

ECA Office for North Africa (SRO-NA)

Rabat, Tuesday 8 July 2025

Dear colleagues and partners,

This second issue of our newsletter comes at a particularly busy time for the ECA Office for North Africa (SRO-NA). Our team actively contributed to discussions on new, innovative sources of finance for Africa at the [4th International Conference on Financing for Development \(FFD4\)](#) while also implementing our updated mission, as voted by member countries at the 57th session of the Economic Commission for Africa [CoM2025](#):



“Enhancing the environment for accelerated and inclusive growth and sustainable development in North Africa through strengthened economic diversification, fiscal management, regional integration and a better recognition of migrant workers’ economic contributions,” with a particular focus on issues facing **Middle Income Countries**, which include six of the seven North African member states.

In the coming months, our team will be carrying out missions and events in support to:

- Regional trade in Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia, with a special emphasis on helping women- and youth-led SMEs, particularly in the agri-food sector, maximize the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA);
- Identifying and securing alternative sources of finance and debt sustainability in Egypt, Libya and Sierra Leone, and examining the connection between climate finance and employment
- And last but not least, remittances and how they can be harnessed to contribute to development in Comoros, Lesotho and Tunisia

At the regional level, the wider ECA team is finalising preparations for the launch of the ARIA XI report on 12 July in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, under the theme: “Delivering on the African economic community; Towards an African Continental Customs Union and African Continental Common Market.”

Meanwhile, we are also actively contributing to the global, UN debate on the UN80 initiative, and helping shape key reforms ECA will need to undertake in the coming months and years, to increase our capacity to support member countries in preserving development gains and crafting solutions for accelerated, inclusive and sustainable development, particularly in the face of mounting climate-related challenges.



Adam Elhiraika, Director
ECA Office for North Africa (SRO-NA)

ACTIVITIES

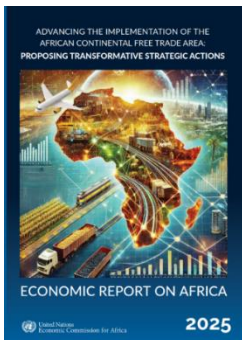


Coalition commits to Action Plan to Increase Private Investment Mobilization for Developing Countries by end of 2027

FINANCING DEVELOPMENT (FFD4)

ECA is part of a coalition of governments, international development partners and private sector groups that have announced the development of a new Action Plan to mobilize private sector capital at scale in developing countries. The Action Plan, announced at the Fourth Financing for Development Conference (FFD4) in Seville, Spain, seeks to tackle poverty, economic growth and climate risks by deploying public sector resources through blended finance to mobilize private investment in underserved markets [...].

[English](#)



ERA 2025: With effective implementation, the AfCFTA can open alternative markets to sectors affected by the global tariff wars

TRADE

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is recognized as a game changer for Africa's long-term growth and prosperity. Launched last April, ECA's annual Economic Report on Africa (ERA 2025) provides an overview of the implementation of the agreement and existing gaps and draws up a list of priority actions to ensure its successful implementation in a rapidly changing global trade context. [...]

[English](#)

[French](#)



ECA Assists Young and Women Entrepreneurs in Mauritania in Seizing Opportunities within the Framework of the AfCFTA

TRADE

ECA is holding on 8-11 July 2025 in Nouakchott a capacity building workshop for the benefit of Mauritanian youth and women-led SMEs, under the theme: "Capacity building for youth, women led SMEs within the framework of the AfCFTA." This training is part of a series of webinars and workshops for the benefit of Mauritanian, Libyan and Tunisian entrepreneurs this 2025. [...]

[English](#)

[French](#)



ECA and FSD Africa Equip African Policymakers to Unlock Green and Sustainable Finance

FINANCING DEVELOPMENT

This June, ECA and FSD Africa's Regional Forum on Innovative Green Finance on "Developing Sustainable Finance Products in Africa » brought together officials from ten African countries to explore practical strategies for integrating sustainable finance into national fiscal and debt frameworks. [...]

[English](#)

[French](#)



ECA supports Libyan institutions efforts to foster export diversification

TRADE

The ECA office for North Africa carried out on 16-19 June a capacity building workshop under the theme: "Opening the Door for Libyan Exports: Essential Role of Trade Support Institutions and Suggested Policy Tools for Supporting Libyan Exports." [...]

[English](#)

[French](#)

[Arabic](#)



Tapping the diaspora: Comoros sees remittances as key to sustainable development

REMITTANCES

The ECA offices for North and East Africa held in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Investment in charge of economic integration a workshop in Moroni, Comoros, on “Leveraging the Contribution of the Comorian Diaspora to Sustainable Development.” [...]



ECA supports Sierra Leone efforts to unlock green and sustainable finance

FINANCING DEVELOPMENT

ECA, in collaboration with GSA [Global Sovereign Advisory](#) (GSA) and the Government of Sierra Leone held on 2-5 June 2025 a capacity-building workshop on green and sustainable finance in Freetown (Sierra Leone), to strengthen stakeholders' capacity to access and structure innovative climate finance solutions. [...]

[English](#)

[French](#)



Leveraging the contribution of Basotho diaspora to Lesotho sustainable development

MIGRATION & REMITTANCES

ECA held, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning of Lesotho a workshop on Thursday 15 May on leveraging the contribution of the Basotho diaspora to the country's sustainable development. [...]

[English](#)

[French](#)



In these uncertain times, African leaders must fast-track the full implementation of the AfCFTA

CNBC AFRICA

By Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the ECA

Africa stands at a pivotal moment in our continent's development journey—one full of promise, amidst tremendous challenges, particularly in the face of recent economic setbacks and the current global tariff wars. The intensity of the headwinds can only be overcome if [...]

[English](#)

[French](#)

[عربي](#)



It's time for Africa to embrace nuclear energy

THE NEW TIMES

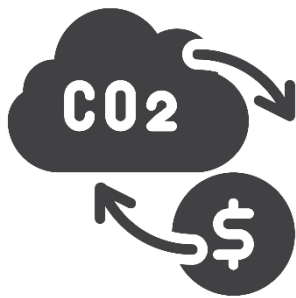
By Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the ECA

While our continent accounts for 17% of the world's population, we generate less than 3% of global electricity. This 'power poverty' stifles industrialization, limits healthcare outcomes, and constrains economic transformation even as Africa exports uranium and other critical minerals to power many parts of the world. [...]

[English](#)

[French](#)

[Arabic](#)



Rethinking Europe's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

PROJECT SYNDICATE

by Rola Dashti, Claver Gatete and Mahmoud Mohieldin

By applying a one-size-fits-all carbon-pricing regime to countries with vastly different capacities, the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism undermines the principle of a just energy transition. To be effective, the CBAM must be more flexible and allow developing economies time to prepare and adapt. [...]



African priorities for FfD4 (Fourth Financing for Development Conference)

FINANCING DEVELOPMENT

This executive summary presents a high-level overview of Africa's progress in implementing the AAAA (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), the challenges encountered, and key proposals for the way forward. It aims to inform policymakers and governments participating in the Africa Regional Consultation for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development Forum (FfD4) and shape the discussions at the FfD4 in 2025.

[English](#)

[French](#)



LIBYA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

OVERVIEW

This study provides an in-depth analysis of Libya's socio-economic landscape, highlighting key social, political, and economic trends, vulnerabilities, and policy gaps that require urgent attention.

[English](#)



Food security in North Africa challenges and policy responses

FOOD SECURITY

The purpose of the present report is to identify the main short- and long-term challenges to food security in North Africa, evaluate the policy responses adopted by countries to date and provide policy recommendations to build resilience against food security shocks.

[English](#)

[French](#)

[عربي](#)



Demographic dividend and migration in Africa challenges and policy options

MIGRATION

This policy brief presents the challenges of attaining the demographic dividend in Africa, how migration can contribute to harnessing it, and policy recommendations for governments to make this ambition a reality.

[English](#)

[French](#)



Remittances: an important source of external finance in North Africa

MIGRATION & REMITTANCES

Remittances have become a major source of foreign financial revenue in North Africa. They have also been a more stable and resilient source than other forms of foreign currency inflows such as foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA). To take full advantage of remittances, countries of origin need to put in place an adequate framework for reform initiatives that will encourage investment from members of the diaspora.

[English](#)

[French](#)

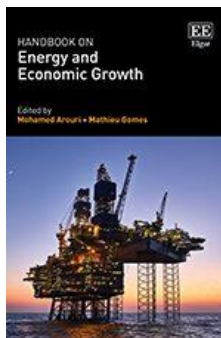
[عربي](#)

Asymmetric impact of refugees on Economic Growth in Morocco: evidence from non-linear ARDL

MIGRATION

This study examines the asymmetric impact of refugees on Morocco's economic growth from 1980 to 2017 using the Non-linear Autoregressive Distributed Lag (NARDL) model. Findings reveal that refugees significantly contribute to short-term economic growth but have an insignificant long-term impact. The research highlights the need for policies that integrate refugees into economic activities to enhance growth.

[English](#)



Trends in energy intensity and carbon performance in North Africa

EXTERNAL PUBLICATION *

In this 10th chapter of the Handbook on Energy and Economic Growth, authors examine trends in carbon emissions, carbon intensity and energy intensity in North Africa, analyse the effect of policies such as energy taxes and energy standards on the energy efficiency of SMEs and provide recommendations, strategies and actions for better energy efficiency and performance.

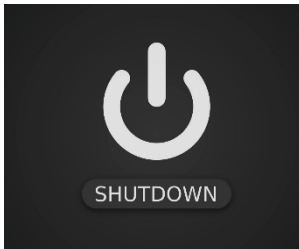
[English](#)

How Internet Shutdowns Silently Drain Africa's Economy

EXTERNAL PUBLICATION *

In an increasingly digitized Africa, turning off the Internet doesn't just silence voices, it bleeds economies and undermines the continent's progress towards inclusive growth. While the full economic toll of shutdowns is difficult to measure precisely, credible models such as the Internet Society's NetLoss Calculator demonstrate that even brief disruptions can inflict substantial costs on national economies.

[English](#)



Drivers and Barriers in Libya's E-Government Implementation: A Case Study

EXTERNAL PUBLICATION *

This study aims to identify and analyse the key drivers and barriers influencing the implementation of e-government initiatives in Libya's public sector, a developing country with a post-conflict context.

[English](#)



* ECA is not responsible for the data and analysis provided in these publications.

UPCOMING



Unlocking Opportunities within the Framework of the AfCFTA in Mauritania (Part 2)

Introductory Training Workshop for the Benefit of Mauritanian Women and Youth Led SMEs on Export Promotion, Access to Finance, Digitalization and Sustainable Practices

Online, 3 July 2025



Workshop on Debt Sustainability Analysis

Cairo, Egypt, 7-10 July



Enhancing the Performance of Women and Youth led Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: Capacity Building in Digitalization, Export, Access to Finance and Sustainability Practices

8-11 July 2025

Nouakchott, Mauritania



Domestication of the AfCFTA: Unlocking Libya's Private Sector Potential – Towards an Active Role in AfCFTA Implementation

Tunis, Tunisia, 21-24 July 2025



Workshop on Electronic Taxation Systems in Libya

Tunis, Tunisia, 28-31 July, 2025



Unlocking Opportunities within the Framework of the AfCFTA in Tunisia (Part 1, 2 and 3)

Online Training Workshop for the Benefit of Tunisian Women and Youth Led SMEs on Export Promotion, Access to Finance, Digitalization and Sustainable Practices

Online, 20 August, 27 August and 3 September 2025



Unlocking Opportunities within the Framework of the AfCFTA in Libya (Part 1, 2 and 3)

Capacity Building Workshop for the Benefit of Libyan Women and Youth Led SMEs on Export Promotion, Access to Finance, Digitalization and Sustainable Practices

Online, 21 August, 28 August and 4 September 2025



Workshop on Taxing the National Shipping Sector

Cairo, Egypt, 24 - 28 August, 2025



Capacity Building Workshop: Enhancing the performance of Women and Youth-led SMEs by Building Capabilities in Digitalization, Export, Access to Finance and Sustainability Practices for the Benefit of Tunisian and Libyan Enterprises

Tunis, Tunisia, 9-12 September, 2025



Implementation of the AfCFTA in Tunisia (Tunisia Market study)

Tunis, Tunisia, 15 September 2025



Capacity Building Workshop on Green and Sustainable Finance in Egypt

Cairo, Egypt, 15-18 September 2025



Challenges Facing Middle Income Countries in North Africa

Online, 19 September 2025



Workshop on Remittances from Tunisians Living Abroad, Investment & Contribution to the Tunisian National Development Plan 2026-2030

Tunis, Tunisia, 23-25 September 2025



Webinar on Climate Finance and Employment

Online, 30 September 2025



Workshop on Developing the Domestic Debt Market

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 30 September – 3 October 2025



About us: Based in Rabat (Morocco), the [Subregional Office for North Africa](#) of the [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#) (ECA) covers Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia.

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