

## News from the Commission

### African ministers call for bold national development strategies to reduce poverty

African ministers and policymakers met in the Egyptian capital Cairo to discuss how poverty reduction strategies (PRS) can help achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. After two days of intense discussion and review of the PRS experience, they concluded that African countries must develop bold new national development strategies that are consistent with the MDGs. Jointly organized by the ECA and the African Union, in collaboration with UNDP, the meeting highlighted the need for strong emphasis on national ownership of the strategies. It also urged countries to maintain good macroeconomic policies, as this is a necessary condition for improved/sustained economic growth. [click here: <http://www.uneca.org/prsp/cairo/>]

### Equitable access to land stressed at land policy workshop

A workshop on land policy and reform in Africa heard the need for equitable access to land. The meeting, held at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa, was co-sponsored by ECA, the AU and the ADB. It discussed challenges and opportunities facing land reform in Africa. Speakers noted that African countries had recognized that land policy should “serve the multiple goals of equity, poverty reduction, income growth, economic efficiency and sustainable environmental management.” [click here: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_programmes/sdd/meetings/Land-Policy/pressrelease.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/sdd/meetings/Land-Policy/pressrelease.htm)]

### ICT forum discusses e-security



A forum on ICTs, trade and economic growth, hosted by ECA, enabled member states to share experiences and contribute to initiatives being developed by ECA. The forum was aimed at ensuring the security of electronic transactions and developing policies on legal and regulatory frameworks. One goal is to bring about an environment which is conducive to the development of e-commerce and to create an online business community. [click here: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/Press\\_Releases/2006\\_press-releases/pressrelease0306.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Press_Releases/2006_press-releases/pressrelease0306.htm)]

### Janneh says Asia and Africa can learn from each other

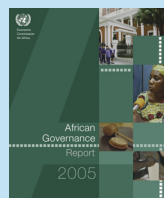
ECA Executive Secretary Abdoulie Janneh has said south-south cooperation has an increasingly critical role in addressing the challenges faced by least developed countries. Speaking during a regional review of an action programme for least developed countries in Bangkok, Thailand,

he noted that Asia and Africa had much to learn from each other. He recalled that a similar such meeting was recently held in Addis Ababa to address issues facing African countries. He told participants at the Bangkok meeting that their discussions would be important not only for Asia but also for Africa and the rest of the world. “With very little disposable income and a growing population, if we do not immediately lift the LDCs from the cradle of poverty, humanity will be taking a step back in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals,” he warned. [Click here: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/Speeches/Janneh/2006/140306\\_speech\\_Abdoulie\\_Janneh.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Speeches/Janneh/2006/140306_speech_Abdoulie_Janneh.htm)]

### ECA launches ‘African Governance Report’

ECA launched its flagship publication, the ‘African Governance Report 2005’, in which it concluded that overall governance was improving, but major challenges still remained. The research showed there had been significant improvements in political governance indicators, especially if compared to a decade ago. Many African countries now have multiparty regimes, with varying levels of stability, acceptance and legitimacy. However, there is still much room for improvement, the report noted. People’s rights continue to be violated, opposition parties lack ac-

## New Publications



### African Governance Report 2005

[Click here: <http://www.uneca.org/agr2005/>]

cess to resources and security, and electoral commissions are not well resourced and lack full independence. [click here: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/Press\\_Releases/2006\\_pressreleases/pressrelease0106.asp](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Press_Releases/2006_pressreleases/pressrelease0106.asp)]

## Africa commits to tackling HIV/AIDS

African delegates from 53 countries, meeting in Congo Brazzaville, adopted the 'Brazzaville Commitment' aimed at helping the continent achieve the goal of universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention, care and support. The meeting was organized by the AU with the support of UNAIDS, WHO, ECA and DFID. Included in the Commitment, is a call on the AU, ECA and regional economic communities to establish innovative ways to mobilize resources for tackling HIV/AIDS at the sub-regional level. It also calls for strengthening the role of the ADB in raising resources and influencing allocations for HIV/AIDS issues. [click here: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/news/030806hivaids\\_dna.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/news/030806hivaids_dna.htm)]

## Development Briefs

### African ministers pledge to tackle water-related problems

African water ministers attending the World Water Forum in Mexico City said they would cooperate in developing an effective early warning system for the prevention and mitigation of water-related disasters. They urged development partners to support Africa's efforts in this regard. In a seven-point declaration, the ministers acknowledged Africa's vulnerability to global climate changes and said early warning systems would help reduce the impact of these disasters. At the meeting, the ADB and UN-Habitat announced a memorandum of understanding had been signed for about US\$ 550 million aimed at speeding up Africa's chances of reducing by half the number of people without access to safe water and sanitation by

2015. [click here: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_programmes/sdd/meetings/mexico/PR19March.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/sdd/meetings/mexico/PR19March.htm)]

### 2006 Diageo Africa Business Reporting Awards

Journalists and editors who report on business in Africa are advised that the deadline for entries to the 2006 Diageo Africa Business Reporting Awards is 31 May 2006. The six awards, covering covering print, online, television and radio journalism, will be presented in London on 29 June 2006. ECA's former Executive Secretary, K.Y. Amoako, was a member of the original panel of judges in 2004 and 2005. [For more information, including full details of how to enter click here: [www.diageoafricabusinessreportingawards.com](http://www.diageoafricabusinessreportingawards.com)]

Click on [www.uneca.org](http://www.uneca.org) for more information on these stories.

## Upcoming Events

- 3-5 April – African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (sponsored by UN-Habitat, Nairobi)
- 4 April – International Day for Mine Awareness (Department of Peace-Keeping Operations)
- 22 April – WB/IMF Annual Meetings
- 24 April – Education for All Week (UNESCO)