



Expert Group Meeting

Crisis Resilience and Sustainable Development in

North and West Africa

Marrakech, 1 - 2 November 2022

Programme of work

Tuesday, 1st November

2.00 – 2.45 p.m.

Opening session of the expert group meeting: “Crisis Resilience and Sustainability in North and West Africa.”

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
- Olo 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

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.