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## SRO-EA

05

### 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) Mahe, Seychelles, 27-29 April 2009

### Theme: "Tracking Progress on Implementing ICTs for Development in Eastern Africa"



## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE ECA/SRO-EA FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM



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## **A. Overview**

1. The ECA subregional office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) covers the following 13 countries: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.
2. These various characteristics as well as the political, social and economic challenges in the sub-region continue to demand increased joint action among member states especially within the context of the existing regional economic communities (RECs). This has dictated the focus of the work of SRO-EA on issues of supporting regional integration.
3. The present report gives details of the status of implementation, as of April 2009, of the **Work Programme of ECA Subregional Office for Eastern Africa for the 2008-2009 biennium** as approved by the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly (see Annex 1).

## **B. Work Accomplished (January 2008 – April 2009)**

### **1. Reports on Economic and Social Conditions of the Eastern African countries.**

4. It should be recalled that SRO-EA produces an annual Report on Economic and Social Conditions of the Eastern African Countries. The reports outline the major economic and social challenges and achievements by member countries with a focus on macro-economic harmonization, regional economic integration, information harnessing, infrastructure development, food security and sustainable development, human resources development and gender advancement promotion. Each year a theme is chosen for these reports usually corresponding to the theme of the ICE.
5. During the period January 2008-April 2009, two reports were have been produced for the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> ICE in 2008 and 2009 respectively. The themes of these reports were:
  - (i) Meeting Sub-Regional Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Regional Integration towards the achievement of MDGs (2008)
  - (ii) Tracking Progress on Implementing ICTs for Development in Eastern Africa (2009)

### **2. Intergovernmental Committee of Experts meetings (ICEs)**

6. The 12<sup>th</sup> ICE meeting has been successfully held, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March 2008. The second ICE meeting envisaged during the 2008-2009 biennium is scheduled to be held in Mahe, Seychelles in April 2009.
7. At the two meetings of the ICE, the following parliamentary documentations mandated by the work programme were/will be presented:
  - i. Programme performance report of ECA subregional Office – Eastern Africa for the period 2006-2007 (ECA/SRO-EA/ICE/2008/05, 12<sup>th</sup> ICE, March 2008);
  - ii. Report on United Nations System-wide Support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Programme (ECA/SRO-EA/ICE/2008/08, 12<sup>th</sup> ICE, March 2008);

- iii. Two Progress reports on the implementation of regional and International agendas including NEPAD, MDGs and other special initiatives in the Eastern African Subregion (One report ECA/SRO-EA/ICE/2008/09 to 12<sup>th</sup> ICE, March 2008 and one report ECA/SRO-EA/ICE/2009/08 to 13<sup>th</sup> ICE, April 2009);
  - iv. Proposed Programme Plan for the Biennium 2010-2011(ECA/SRO-EA/ICE/2009/06 to 13<sup>th</sup> ICE, April 2009).
8. In addition, one report was presented to the annual ministerial conference for the East Africa subregion on:
- i. Economic and social development: Tracking progress in East Africa IGAD region.

### **3. Expert Group Meetings (EGMs)**

9. Four out of the six programmed EGMs have so far been held during the period under review as follows:
- i. Assessing financial sector reforms in East Africa (Addis Ababa, March 2008);
  - ii. Annual consultative meetings of experts of regional economic communities, the AU Commission, NEPAD secretariat and United Nations agencies on the implementation of the AU/NEPAD programmes in the subregion: Focus on ICGRL (Kigali, September 2008);
  - iii. Assessing the subregional office-East Africa and RECs multi-year programmes (Mahe, April 2009);
  - iv. Harmonizing national development policies and ICT programmes to strengthen regional integration initiatives (Mahe, April 2009).
10. The remaining two mandated EGMs which will be implemented during the second half of 2009 relate to:
- i. Annual consultative meetings of experts of regional economic communities, the AU Commission, NEPAD secretariat and United Nations agencies on the implementation of the AU/NEPAD programmes in the subregion;
  - ii. An emerging developmental challenge facing East Africa. (This might be implemented as a joint expert group meeting on “Post-conflict Issues” with SRO-CA to include experiences from Central Africa).
11. One EGM and one Conference organized by ECA Headquarters and held in Kigali, Rwanda Divisions were fully supported and backstopped by SRO-EA. These were respectively:
- i. Ad Hoc Experts Group Meeting on “Assessing the efficiency and impact of national anti-corruption institutions in Africa” (Kigali, Rwanda, 16-17 February 2009);
  - ii. Conference on “Development of an Equitable Information Society in Africa: the Role of Parliaments”; (Kigali, 4 - 5 March 2009).

#### **4. Non-recurrent Publications**

12. Two out of the three mandated non-recurrent publications have been completed namely:
  - i. Financial sector reforms in East Africa: Best practices (March 2008);
  - ii. Harmonization for national development policies and ICT programmes within the context of regional integration April 2009).
13. The third mandated non-recurrent publication on “Report on a topical issue identified in the Subregional Office-East Africa and COMESA/EAC/IGAD multi-year programme” will be implemented in the second half of 2009.

#### **5. Booklets, Fact sheets, Wall Charts, information kits**

14. SRO-EA has also produced a draft fact sheet/information kit on the Eastern African subregion for member states to review and approve. A “Joint AU Commission / AfDB / ECA Prospectus on Integration in Eastern Africa” has also been completed.

#### **6. Technical Material**

15. SRO-EA has been producing and will continue to produce electronic briefs on major activities of the Subregional Office including in particular:
  - i. SRO-EA Newsletter (Issue 1, June 2008);
  - ii. SRO-EA Newsletter (Issue 2, December 2008).
16. One of the most important innovation by the SRO-EA has been the development and launch of new information and communication tools involving the following:
  - i. SRO-EA’s Knowledge Management Portal;
  - ii. Website for the Observatory for regional integration in Eastern Africa.

#### **7. Technical Cooperation**

##### ***a) Advisory Services:***

17. Overall, 10 advisory services missions were mandated under the work programme. These were to be undertaken at the request of member States, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations on institutional and sectoral issues related to strengthening the implementation of NEPAD and the Great Lakes initiatives in East Africa.
18. To date, the following advisory services have been delivered to:

##### **RECS and IGOs:**

- i. Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Authority for 1) the development of IGAD Minimum Integration Plan (MIP) and 2) the servicing of IGAD Workshop on the Minimum Integration Plan (MIP);
- ii. Secretariat of the East African Community (EAC) in the context of African Trade Policy Centre;
- iii. Secretariat of the ICGLR 1) The Democracy and Good Governance Cluster and 2) The Economic Development and Regional Integration Cluster (specific

- projects relate to micro-finance, transboundary development basins and food security);
- iv. Transit transport Coordination Authority of the Northern Corridor (TTCA-NA) Transport Policy and Strategic Planning and impact on the Regional Observatory in Eastern Africa.

**Countries:**

- v. Rwanda for: 1) the report on Business start up; and 2) ScanICT Baseline Survey: ICT indicators: measuring usage and penetration; Youth Employment Summit (YES, Rwanda) to address the problem of capacity shortage;
- vi. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for the follow up on the NICI Plan;
- vii. Djibouti for Public Sector Reform.

**One UN Programme in Rwanda**

- viii. Participation in the Environment Theme Group and Sustainable Growth and Social Protection Group related activities.

***b) Training, seminars and workshops***

19. Under training, seminars and workshops, there was no training undertaken or seminars organised. However, two workshops below were held during the period under review:
- i. **Workshops.** Two workshops were conducted as follows:
    - Workshop for 15 Professionals on developing strategies and comprehensive action plans for National Information and Communications Infrastructure infrastructures (Mahe, April 2009);
    - Workshop for 15 Professionals on the implementation of ICT in the areas of e-government and/or e-trade (Mahe, April 2009).

***c) Field Projects***

20. Out of the two field projects mandated under the programme, one has been completed namely:
- i. Establishment of knowledge management centre and network
21. The remaining field project is in progress namely:
- i. Institutional capacity building within the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Secretariat.

**C. Prospects for the period May to December 2009**

Out of a total of 44 programmed outputs legislated for implementation during the period under review, 24 had been completed by the end of March 2009, which represents an implementation rate of 55 per cent. By the same date, twelve (12) outputs were in progress representing 27 per cent of the planned activities most of which are directly linked to the present Intergovernmental Committee Meeting (ICE) and will hence be completed by the end of the same meeting. Therefore, the current overall programme performance by the end of the present Intergovernmental Committee Meeting is reasonably rated to reach about 82 per cent. In view of the current trends, it is also anticipated that SRO-EA will complete the

remaining part of 18 per cent of programmed outputs by the end of the year 2009. The table below reflects the status of implementation of the work programme plan for 2008-2009.

**Table: Projected implementation of SRO-EA work programme for the biennium 2008-2009**

Implementation status	Legislated		Discretionary	By arch 2009	By end ICE	By December 2009
	Number	Percentage (per cent)				
Not started	8	18	-	8	6	0
In progress	12	27	-	12	2	0
Implemented	24	55	-	24	36	44
Reformulated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Postponed	-	-	-	-	-	-
Terminated	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>

*Source: ECA Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS), March 2009.*

## ANNEX

### WORK PROGRAMME 2008-2009 FOR SRO-EA AS APPROVED BY UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17A.91 During the biennium 2008-2009, the following final outputs will be delivered:

**(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):**

- (i) Substantive servicing of meetings: The annual ministerial conference for the East Africa subregion (8);
- (ii) Parliamentary documentation: Programme performance report of ECA subregional office-East Africa for the period 2006-2007 (1); progress report on the implementation of regional and international agendas, including NEPAD, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and other special initiatives in the subregion (2); proposed programme plan for the biennium 2010-2011 for the subregional office-East Africa (1); reports to the annual ministerial conferences for the East Africa subregion on economic and social development: tracking progress in East Africa (2);
- (iii) Ad hoc expert groups: assessing financial sector reforms in East Africa (1); an emerging developmental challenge facing East Africa (1); annual consultative meetings of experts of regional economic communities, the AU Commission, NEPAD secretariat and United Nations agencies on the implementation of the AU/NEPAD programmes in the subregion (2); assessing the subregional office-East Africa and COMESA/East African Community (EAC)/Intergovernmental Authority on Development multi-year programme (1); harmonizing national development policies and ICT programmes to strengthen regional integration initiatives (1).

**(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget/extrabudgetary):**

- (i) Non-recurrent publications: Financial sector reforms in East Africa: best practices (1); harmonization for national development policies and ICT programmes within the context of regional integration (1); report on a topical issue identified in the subregional office-East Africa and COMESA/EAC/IGAD multi-year programme (1);
- (ii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: Joint AU Commission/AfDB/ECA (subregional office-East Africa) prospectus on integration in East Africa (2);
- (iii) Special events: East African Power Pool Forum (1);
- (iv) Technical material: electronic brief on major activities of the subregional office-East Africa, including other subregional initiatives (1); web-based information site on available advisory services (1).

**(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extra-budgetary):**

- (i) Advisory services: advisory services missions at the request of member States, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations on institutional and sectoral issues related to strengthening the implementation of NEPAD and the Great Lakes initiatives in East Africa (10);
- (ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: workshop for 15 Professionals on developing strategies and comprehensive action plans for National Information and Communications Infrastructure infrastructures (1); workshop for 15 Professionals on the implementation of ICT in the areas of e-government and/or e-trade (1); workshop for 20 Professionals on new and renewable energy in East Africa (1);
- (iii) Field projects: establishment of knowledge management centre and network (1); institutional strengthening of COMESA, IGAD and EAC (1).