

2 HOW ECA WORKS



CONVENING POWER: The first ever African Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees, *Empowering public-private partnership for trade facilitation*, was held at the ECA Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, 27 – 29 November 2018. ECA exercises its convening power to organize major high-level conferences and meetings, including the annual Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Photo © United Nations



The fourth session of the General Assembly of the Forum for Former African Heads of State and Government, Addis Ababa, 2 April 2016. Photo © ECA



TECHNICAL COOPERATION: Former ECA Executive Secretary, Abdoulie Janneh (middle of picture) during the signing of a memorandum of understanding between ECA and the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, 25 October 2007. From left to right: Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ahmed Djoghlaif; Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Noeleen Heyzer; and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Bader Al-Dafa. Photo © ECA

The services offered by ECA to its clients can be broadly grouped within the following four knowledge-based areas:

POLICY ANALYSIS AND ADVOCACY

Policy analysis is the foundation for the policy initiatives and reforms necessary for economic and social advancement in Africa. Advocacy is closely linked to it and is focused on internal and external constituencies. In Africa, it involves the promotion of sound policies and dissemination of best practices in economic and social development. Outside Africa, it is geared towards promoting increased understanding of the complexity of the African development context.

An important part of the advocacy work is fostering regional cooperation and integration by helping member States to strengthen intraregional linkages and helping to establish and strengthen subregional organizations and institutions.

CONVENING STAKEHOLDERS AND BUILDING CONSENSUS

The Commission exercises its convening power to organize major high-level conferences and meetings, including the annual Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to enhance skilled human resource capacity in member States.

ENHANCING THE ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS IN AFRICA

The Commission's regional vantage position facilitates coordination and synergies mainly among the Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations system, the African Development Forum and the Big Table, all of which support Africa's development and are some of the most successfully employed means for dialogue, consensus building and outreach on the continent. Consensus building extends to formulation of common positions on important global issues and thus to moulding Africa's "voice" on such issues.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Technical cooperation takes the form of on-demand regional advisory services to member States and their intergovernmental organizations, training workshops, seminars and fellowships, institution-building and field projects. Advisory services focus on clearly defined policy and technical challenges facing member States, for which the countries lack specialized expertise.

ADVOCACY: Namibia achieved its independence on 21 March 1990 and requested admission to the United Nations. With the unanimous adoption of resolution 652 by the Security Council, Namibia was recommended for membership in the United Nations. In this picture, the Prime Minister of Namibia, Hage G. Geingob (behind the name-plate), heads his country's delegation on the historic occasion of being admitted to the United Nations on 23 April 1990. Photo © United Nations



ENHANCING THE ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS IN AFRICA: Secretary-General of the Organization for African Unity (OAU), Diallo Telli (Guinea), presented the Secretary-General, U Thant, with the flag of the Organization. ECA plays a role in consensus building, which extends to the formulation of common positions on important global issues and thus to moulding Africa's "voice" on such issues. Photo © ECA





Young people taking part in the fifth African Development Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2005.
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