights, political governance, economic and corporate governance, and private sector development.

Chapter 3 addresses poverty eradication and socially sustainable development. Issues examined are income poverty, agriculture for sustainable development, gender equity, education for sustainable development, health for sustainable development, human settlements and water and sanitation.

Chapter 4 examines sustainable consumption and production. It discusses the Marrakech process, corporate social responsibility, sustainable tourism development, sustainable industrial development, energy for sustainable development, chemicals management and hazardous wastes management.

Chapter 5 evaluates the natural resource base of economic and social development. Sectoral issues examined are sustainable land management, sustainable mineral resources development, freshwater resources, coastal and marine resources, sustainable forest management, biodiversity, climate change, drought and desertification, and natural disaster risk reduction.

Chapter 6 appraises the means of implementation. It looks at domestic resources, external resources, south-south cooperation, globalization and trade, regional integration, transport, science technology and innovation and capacity building.

Chapter 7 is on harnessing the interlinkages and brings out the relationships between major issues discussed in the different chapters. It discusses the interlinkages between good governance and sustainable development, between the MDGs, peace and security and between the different MDGs. It provides justification for a balanced integration of the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, within the framework of well-defined and responsive institutional and strategic frameworks.