

## News from the Commission

### Janneh urges stronger ties with AU, ADB



In an address to the AU summit in Khartoum, ECA's Executive Secretary Abdoulaye Janneh called for strengthening collaboration between the Commission, the AU and the African Development Bank. He said he believed ECA's main role was to provide technical support to its member states in their development efforts, either directly or through the AU. He noted that the two institutions must work together in support of Africa. He also called for harmonizing and rationalizing ECA and ADB meetings.

[Click here for full address: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/Speeches/2006\\_speeches/012305\\_speech\\_Abdoulaye\\_Janneh.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Speeches/2006_speeches/012305_speech_Abdoulaye_Janneh.htm)]

### Ghana completes peer review

Ghana became the first African country to successfully complete the five stages of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), after African leaders assessed the country's performance and heard its feedback and action programme during the AU summit in Khartoum. President John Kufuor gave a presentation based on the final review report, and heads of state evaluated the country's political, economic and social development.

[click here for full story: <http://www.uneca.org/mdgs/Story13November05.asp> ]

### ECA hosts meeting on civil society role in APRM

ECA's Development Policy and Management Division, in collaboration with its partners, hosted a workshop in Addis Ababa for representatives of African civil society organizations and NGOs to discuss boosting civil society's role in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The workshop was aimed at increasing understanding of the APRM process among civil society organizations, developing procedures and mechanisms for greater participation in the process and encouraging the creation of a pan-African network of civil society organizations collaborating on the APRM and governance issues.

### Meeting discusses way ahead for gender issues in Africa

The bureau of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD) held a two-day meeting in Addis Ababa aimed at fulfilling the gender goals set by the Beijing Platform for Action, NEPAD, the MDGs and the African Union. They agreed to accelerate the momentum for meeting the goals. ECA's support to countries and to the bureau was acknowledged and appreciated, as was the role played in achieving the goals of gender equality and women's advancement in Africa.

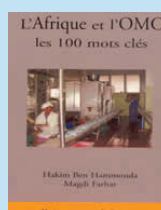
[Click here for full story: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/news/012606acgd\\_dna.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/news/012606acgd_dna.htm) ]

## New Publications



### Economic Report for Africa

[click here: <http://www.uneca.org/era2005/>]



### Africa and the WTO: 100 key words (currently only available in French)

[click here: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/news/013006TRID\\_NEWS\\_NEWBOOK.htm?cmd=view&articleid=351](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/news/013006TRID_NEWS_NEWBOOK.htm?cmd=view&articleid=351)]

## Development Briefs

### UN says African economic recovery continuing “for now”

The UN launched its World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2006 on 24 January which provides the organisation’s short-term economic outlook for the world economy, as well as for major regions. On Africa, the report said economies were continuing to recover “for now”, but were threatened by poor performance in the manufacturing sector, high unemployment, the AIDS pandemic and new civil conflicts. [Click here for press release: World Economic Situation & Prospects [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/news/un/Final%20press%20release%20Africa.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/news/un/Final%20press%20release%20Africa.pdf)]

### Greenpeace to boost work in Africa

Greenpeace, the international NGO, is undertaking a study aimed at boosting its presence and work in Africa. According

to John Van Mossel, the project manager of the study group who visited Addis Ababa, the organization does not have an office in Africa. He said his data-collection mission in Africa would help estimate the potential to achieve important change, define where Greenpeace could add value, analyse how “traditional Greenpeace methods” could work in Africa and explore alternative ways of working and networking. He added that Greenpeace would like to engage “unassailable” African leaders, and put more emphasis on education and information in its campaign.

### East Africa to get sea cable for telecom services

More than 27 African corporations have agreed to fund a sea cable system which will increase access to internet and telecommunications services in 15 East African countries by 2007. The 8,000 km East African Sea cable System (EASS) initiated by public and private corporations in Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, Madagascar, Sudan, Tanzania, South Africa and Burundi will bring about a major improvement in the speed, cost and efficiency of internet access, compared to the current system based on access via satellite. The project requires a US \$ 200 millions investment.

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## Upcoming Events

- 6 Feb – UN symposium on natural gas and sustainable development, Doha, Qatar
- 6 Feb – International day against FGM (UNICEF)
- 7-9 Feb – 9th special session of UNEP governing council, Dubai, UAE
- 9-10 Feb - Forum on African Statistical Development, ECA, Addis Ababa
- 21-23 Feb- Mid Term Review of situation in African LDCs, ECA , Addis Ababa