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**37<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for North Africa**

**25<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa**

Four Seasons Hotel

Marrakech, Morocco, 1- 3 November 2022

**Provisional programme of work**

**Tuesday, 1 November**

8.00 –9.00 a.m. Registration of participants

9.00 – 10.20 a.m. Opening session (*agenda item 1*)

Opening statements:

- Saad Lihniash Mohamed Abdullah, Undersecretary of Ministry of Economy and Trade, Libya. Chair of North Africa outgoing Bureau.
- Alagie Fadera, Director of Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, The Gambia, Chair of West Africa outgoing Bureau.
- Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
- Taïeb Baccouche, Secretary General of Arab Maghreb Union.
- Election of the two Bureaus (*agenda item 2*).
- Election of the North Africa Bureau – *Room Agdal*.
- Election of the West Africa Bureau – *Room Medina*.
- Adoption of the agenda and programme of work (*agenda item 3*).

10.20 – 11.00 a.m. Coffee break, group photo and interviews

11.00 – 1.00 p.m. **Special session: Food and Energy security in North and West Africa amid multiple crises** (*agenda item 4*)

Moderator:

- Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

*The session on Food and energy security in North and West Africa will allow in-depth discussions to analyse the food and energy security landscape of the regions and propose solutions for sustainable long-term food and energy security.*

***Presentation of the paper on Food and Energy Security in North and West Africa.***

Presenters:

- Zuzana Schwidrowski, Director, Subregional Office for North Africa (SRO-NA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and **Ms. Ngone Diop**, Director, Subregional Office of West Africa (SRO-WA), UNECA

Panelists:

- Mahmoud Elyes Hamza, Minister of Agriculture, Resources, Hydraulics and Fishing, Tunisia.
- Mohamed B Turki, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Libya.
- Fatima Hamdouch, General Director Delegate of the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (MASEN GROUP).

- Hubert Ndjafa, CILSS Deputy Executive Secretary, Burkina Faso.
- Nwanne Vwede-Obahor, Director Programmes Implementation Support Unit/United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, Office of the Special Co-ordinator for Development in the Sahel.

1.00 – 2.00 p.m.

Lunch break

2.00 – 2.45 p.m.

**Opening session of the expert group meeting: “Crisis Resilience and Sustainability in North and West Africa.”** (*agenda item 5*)

**Opening statements:**

- Zuzana Schwidrowski, Director, SRO-NA, UNECA
- Ngone Diop, Director, SRO-WA, UNECA
- Younes Sekkouri, Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small Enterprises, Employment and Skills, the Kingdom of Morocco
- Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, the Kingdom of Morocco
- Presentation of the objectives of the meeting and of the programme of work: Soumaya Iraqui, Chief of Employment and Skills Section, SRO-NA.

2.45– 3.15 p.m.

coffee break

3.15 – 6.00 p.m

**Session 1: Resilient food system in North and West Africa**

*This first session will present salient facts of the multidimensional nature of current and forthcoming food crisis in North and West Africa. It will comprise 2 presentations followed by a discussion panel.*

Moderator:

- Marieme Bekaye, former Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania

Presentations:

Fertilizers and food security in Africa

- Faouzi Bekkaoui- INRA Morocco

Challenges of building sustainable agriculture in Africa

- Abdoulaye ZONON - CDP, ECOWAS Commission

▪ **Panel discussion on “Crisis and food security in the North and West Africa”**

- Mohamed Amrani -FAO
- Ollo SIB, Senior Research, Assessment & Monitoring advisor, World Food Programme, West and Central Africa Regional Bureau, Dakar, Senegal
- Zuzana Schwidrowski – SRO-NA
- Abdoulaye Zonon CDP, ECOWAS Commission

Energy security in North Africa

- Faouzi Bekkaoui INRA Morocco

**General discussion**

**Wednesday, 2 November**

**Continuation of the Expert Group Meeting:**

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

**Registration**

9.00 – 11 a.m.

**Session 2: Leveraging on the opportunities of demographic dividend and SMEs development, in the context of multiple crisis**

Moderator:

- Mouhamadou Bamba DIOP, Director General of Planning and Economic Policy, Senegal. Ongoing Chair of the fifty-fourth meeting of Committee of Experts of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

*The second session will examine links between demographic dividend and addressing food insecurity in the two regions, as well as its impact on the unemployment and specifically for youth and women, job creation and SMEs' development.*

*The session will be divided in two parts. In the first part we discuss how to build long term resilient economy from the demographic and firms' side:*

- Budget sensitive to demographic dividend: An initiative to accelerate the attainment of the demographic dividend to build more resilience against multiple crises (Bakary Dosso – ECA-SRO West Africa)
- Building resilience to crisis, lessons from the covid-19 crisis in Tunisia (Zoubir Benhamouche - ECA- SRO- North Africa)

*In the second part we will discuss enterprises boosting especially female entrepreneurship.*

▪ **Panel discussion on “Female entrepreneurship”:**

- Amal Elbeshbishi, ECA North Africa.
- Pauline Koebel, Founder SHEquity, CEO Afriprospects)
- Thierry Kangoye, Strategy and Operational Policies Department African Development Bank
- “West Africa Businesses Linkages Platform”:
- Ngone Diop - Director, Sub-regional Office of West Africa, UNECA

**General discussion**

11:00 – 11.15 a.m.

Coffee break

11.15 am – 1.00 p.m.

**Session 3: Trade for building resilient and sustainable food and energy systems**

Moderator:

- Ngone Diop, Director, ECA-SRO-West Africa

*The session will examine the role of trade in building resilient food and energy systems in Africa. It will also examine the progress on the implementation of the AfCFTA in the two subregions, challenges and prospects and how the countries can leverage the AfCFTA opportunities of the agreement in the context of the multiple crisis:*

- Opportunities that AfCFTA brings for achieving food security in Africa, especially North and West (Ken Ukaoha, National Association of Nigerian Traders).
- Implementation of the AfCFTA: Status and perspective from West Africa (Amadou Diouf, Chief, Subregional Initiatives Section, ECA West Africa).
- African Trade Exchange Platform; Leveraging on AfCFTA to build food security (Wafa Aidi, ECA-ATPC)

- Building partnership to support the implementation of AfCFTA: Best practices with ECA/ITFC partnership (Abdouramane Diallo, Manager, Targeted Interventions Trade & Business Development, International Islamic Trade Finance Cooperation/Islamic Development Bank)

#### **General discussion**

1.00 – 2.00 p.m.

Lunch break

**2.00 –4.00 p.m.**

#### **Session 4: Financing the green transition – panel**

Moderator:

- Zuzana Schwidrovski, Director of ECA-SRO-NA

*This last session will be a panel discussion on green financing issues and challenges:*

- Experiences with green bonds issuance: lessons learned from selected North and West African countries;
- Debt-for climate swaps; lessons and opportunities for Africa.

Panelists

- Sherine El Sharkawy First Deputy Minister of Finance, Egypt
- Jean Paul Adam, Director of ECA division on Technology, climate change and natural resource management
- Vimal Thakoor, Economist at International Monetary Fund
- Rachid Bayed, Executive Director Head of Operations, MASEN Morocco
- Nasser Seddiqi, Director, Directorate of Financial Operations and Markets, Moroccan Capital Market Authority
- Badolo Toussaint Deputy Director of Enterprises and Financial Institutions, West African Development Bank (BOAD)

4.00 – 4.15 p.m.

Coffee break

4.15 – 5.30 p.m.

#### **Adoption of Recommendations and Closing of the ad-hoc expert group meeting (agenda item 6)**

Moderator:

- Soumaya Iraqui-Houssaini, Chief of Employment and Skills Section, SRO-NA.

### **Thursday, 3 November**

#### **Continuation of Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for North and West Africa**

9.00 -10.00 a.m.

#### **The evolution of economic and social conditions in North and West Africa: review of subregional profiles (agenda item 7)**

- Review of the subregional profile for North Africa (*agenda item 7.1*)

Presented by Amandine Nakumuryango, Economic Affairs Officer, SRO-NA

- Review of the subregional profile for West Africa (*agenda item 7.2*)

Presented by Bakary Dosso, Chief of Demographic dynamics for development Section, SRO-WA

#### **Discussion**

- 10.00 -11.00 a.m.     **Review of the implementation of regional and international development agendas and special initiatives** (*agenda item 8*)
- North African countries progress toward achieving SDG 12 (*agenda item 8.1*)  
Presented by Samia Hamouda, Economist, SRO-NA, UNECA.
  - Review of the implementation of regional and international agreements and agendas (Development agendas and special initiatives) (*agenda item 8.2*).  
Presented by Mamoudou Sebego, Economist, SRO-WA, UNECA.
- Discussion**
- 11.00– 11.20 a.m.     Coffee break
- 11:20 am – 1:00 p.m.     **Statutory issues** (*agenda item 9*)
- Report on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Subregional Office for North Africa (October 2021-September 2022) and work programme for 2023. – *Room Agdal*.  
Presented by Zuzana Schwidrowski, Director, SRO-NA
  - Report on the activities of the ECA Subregional Office for West Africa (October 2021-September 2022) and work programme for 2023 – *Room Medina*.  
Presented by Ngone Diop, Director, SRO-WA.
  - Programme of work of the ECA for 2023.  
Presented by Said Adejumobi, Director, Strategic Planning, Oversight & Results Division.
- General discussion**
- 1.00 – 2.00 p.m.       Lunch break
- 3.00 – 4.00 p.m.       **Presentation of flagship initiatives across the Economic Commission for Africa** (*agenda item 10*)
- Presentation of the ECA support to Member states in the area of AfCFTA  
Presented by Stephen Karingi, Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division,
- 4.00 – 5.00 p.m.       **Review and adoption of ICE’s recommendations** (*agenda item 11*)
- **Review of recommendations for North Africa** – *Room Agdal*;
  - **Review of recommendation for West Africa** – *Room Medina*.
- 5:00 – 5:20 p.m.       Coffee break
- 5.20 – 5.30 p.m.       **Date and venue of the next ICE meeting** (*agenda item 12*)
- 5.30 – 6.00 p.m.       **Any other business** (*agenda item 13*)
- 6.00 – 6.30 p.m.       **Closing of the meeting** (*agenda item 14*)
- Vote of thanks.
  - Closing remarks.