



ADIF 2026: AFRICA'S INAUGURAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FORUM

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CORPORATE OVERVIEW

The second quarter of 2026 was a quarter of sustained, high-level engagement across multiple global fronts — defined by high-stakes advocacy, institutional momentum, and the quiet, determined work of building Africa's long-term resilience from the ground up.

Against a backdrop of tightening financial conditions, declining Official Development Assistance, the ongoing disruption of the Middle East conflict, and a global economic order still reordering itself, ECA showed up, at the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings and the G24 in Washington, at the African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Brazzaville, and at forums from New York to London, with a consistent message: Africa is not a problem to be managed. It is a solution waiting to be financed.

From the Spring Meetings to the Africa Development Impact Forum in Addis Ababa, the Commission used every platform available to advance a forward-looking agenda anchored in innovation, data, domestic resource mobilisation, and the creation of the 15 million jobs Africa's youth require every year.

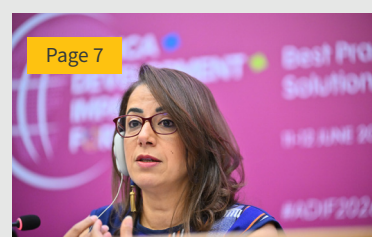
This edition of the ECA Quarterly Bulletin captures the full range of that work, from the flagship engagements of the Executive Secretary and both Deputy Executive Secretaries, to the technical and programmatic work of ECA's divisions and Sub-regional Offices that rarely makes the headlines but underpins everything.

The global economic context remains highly uncertain.

Thirty-one African currencies depreciated as global shocks intensified, tightening fiscal space and raising financing costs across the continent. With 16 countries at high risk of debt distress and 7 already in distress, the pressure on African economies to do more with less has never been more acute.

In this environment, ECA reinforced its strategic direction—centering innovation, frontier technologies, and regional integration as the pathways through which African economies can not only navigate the uncertainty but lead the transformation that lies on the other side of it.

INSIDE PAGES



From Financial Architecture Reform to Climate and Social Development



Strengthening Programme Delivery and Institutional Coordination





UN Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi

The 10th African Union–United Nations Conference: A Final Mandate to Press Africa's Case

In May, UN Secretary-General António Guterres visited Nairobi for the Africa Forward Summit, co-hosted by Kenyan President William Ruto and French President Emmanuel Macron, before travelling to Addis Ababa for the 10th African Union–United Nations Conference — his final such gathering as Secretary-General. Across both stops, his message was consistent: Africa is no longer waiting for solutions — it is producing them, from the Pact for the Future to new tools for sovereign debt negotiation to the Sevilla Commitment on multilateral development bank lending. “This is not a continent waiting for solutions,” he told the Nairobi summit. “This is a continent producing them.” More: Guterres highlights Africa's leadership in speech to summit in Nairobi | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

That message carried a sharper edge in Addis Ababa. Meeting with African Union Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Youssouf and President Macron, the Secretary-General pointed to the structural injustice still embedded in global financial governance — a system, he said, “designed without Africa, and still largely operating without Africa.” African countries routinely pay up to three times the benchmark rate to borrow, a cost that drains public resources needed for water, health, and education. He renewed his call for reform of the global financial architecture, stronger support for the African Credit Rating Agency, and tripled lending capacity from multilateral development banks — while also reaffirming UN backing for the AU's Silencing the Guns initiative and Security Council Resolution 2719 on predictable financing for AU-led peace operations. More: Secretary-General's

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Advancing Africa's Agenda on the Global Stage



World Bank Spring Meetings 2026 in Washington, D.C.

IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings

The IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington, D.C. provided Executive Secretary Claver Gatete with a critical platform to consolidate Africa's collective voice on global financial architecture reform. At the African Consultative Group meeting with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, the ES was unequivocal: 31 African currencies have depreciated as global shocks intensify, tightening fiscal space and raising financing costs at precisely the moment the continent can least afford it. Debt reform, data, and technology, he stressed, are not peripheral concerns, they are central to Africa's transformation.

At the G24, ECA underscored that domestic resource mobilisation, stronger debt governance, and value chain investment are key to building the resilience needed to create the 15 million jobs Africa requires annually. Among the most significant outcomes of the Spring Meetings was the launch of the Borrowers Platform — born of the Seville Commitment. The Executive Secretary described it as a decisive step toward rebalancing a system where borrowers have too often negotiated alone, crisis by crisis. The Platform gives countries a collective voice, equipping large and small debtor nations with the tools, data, and capacity to negotiate on more equal terms. Fairness, not confrontation. Coordination, not fragmentation.

On the margins of the Spring Meetings, the Executive Secretary joined the World Bank's Financing Vision event, advancing ECA's work on

sustainable health financing and emphasising that stronger health systems, innovative financing, private sector participation, and expanding Africa's manufacturing base are essential for impact at scale.

More: Shaping Africa's credit risk narrative beyond financial indicators

SDG Investment Fair and Financing for Development Preparatory Engagements, New York

At the SDG Investment Fair at UN Headquarters in New York — held as part of FFD Week in April — Executive Secretary Gatete joined global leaders to advance discussions on implementing the Seville outcomes and scaling sustainable finance. He moderated a ministerial roundtable on the global financing framework, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen resilience, safeguard policy space, and scale cooperation amid rising global economic uncertainty. His agenda was comprehensive: stronger buffers against commodity shocks; boosted domestic resource mobilisation; action against illicit financial flows; institution-building; and energy access as a driver of industrialisation — all in line with the Seville commitments.

He further stressed that addressing risk perception in Africa — through stronger credit rating preparedness and de-risking tools — is essential to lowering the continent's cost of capital, highlighting carbon markets as a key instrument, with ECA supporting countries on pricing, debt-for-nature swaps, and tax convention reform to attract and stabilise Foreign Direct Investment.



Executive Secretary Claver Gatete with Deputy Executive Secretary Hanan Morsy at the African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Brazzaville.

Brazzaville and London: Setting Fair Terms for Africa's Trade, Climate and Investment Future

At the African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Brazzaville, Executive Secretary Gatete chaired the Africa High-Level Working Group on Global Financial Integrity to examine the implications of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) for the continent. His message was strategic: as CBAM moves toward full implementation, African exporters will face new carbon costs and complex compliance obligations, and Africa must speak with one voice. Building capacity to measure emissions, access clean technology, and finance a just transition, while protecting and harnessing its own carbon assets.

The point was sharpened at the Congo Basin Climate Commission roundtable, where the ES raised a structural challenge sitting at the intersection of climate and finance: Africa's natural wealth is not counted in GDP, and carbon credits trade at roughly \$100 in Europe compared to less than \$10 in Africa. ECA, he noted, is supporting countries to strengthen carbon credit pricing and unlock greater value from the continent's climate assets. The same logic carried through to trade and water. At the African Economic Outlook 2026 launch, the

ES underscored that AfCFTA implementation is central to resilience, industrialisation, and growth amid debt pressures, climate shocks, declining ODA, and geopolitical uncertainty — pointing to removing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, strengthening trade infrastructure, building regional energy solutions, and scaling value chains in agriculture and critical minerals as the practical levers for moving Africa beyond exporting unfinished goods.

At a high-level side event on Financing Africa's Water Investments, he made the structural case plainly: Africa requires more than US\$50 billion annually to meet SDG 6, yet current investment stands at only US\$12–15 billion per year, and water-related investments receive less than 3 per cent of global climate finance despite water being the primary channel through which climate impacts are felt.

“Underinvestment in water is not only a social concern but a structural economic constraint,” he said, calling for water to be reframed as “the bloodstream of our economies” and treated as an investable asset capable of driving growth, jobs, and resilience. More: Welcome remarks by

Claver Gatete at the meeting of the Africa High-Level Working Group on the Global Financial Architecture | ECA Chief urges scaling up financing for water investments to drive growth, resilience and shared prosperity

In London, at The Africa Debate, the Executive Secretary brought the same argument to an investment audience: judge UK–Africa partnerships not by rhetoric or inputs, but by jobs and wealth created for Africans. Amid Middle East instability and global uncertainty, Africa remains open for business, with large-scale investments planned across the continent — the question is whether global investors will match the continent's ambition.

Drawing on his own experience in the UK, he posed a pressing question: why do the world's most innovative companies still shy away from Africa, even when de-risking facilities exist? Perception of risk, he argued, must catch up with reality. A genuine UK–Africa partnership means mutual benefit — starting with full AfCFTA implementation, supported by infrastructure, regional value chains, local payment systems, and energy development.

ARFSD-12: Turning the Tide on Africa's Sustainable Development Agenda

Addis Ababa hosted three major gatherings in close succession at the end of April — the Twelfth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-12), the Eighth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, and the Seventh Africa Climate Talks — convened jointly under the banner “Turning the Tide: Transformative and Coordinated Actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.” Organised by ECA alongside the African Union Commission and other UN system entities, the Forum drew high-level participation including AUC Deputy Chairperson Selma Malika Haddadi, ECOSOC President Lok Bahadur Thapa, and Uganda's Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja. Ministers, parliamentarians, civil society, the private sector, and youth gathered to confront a sobering reality: with fewer than five years left to 2030, Africa's progress is slow on 12 of the SDGs and regressing on five. More: African leaders call for accelerated action to “Turn the Tide” on SDGs and Agenda 2063

The numbers behind the Forum's five focus goals made the scale of the challenge impossible to ignore. Some 600 million Africans, a disproportionate share of them women and girls, and accounting for more than 80 per cent of the world's electricity-poor population — still lack access to power. Twenty-four of the 28 countries worldwide where more than a quarter of the population lack basic drinking water are in sub-Saharan Africa, where fetching water costs women an estimated 40 billion hours of labour each year. Africa's industrial base remains thin, holding just 2 per cent of global manufacturing value added, while the share of the urban population living in informal settlements has fallen only marginally over the past decade and remains nearly twice the global average. Underpinning all of it is a financing gap of between US\$670 billion and US\$848 billion a year against an estimated US\$802 billion to US\$1.67 trillion required annually to meet the SDGs in Africa.

The Forum also marked a moment of practical delivery rather than just



diagnosis. It strengthened the technical readiness of the 19 African states conducting Voluntary National Reviews in 2026 and saw the launch of the SDG and Agenda 2063 Impact Labs a mechanism designed to co-create, pilot, and scale transformative interventions rather than leave them as commitments on paper. Opening the Forum, Executive Secretary Gatete set the tone: “The time to shape our future is NOW,” he told delegates, pointing to Africa's innovation paradox — nearly 20 per cent of the world's population, yet just 0.6 per cent of global patent applications.

More: Opening statement by Mr. Claver Gatete at the 12th African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD-12) | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa | Africa must move from diagnosis to delivery to accelerate sustainable development

The session closed with the adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration, Africa's formal call

to action across the five SDGs under review: mobilising sustainable finance and political leadership for water and sanitation; expanding decentralised renewable energy and regional power pools to close the electricity gap; adopting industrial strategies aligned with AI, the green transition, and shifting global supply chains; treating cities as engines of structural transformation rather than sites of informal sprawl; and operationalising the African Credit Rating Agency to correct systemic bias in global credit assessments and lower the continent's cost of capital. The Declaration will now carry forward as Africa's regional input to the 2026 High-Level Political Forum, the UN Water Conference, and the continent's preparations for COP32, which Ethiopia will host in 2027.

More: African stakeholders adopt Addis Ababa Declaration calling for transformative action on SDGs and Agenda 2063 | Building a united front to address structural barriers to sustainable development in Africa

The 10th African Union–United...

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remarks at the beginning of the meeting with the President of France and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

On climate, the Secretary-General was direct: Africa holds 60 per cent of the world's best solar potential but receives only 2 per cent of global clean energy investment, even as 600 million Africans remain without electricity. With the right finance, he noted, the continent could generate ten times the power it needs by 2040 — entirely from renewables. “No more exploitation. No more plundering,” he

said of the continent's critical mineral wealth. “The people of Africa must benefit, first and most, from the resources of Africa.” He also signed a new declaration with Chairperson Youssouf reaffirming and formalising the AU–UN cooperation frameworks on peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights — closing the decade-long partnership cycle with a formal institutional commitment to carry it forward. More: Secretary-General's bilingual statement to the media following the annual AU-UN conference | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa



The launch of the 2026 Africa Sustainable Development Report

ARFSD-12 also saw the official launch of the 2026 Africa Sustainable Development Report (ASDR), the ninth in a series that remains the only publication systematically tracking Africa's progress on both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Jointly produced by the African Union Commission, ECA, the African Development Bank, and UNDP, this year's edition assessed the same five SDGs under HLPF review. Water and sanitation, energy, infrastructure and industrialisation, sustainable cities, and global partnerships, providing the evidence base for the Forum's discussions and the Declaration that followed. The findings were sobering: safely managed sanitation coverage across the continent has crept from just 24 to 30 per cent since 2015, leaving an estimated 650 million Africans without access to a basic sanitary facility, against a global average of 58 per cent.

Presenting the Report's findings, Executive Secretary Gatete framed the stakes in plain terms: "Water, energy, infrastructure and cities are not peripheral development goals. They are the productive foundations of Africa's transformation. To turn the tide, Africa must treat foundational services as economic assets that drive jobs, competitiveness, digitalisation and inclusion."

Download the Report: 2026 Africa Sustainable Development Report (ASRD 2026)

African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum (ARSTIF)



The plenary hall during the Eighth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum (ARSTIF), held days ahead of ARFSD-12.

Opening the Eighth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum days ahead of ARFSD-12, Executive Secretary Gatete framed the moment with unusual directness: the margin for delay has disappeared. Global growth is slowing, financial conditions are tightening, and debt vulnerabilities and climate shocks are intensifying — even as a technological revolution driven by data, AI, biotechnology, and the Internet of things redefines competitiveness and governance itself. Against that backdrop, Africa's position remains precarious: internet usage stood at just 36 per cent in 2025, with sharp urban-rural and gender divides,

and the continent accounts for only 0.6 per cent of global patent applications despite representing nearly one-fifth of the world's population.

The Executive Secretary pointed to what's already working as proof of what's possible, climate-smart agricultural technologies lifting crop yields by up to 20 per cent in Kenya, and drone-based medical delivery systems in Rwanda cutting stockout times by 60 per cent. To move from isolated success stories to continental transformation, he set out five strategic priorities: aligning science and innovation with Africa's economic transformation

agenda so that invention translates into production and jobs, not just novelty; accelerating investment in digital public infrastructure — digital identity, interoperable payments, trusted data platforms, without which innovation cannot scale; building future-ready skills at the pace and scale the continent's youth population demands; deepening regional coordination through AfCFTA so that innovation isn't trapped in fragmented national markets; and securing the reliable, affordable energy that data centres and digital infrastructure require, since Africa's digital ambitions are

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Seventh Africa Climate Talks: Africa's Road to COP32

Running on the margins of ARFSD-12, the Seventh Africa Climate Talks convened African climate negotiators, experts, policymakers, scientists, and civil society under the theme "Africa's Road to COP32: Urgency, Leadership and Action." The timing was deliberate: with COP31 set for Türkiye in 2026 and COP32 to be hosted by Ethiopia in Addis Ababa in 2027, the Talks were designed to consolidate Africa's post-COP30 climate agenda and define a coordinated continental position ahead of both. Opening the session, Executive Secretary Gatete set the bar high: "COP32 will be a defining test of credibility," he said. "A test



Executive Secretary Claver Gatete with delegates at the Seventh Africa Climate Talks, Addis Ababa.

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ADIF 2026: AFRICA'S INAUGURAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FORUM



Girum Mezmur one of the panelists at the creative industries segment of ADIF 2026.

Africa is not short of ideas, research, or policy frameworks. What has been missing is a system that turns them into results. Promising innovations remain isolated. Pilot programmes go unscaled. Applied research sits disconnected from the decisions that shape people's lives. On 11–12 June 2026, ECA launched the inaugural Africa Development Impact Forum (ADIF) at the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa — a direct response to the structural inertia that has stalled Africa's transformation for too long.

The Forum brought together researchers, policymakers, investors, development partners,

and industry leaders under the theme “Best Practices and Innovative Solutions for Job Creation in Africa” a theme chosen because job creation is the continent's most pressing development priority. Africa needs to create more than 15 million jobs every year to meet the aspirations of its growing youth population, and existing approaches have not delivered at the required scale. ADIF operates on a three-stage model that begins before the forum opens and continues long after it closes: a pre-forum Call-to-Action Challenge that co-develops problem statements and mobilises ideas; a Policy and Strategy Hackathon during the Forum that

tests and refines actionable solutions; and a post-forum Implementation Clock that tracks, supports, and scales proven models. Unlike one-off convenings, it is designed as a recurring platform, with each annual edition building continuity with previous years — accumulating evidence, action, and accountability rather than starting fresh each time.

“We want to close the gap between ideas and implementation,” said Executive Secretary Gatete at the opening. “That is exactly why we built ADIF

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Pre-Forum Stock-Take Webinar Series

In the five months leading up to the Forum, ECA convened a Pre-Forum Stock-Take Webinar Series to build the evidence base and set the intellectual groundwork across four sessions. In January, over 120 participants from government, the private sector, academia, and development institutions explored how Africa can turn its vast critical green mineral wealth into real, scalable jobs for young people — examining infrastructure gaps, downstream value chain opportunities, and the policy and skills alignment needed to make that possible. In February, a session on “AI and Jobs in Africa: Opportunity or Disruption?” brought together over 200 participants to

examine whether artificial intelligence will drive inclusive job creation or accelerate labour market disruption. Speakers agreed that Africa's response must be deliberate and grounded in development realities: AI offers significant potential to raise productivity across agriculture, healthcare, logistics, finance, and manufacturing, but its benefits will not be automatic or evenly distributed. In March, a session on promoting high-growth youth entrepreneurship explored what a responsive, inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem looks like in practice — covering the regulatory environment, access to finance, business development services, skills, market

access, and networks. And in April, ECA convened “Unlocking Regional Value Chains: Empowering Youth-Led Enterprises to Thrive Under AfCFTA,” jointly organised by ECA's Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa, IDEP, and the Office of the Executive Secretary, bringing together leaders and youth entrepreneurs to examine how AfCFTA can be operationalised to create concrete economic opportunities for Africa's next generation. More: AI and Jobs in Africa: Turning Disruption into Opportunity | ECA convenes leaders and youth entrepreneurs to unlock regional value chains ahead of ADIF

From Financial Architecture Reform to Climate and Social Development



Deputy Executive Secretary Hanan Morsy speaking at ADIF 2026

ECA's Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, Hanan Morsy, used the second quarter to position the Commission at the centre of continental and global policy debates on macroeconomic reform, climate resilience, and social development. Her interventions consistently reinforced a central argument: that Africa's economic transformation requires not isolated fixes, but integrated reforms that place people, resilience, and opportunity at the core.

At the Spring Meetings, DES Morsy briefed African Finance Ministers at the Africa High-Level Working Group on Global Financial Architecture Reform, consolidating a unified African position ahead of key global negotiations. She outlined recent progress on reform efforts while urging Ministers to convert persistent global challenges into opportunities — accelerating the shift from aid to investment, deepening regional integration, crowding in private capital, and strengthening domestic resource mobilisation. She called for continued reforms across the IMF, World Bank, and Multilateral Development Banks, including more affordable financing, improved MDB capital adequacy frameworks,

and stronger mechanisms to address sovereign debt vulnerabilities.

At the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action roundtable, DES Morsy delivered a keynote on the cost of climate shocks in Africa and the imperative to treat resilience as an asset, calling for three priorities: integrating resilience in macro-fiscal frameworks and debt sustainability analysis; strengthening institutional capacity; and leveraging the Sustainable Debt Coalition.

DES Morsy also joined the panel to launch the joint policy paper by the African Union, AfDB, UNDP Africa, and ECA on the impacts of the Middle East conflict on African economies. To build resilience against external shocks, she called for leveraging domestic resources for development finance, diversifying the energy mix, integrating resilience in macro-fiscal frameworks, and deepening regional integration.

At ARFSD-12's high-level panel on the outcomes of the Second World Summit for Social Development, DES Morsy highlighted three pillars

of social development — poverty reduction, decent employment, and social protection — and ECA's support to member States in addressing them. She called for stronger domestic resource mobilisation, digital and demographic transition strategies, and adaptive social protection as the mechanisms to make those pillars real.

Closing ARFSD-12 on behalf of ECA, DES Morsy delivered a frank assessment to 1,535 participants from 48 countries: Africa's progress toward the SDGs remains visible but uneven, and in some areas reversing. "The conclusion is straightforward: incremental progress will not deliver the SDGs," she said. She highlighted four priorities emerging from the Forum's deliberations — scaling up and coordinating action; advancing digital transformation; reforming domestic and global financing; and accelerating structural transformation through industrialisation and regional integration. Her closing message was direct: "The challenge is not diagnosis, it is delivery. Let us move from dialogue to action, from commitments to results, and from fragmentation to scale." More: Africa must move

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Strengthening Programme Delivery and Institutional Coordination



Deputy Executive Secretary Mama Keita addressing audience at ADIF 2026

ECA's Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support, Mama Keita, used the second quarter to deepen ECA's institutional reach and reinforce the programmatic foundations that translate high-level commitments into measurable country-level results. Her engagements spanned Uganda, Addis Ababa, and Rabat — where she made her first visit to ECA's Sub-regional Office for North Africa — and consistently emphasised coherence, integration, and delivery.

DES Keita delivered the keynote address at the National Performance Review Conference 2026 in Uganda, opened by Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja, on the theme “Consolidating Africa's Development Gains Amidst Global Financing Constraints and UN System Reforms: Strategic Pathways for Resilient and Inclusive Growth.” Her address framed the challenge squarely: Africa's development gains are real, but they are fragile — and sustaining them in an era of shrinking fiscal space requires not just more resources, but smarter, more coherent institutions.

In Addis Ababa, DES Keita opened a five-day training on Economic and Climate Change Diplomacy, jointly organised by IDEP and CELMAD, aimed at strengthening Africa's strategic voice on climate, trade, finance, and global decision-making. Her message set the tone: “This

training isn't just a learning experience, it's a key investment in Africa's strategic voice. Building partnerships and strengthening our capacity is crucial to advocate for climate justice and equity on the global stage.”

At the Climate-Water-Energy-Food Nexus Dialogue, convened as a side event of ARFSD-12, DES Keita underscored that Africa's challenges are deeply interconnected and that fragmented responses are no longer adequate. “The nexus is not an option; it is a necessity,” she stressed, outlining three priorities: strengthening policy coherence across sectors; scaling innovative, integrated financing; and investing in data, science, and delivery systems. More: Africa pursues integrated solutions for climate, water, energy, and food crises

At the ARFSD-12 pre-event on SDG Impact Labs, DES Keita highlighted Africa's decisive moment — with less than five years to deliver on the SDGs and the launch of Agenda 2063's Second Ten-Year Plan driving a Decade of Acceleration. She positioned the Impact Labs as a platform to test, refine, and scale solutions, bridging the gap between ambition and delivery.

At the inaugural Africa Development Impact Forum in Addis Ababa, DES Keita opened

proceedings and framed the Forum's ultimate ambition: “ADIF brings together researchers, policymakers, investors, development partners and industry leaders to turn ideas into industries, industries into jobs, and jobs into shared prosperity.” She underscored that Africa's challenge is not a shortage of ideas but a shortage of systems that scale them — and that ADIF was designed precisely to close that gap.

At the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, DES Keita opened the inaugural International Conference on Cybersecurity in the Era of Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence, co-convened by ECA and the Ethiopian Cybersecurity Association. Framing the stakes clearly, she noted that AI now generates knowledge, shapes institutions, and supports decision-making at every level of society — and that those who govern it with foresight will lead, while those who hesitate risk being reduced to consumers of a future built elsewhere. The two-day conference, designed as the first in a recurring pan-African forum with ECA headquarters as its institutional home, brought together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and technology leaders to develop Africa's strategic response to the cybersecurity implications of AI. More: Cybersecurity in the age of AI: Africa's strategic moment

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

Macroeconomic Policy and Finance

- ECA hosted a five-day Capacity-Building and Technical Workshop to advance Ethiopia's capital markets, jointly organised with the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority, the Ethiopian Securities Exchange, FSD Ethiopia, and the Development Bank of Ethiopia. The workshop brought together regulators, financial institutions, and market practitioners to strengthen frameworks for market access, private sector financing, and investment partnerships. More: ECA hosts five-day workshop to strengthen Ethiopia's capital markets
- ECA convened a high-level dialogue on strengthening sovereign finance coordination amid rising debt pressures, bringing together policymakers and development finance experts to advance coordinated approaches to debt management and fiscal resilience across Africa.

More: Strengthening sovereign finance coordination in an era of rising debt pressures

- ECA organised a study tour in support of Sudan's tax administration and development, providing technical assistance to strengthen domestic revenue mobilisation capacity during a critical period of reconstruction and reform.

More: ECA holds study tour in support to Sudan's tax administration and development

- On the margins of ARFSD-12, ECA, the UN Development Coordination Office, and

the African Union Commission convened UN Resident Coordinators across Africa to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation in support of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

- With Africa's financing gaps widening and debt vulnerabilities rising, the meeting focused on the AU's Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy — covering tax policy and administration reform, tackling illicit financial flows, and strengthening public financial management. Participants agreed on six strategic priorities, including reframing development through a political economy lens, enhancing African financial sovereignty, and deepening regional integration, with UN Resident Coordinators identified as critical levers for aligning national financing frameworks with continental commitments.

More: UN Resident Coordinators gather to strengthen domestic resource mobilization for Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in Africa



- ECA, the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority, and FSD Africa convened over 80 representatives from Ethiopia's financial sector for the Stakeholder Validation Workshop of Ethiopia's ten-year Capital Markets Master Plan — a strategic roadmap covering six reform areas: strengthening

the legal and regulatory framework; developing market infrastructure; deepening the sovereign debt market; broadening the non-sovereign issuer base; expanding investor participation; and building sustainable institutional capacity. With the Ethiopian Securities Exchange now operational and the Central Securities Depository advancing, the Master Plan provides the strategic framework to consolidate early gains and move toward a mature, diversified market capable of financing Ethiopia's economic transformation.

- More: Ethiopia sets course for a decade of capital market reform
- ECA and the African Island States Coordination Committee convened a workshop in Mombasa to help African Island States strengthen sovereign credit ratings and unlock climate and blue economy financing — addressing how geographic isolation and climate vulnerability systematically inflate their borrowing costs.

More: African island states seek stronger credit ratings for climate and blue economy finance

- ECA's Sub-regional Office for West Africa and UNDP joined the Government of Niger to validate a national domestic resource mobilisation strategy in Niamey — including a tax policy and administration assessment and a Priority Action Plan to strengthen revenue collection and reduce dependence on external financing.

More: Niger and the United Nations join forces to strengthen Domestic Resource Mobilization

Call to Action: Jobs Challenge

Ahead of the Forum, ECA also launched the Call to Action: Jobs Challenge, a competition and co-creation platform designed to crowdsource bold, practical, evidence-based solutions for job creation in Africa from policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs, youth, and practitioners across the continent. The top ten submissions were

selected and their authors invited to the Policy and Strategy Hackathon at ADIF in June, where finalists refined their ideas into actionable policy solutions under Forum conditions — with nine innovators from Rwanda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Kenya, South Africa, Togo, and the DRC each pitching to a panel of

expert judges from ECA, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, and UN Women. A winning solution was selected for implementation support — completing the circuit from idea to action that ADIF was built to close. More: Call to Action – Jobs Challenge | Africa's youth take centre stage on day one of the inaugural Africa Development Impact Forum

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infrastructure

- At the 5th African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Energy, and Tourism (AU STC5), Executive Secretary Gatete delivered a clear call to action: “No country can compete in the 21st century on analog foundations.” He called on African economies to accelerate the transition by powering, connecting, and digitising their economies — laying the infrastructure foundation for a genuinely competitive, inclusive digital future.

More: Africa must power, connect and digitize its economies

- African Ministers approved a package of ECA-developed continental frameworks at the 5th Ordinary Session of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Transport and Energy in Johannesburg, including the Continental Energy Security Policy Framework, the Continental Framework on Electric Mobility, and the Strategy for Strengthening the Resilience of Africa's Aviation Industry. ECA's TICID Director Robert Lisinge delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Executive Secretary, linking reliable energy and transport infrastructure to AfCFTA implementation and structural transformation. The Ministerial Declaration placed ECA at the centre of multiple follow-up mandates — from supporting member states in implementing the energy security framework, to co-developing a biannual PPP Forum for Africa and advancing just energy transition frameworks across Regional Economic Communities. More: AU ministerial session backs continental frameworks on transport and energy
- At the Nuclear Energy Innovation Summit for Africa (NEISA 2026) in Kigali, ECA's TICID Director Robert Lisinge called for nuclear energy to be formally integrated into the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, arguing that building local talent is as critical as building reactors. ECA Economic Affairs Officer Yohannes Hailu presented an emerging African financing framework built on three pillars: nuclear regionalism through capital sharing among neighbouring nations; domestic resource



ECA attends the Nuclear Energy Innovation Summit for Africa (NEISA 2026), held in Kigali.

mobilisation; and utility and market reforms to ensure projects are bankable.

More: African leaders call for regional cooperation and market reforms to unlock nuclear energy financing

- ECA, in partnership with Chad's Ministry of Telecommunications and with EU and GIZ-AU support, concluded a week-long series of national engagements in N'Djamena to support the development of Chad's National Data Governance Strategy. The programme included a national assessment of the country's legal, institutional, and technical data governance landscape; a capacity-building workshop for 45 officials covering data protection, policy development, digital infrastructure, and data sharing; and — through ECA's partnership with Google — an introduction to the Government AI Campus and an AI Readiness Assessment to identify gaps and priorities for public sector AI capacity building. More: Chad joins Africa's unified data governance and AI readiness movement for a trusted digital future
- ECA partnered with Ethiopia's Ministry of Transport and Logistics, ITDP, and WRI to launch the Ethiopia E-Mobility Strategy 2025–2030 — a national roadmap covering fleet transition, charging infrastructure, public transport electrification, and local capacity building. With EV adoption growing from 7,000 vehicles in 2023 to a projected 115,000 by end of 2026, Ethiopia now serves as an early model for translating the AU's Continental Framework on Electric Vehicles into national action. More: Ethiopia launches National E-Mobility Strategy 2025–2030
- ECA's TICID Division launched a four-year regional project — “Fostering Digital

Entrepreneurship Among Women in Africa” — across Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Namibia, and the Republic of Congo, targeting over 1,000 women entrepreneurs with digital literacy and financial management training and over 200 policymakers with capacity-building support to design more inclusive digital ecosystems. The initiative adopts a dual-track approach, simultaneously empowering women entrepreneurs and strengthening the enabling policy environments needed to sustain their participation in the digital economy. More: ECA launches regional initiative to accelerate women's digital entrepreneurship across four African countries

- ECA, with GIZ support through the Data Governance in Africa initiative, convened stakeholder and capacity-building workshops in Brazzaville to support the Republic of the Congo in developing a National Data Governance Strategy — covering data protection, cybersecurity, AI readiness, and alignment with the AU Data Policy Framework. More: Building the foundations of a trusted data ecosystem in the Republic of the Congo
- ECA, with GIZ support through the Data Governance in Africa Initiative, concluded a four-day series of national engagements in Conakry to support Guinea in developing a National Data Governance Strategy — covering a country assessment, capacity-building for 48 officials, and a stakeholder workshop with 53 participants to define strategic priorities on data protection, cybersecurity, AI readiness, and alignment with the AU Data Policy Framework. More: Guinea lays the foundations for a trusted and inclusive National Data Governance Framework

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

Regional Integration and Trade

- ECA partnered with the Government of Zambia to develop a successor National Local Content Strategy, supporting the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in a high-level consultative process to align industrialisation policy with AfCFTA implementation and regional value chain development. More: ECA partners with Government of Zambia on industrialisation successor local content strategy
- ECA and COMESA convened the First Consultative Workshop on the COMESA Sustainable Tourism Development Framework in Diani, Kenya, bringing together policymakers, tourism experts, and private sector leaders from all 21 COMESA Member States. Despite tourism contributing nearly 10 per cent of GDP and employment across the region, its potential remains constrained by fragmented national markets and weak regional coordination. The workshop focused on diversifying tourism beyond wildlife-centric models — toward urban, cultural, blue, eco-, agri-, and medical tourism — while advancing visa facilitation, regional branding, and a shared “One Destination” approach aligned with Agenda 2063. More: ECA and COMESA convene consultative workshop to transform regional tourism and deepen economic integration
- ECA's African Trade Policy Centre, together with its Sub-regional Offices for West Africa and North Africa, convened a regional workshop in Lomé, Togo on AfCFTA implementation strategies, bringing together trade ministries, regional economic communities, the private sector, SMEs, and chambers of commerce from West and North Africa. Against a backdrop of global supply chain disruptions and declining external demand, the workshop examined how the AfCFTA can strengthen economic resilience and reduce dependency — noting that full implementation could increase

intra-African trade by 45 per cent by 2045, representing nearly US\$276 billion in additional trade, with significant gains in agribusiness, manufacturing, and services. More: Lomé regional workshop: Turning the promises of the AfCFTA into reality

- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Central Africa supported São Tomé and Príncipe in building the statistical foundations for its tourism sector — helping national institutions develop Tourism Satellite Accounts to accurately measure tourism's contribution to GDP, employment, and investment, and translate that data into bankable evidence for policymakers and investors. More: Turning data into growth: strengthening tourism measurement in São Tomé and Príncipe
- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa and Africa Trade Policy Centre supported Angola in validating its National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy and Action Plan in Luanda — the culmination of a nine-month participatory consultation process — with priority interventions targeting value chain development, SME market access, and inclusion of women and youth-led businesses. More: Angola validates AfCFTA strategy to leverage market access opportunities

Gender, Poverty and Social Policy

- On the margins of ARFSD-12, ECA and HelpAge International co-hosted a side event on ageing in Africa, spotlighting a demographic reality that rarely makes the policy agenda: the number of Africans aged 60 and above is projected to more than triple — from roughly 75 million today to over 230 million by 2050 — making ageing a present development priority, not a future one. Speakers called for ageing to be integrated into national development

plans, SDG reporting, and financing frameworks, and placed intergenerational solidarity at the heart of the response — recognising older persons as caregivers, knowledge holders, and contributors to community resilience whose needs remain systematically undercounted in African statistics. More: Ageing in Africa: From data gaps to intergenerational action

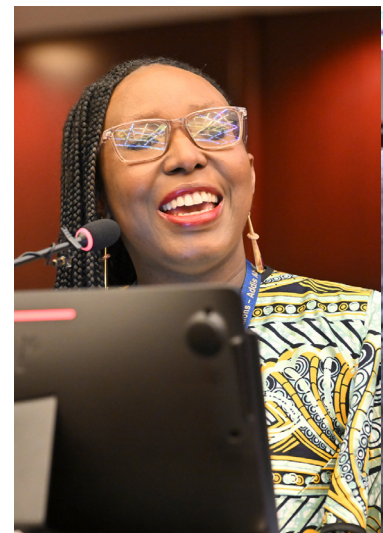
- ECA piloted a new initiative on “Strengthening Youth Policy Implementation and Employment Pathways in Africa,” hosting a workshop in Dire Dawa and a regional Expert Group Meeting with IGAD member countries in Addis Ababa to bridge the gap between youth policy commitments and real livelihood outcomes. Findings will feed into a joint ECA-Oxford Economics diagnostic tool and a regional peer-learning exercise under IGAD. More: ECA pilots initiative to fast-track action on decent jobs and productive entrepreneurship for African youth

Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resources

- The Embassy of Armenia and ECA marked the International Day for Biological Diversity at ECA headquarters, bringing together diplomats and development partners ahead of COP17 in Yerevan. ECA's Charles Akol reframed Africa's natural endowment as a strategic asset rather than a conservation burden, and highlighted ECA's Biodiversity Credit Toolkit — designed to help African governments build credible, equitable biodiversity credit markets that benefit local communities. More: Armenia and ECA mark International Day for Biodiversity with a call for local action and global impact

ADIF 2026

AFRICA'S INAUGURAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FORUM



ADIF 2026

AFRICA'S INAUGURAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FORUM



High-level session on Clean Water and Sanitation

At the ARFSD-12 High-Level Session on Clean Water and Sanitation, Executive Secretary Gatete made a case for reframing water as economic infrastructure — not merely a basic need. Despite nearly 300 million Africans gaining access to basic drinking water since 2015, only 40 per cent have access to safely managed water and just 30 per cent to safely managed sanitation, while over 200 million people still practised open defecation in 2024. The ES stressed that Africa's industrial future — from hydropower and agro-processing to green hydrogen and mining — hinges on first securing its water base, and that the continent requires approximately US\$64 billion annually to achieve water security and universal sanitation,



Executive Secretary Claver Gatete speaks at High-level session on Clean Water and Sanitation during ARFSD 12.

far above current investment levels. He outlined four priorities: elevating water as economic infrastructure in national planning; closing the financing gap through blended finance and green and blue bonds; advancing climate-resilient and circular water solutions; and moving from ambition to delivery through coordinated, large-scale implementation.

More: Investments and financing of the water sector are critical for meeting SDG 6 | Statement by Mr. Claver Gatete at the High-Level Pre-event on Shaping Africa's Priorities and Common Position on Water. Read more about ARFSD here: [Newsletter 1](#) [Newsletter 2](#)

African Science, Technology...

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“otherwise we risk innovation without impact.”



inseparable from its energy transition. “Africa must align science, technology and innovation with its economic transformation agenda,” he said, “otherwise we risk innovation without impact.”

More: Statement by Mr. Claver Gatete - Eighth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa | African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum opens with calls for coordinated action for accelerated progress | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Seventh Africa Climate Talks...

Continued from page 5

of whether we can move from commitments to results. A test of whether trust in the multilateral system can be restored through delivery. And a test of whether Africa's priorities will finally be matched with action at scale.”

The numbers underscored the urgency. Africa contributes less than 4 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions yet remains among the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, requiring an estimated US\$277 billion annually through 2030 to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions — of which it currently receives only around 11 per cent. But the ES was careful not to let vulnerability become the whole story: Africa also holds the solutions, from abundant renewable energy resources and rich biodiversity to a young population already driving green innovation.

Over two days, convened by ECA's African Climate Policy Centre with ClimDev-Africa partners, participants reviewed the outcomes of the Second Africa Climate Summit, CCDA-XIII, and COP30, examined what the first Global Stocktake means for Africa's forthcoming NDC 3.0 cycle, and worked through climate finance, adaptation, just

transition, carbon markets, and the increasingly tangled links between trade and climate. Closing the Talks, ECA's Director of Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resources, Cosmas Ochieng, distilled the discussions into three priorities for positioning COP32 for success: strengthening Africa's negotiating capacity, building broader coalitions around implementable outcomes, and advancing measures outside the formal convention process that can still support COP32's goals. A recurring theme throughout was community ownership — participants pushed back against treating communities as mere beneficiaries of climate action, calling instead for nature-based solutions anchored in land tenure, benefit-sharing, local knowledge, and gender justice, alongside stronger home-grown African carbon market infrastructure and monitoring systems.

More: Statement by Mr. Claver Gatete at the 7th Africa Climate Talks | Africa Climate Talks call for credible implementation on the road to COP32 | Africa Climate Talks call for stronger negotiating capacity and implementation-focused COP32 in Addis Ababa

ADIF 2026: AFRICA'S INAUGURAL...

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Polycarp Otieno, Christine Njoki and Bolingo Paccy, panelists at the creative industries segment of ADIF 2026.

— to connect innovators with funders, partners, and the country systems that can turn good ideas into real impact.”

DES Mama Keita framed the Forum’s ultimate ambition in plain terms: “ADIF brings together researchers, policymakers, investors, development partners and industry leaders to turn ideas into industries, industries into jobs, and jobs into shared prosperity.” Africa is not short of ideas, research, or policy frameworks. What has been missing is a system that turns them into results.

Promising innovations remain isolated. Pilot programmes go unscaled. Applied research sits disconnected from the decisions that shape people’s lives. On 11–12 June 2026, ECA launched the inaugural Africa Development Impact Forum (ADIF) at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa — a direct response to the structural inertia that has stalled Africa’s

transformation for too long. The Forum brought together researchers, policymakers, investors, development partners, and industry leaders under the theme “Best Practices and Innovative Solutions for Job Creation in Africa” a theme chosen because job creation is the continent’s most pressing development priority.

Africa needs to create more than 15 million jobs every year to meet the aspirations of its growing youth population, and existing approaches have not delivered at the required scale. ADIF operates on a three-stage model that begins before the forum opens and continues long after it closes: a pre-forum Call-to-Action Challenge that co-develops problem statements and mobilises ideas; a Policy and Strategy Hackathon during the Forum that tests and refines actionable solutions; and a post-forum Implementation Clock that tracks, supports, and scales proven models. Unlike one-off convenings, it is designed as a recurring platform — with each annual

edition building continuity with previous years, accumulating evidence, action, and accountability rather than starting fresh each time. “We want to close the gap between ideas and implementation,” said Executive Secretary Gatete at the opening. “That is exactly why we built ADIF — to connect innovators with funders, partners, and the country systems that can turn good ideas into real impact.” DES Mama Keita framed the Forum’s ultimate ambition in plain terms: “ADIF brings together researchers, policymakers, investors, development partners and industry leaders to turn ideas into industries, industries into jobs, and jobs into shared prosperity.” More: ECA launches Africa Development Impact Forum to bridge the gap between ideas and impact | With 15 million new jobs needed per year for Africa’s youth, Inaugural ADIF pushes scalable solutions | From studio to industry: ADIF 2026 charts a path to job creation in Africa’s creative industries

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

SRO North Africa

- The ECA Office for North Africa, in partnership with the Egyptian Tax Authority, concluded a five-day study tour in Cairo to support Sudan's tax administration reforms. With Sudan's tax revenues having fallen by nearly 80 per cent since the outbreak of civil conflict in April 2023 — leaving tax collection at just 1 per cent of GDP — the tour gave high-level officials from the Sudan Tax Chamber direct exposure to Egypt's experience in digitising tax systems, strengthening compliance, and improving taxpayer services.

More: ECA holds study tour in support to Sudan's tax administration and development

- ECA's Office for North Africa convened a webinar series on Digital Transformation and Trade in North Africa, bringing together experts from UNCTAD, WTO, and leading universities to identify four priorities for North African policymakers: physical infrastructure, digital inclusion and skills, inclusive online platforms, and national and regional policy frameworks aligned with the AfCFTA Digital Protocol.

More: To advance digital trade and regional integration, North African policy makers need to focus on infrastructure, skills, digital platforms and policies

SRO Southern Africa

- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa partnered with Zambia's Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry to convene a two-day high-level consultative meeting in Ndola on the review and development of a successor National Local Content Strategy. Bringing together government, the private sector, academia, and development partners, the consultations identified strategic priorities including value addition, preferential procurement, joint ventures, and improved access to finance for MSMEs — with participants agreeing to establish a dedicated taskforce and clear timelines to finalise and implement the strategy.

More: <https://www.uneca.org/stories/zambia-advances-development-of-new->



national-local-content-strategy-following-high-level

- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa, in partnership with the Government of Mauritius and the Economic Development Board, convened a validation workshop in Port Louis on developing green and circular value chains in Southern Africa under the AfCFTA.

The workshop brought together policymakers, the private sector, academia, and development partners to examine how circular economy approaches — reducing waste, strengthening local production, and improving compliance with sustainability standards — can build trade resilience and reduce import dependence across the region. Participants identified key actions including leveraging AfCFTA instruments such as the Rules of Origin, Trade in Services Protocol, and Investment Protocol to support cross-border circular services and investment in green infrastructure.

More: Mauritius and partners drive green, circular value chains under AfCFTA for regional growth

- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa launched a five-year project in Lusaka to build sustainable energy transition mineral value chains across six SADC countries — funded by Germany's International Climate Initiative.

The initiative aims to drive beneficiation of cobalt, lithium, manganese, nickel, and platinum group metals at source rather than exporting them raw, creating sustainable

jobs and empowering local communities in mineral governance.

- More: SADC launches landmark initiative to build sustainable energy transition mineral value chains
- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa convened a High-Level Regional Dialogue in Lusaka on the implications of the Middle East crisis for Southern Africa, calling for accelerated AfCFTA implementation, energy diversification, and deeper regional integration as the most durable buffer against future external shocks.

More: ECA urges Southern Africa to build resilience as Middle East crisis exposes structural economic vulnerabilities

- The Government of Mauritius, with technical support from ECA's Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa, launched the 2026–2030 National Fintech Strategy in Port Louis — a six-pillar roadmap targeting 5,000 fintech professionals trained annually and positioning Mauritius as Africa's trusted fintech hub, with ECA describing it as a potential continental model for inclusive digital finance transformation.

More: Mauritius launches national fintech strategy to accelerate digital finance transformation

SRO Central Africa

- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Central Africa, in partnership with the Central African Republic's Ministries of Trade and Industry

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

and SMEs, convened a three-day capacity-building workshop in Bangui to strengthen SME access to finance amid growing AfCFTA and regional value chain opportunities. The workshop brought together around 30 SMEs, financial institutions, and development partners to bridge the persistent gap between enterprise financing needs and institutional requirements — equipping participants with practical tools for preparing bankable business plans, credit applications, and investment pitches, while also connecting them to financing windows from institutions including the African Development Bank and the International Finance Corporation.

More: Unlocking access to finance for Central African Republic SMEs amid growing AfCFTA and regional value chain opportunities

- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Central Africa convened a high-level webinar on the implications of the Middle East conflict for Central African economies, examining how disruptions to energy, fertilizer, and maritime trade routes are already translating into imported inflation, widening trade deficits, and fiscal pressure across the subregion.

Participants reframed the crisis as a strategic opportunity — urging Central Africa to leverage its 65 per cent share of Africa's energy resources to accelerate regional integration, develop local value chains in hydrocarbons and fertilizers, and position itself as an industrial and logistics

hub. More: Energy, fertilizers and trade under pressure: ECA calls for bold regional action in Central Africa

- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Central Africa launched a three-year regional project in Yaoundé to remove barriers facing women in cross-border trade across Cameroon, CAR, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea — where women account for 67 per cent of informal cross-border traders yet face customs complexity, informal payments, and restricted market access. The project will deliver country roadmaps, georeferenced trade data, and capacity-building for women traders to participate in the AfCFTA economy. More: Central Africa: ECA launches regional project to remove barriers facing women in cross-border trade

- ECA's Sub-regional Office for Central Africa and African Centre for Statistics, in partnership with Cameroon's National Institute of Statistics and the World Bank, convened a workshop in Douala to develop Cameroon's energy accounts —

integrated statistics linking energy extraction, production, consumption and trade to economic activity and environmental impacts, providing policymakers with the evidence base to guide the country's energy transition and assess progress toward SDGs 7 and 13. More: Cameroon develops energy accounts to drive smarter energy, economic and environmental policies

SRO West Africa

- Through its Sub-regional Office for West Africa, ECA provided technical support to Niger for a strategic workshop in Dosso aimed at strengthening national capacities to monitor the demographic dividend and integrate Demographic Dividend-Sensitive Budgeting into planning and budget programming frameworks — part of the continental roadmap adopted by AU Heads of State and Government in 2017. More: ECA supports Niger in harnessing the demographic dividend

- ECA's Sub-regional Offices for North Africa and West Africa, in collaboration with Ghana's National Development Planning Commission, convened a three-day capacity-building workshop in Accra to support the integration of migration, diaspora contributions, and remittances into national and medium-term development plans. With remittance inflows to Ghana reaching US\$7.8 billion in 2025, the workshop equipped roughly 100 participants from ministries, regional councils, and district assemblies with a practical toolkit to better channel those flows toward investment and long-term development — part of ECA's broader multi-country programme on the migration-development nexus launched in 2024.

More: Ghana takes actions to strengthen the integration of migration and diaspora contributions

From Financial Architecture Reform...

Continued from page 7

from dialogue to delivery to accelerate SDGs and Agenda 2063, says ECA's Hanan Morsy

At the AfDB Annual Meetings in Brazzaville, DES Morsy joined a distinguished panel on Africa's climate leadership, reaffirming ECA's support to Ethiopia for COP32 preparations. She called for Africa to position itself as a provider of climate solutions and for accelerated investment in green industrialisation — noting that this is not only Africa's imperative, but the basis for genuinely win-win global cooperation. More: Strengthening

sovereign finance coordination in an era of rising debt pressures

At the 13th World Urban Forum in Baku, DES Morsy represented the Executive Secretary at the African Ministerial Meeting on implementing the Nairobi Declaration, co-convened by ECA alongside UN-Habitat and the African Union Commission, bringing together ministers of housing, urban development, and finance from across AU Member States. The meeting adopted a Ministerial Implementation Action Plan covering six strategic urban policy clusters

— from land and infrastructure to urban climate action and inclusive communities — and designated the July 2026 UN General Assembly High-Level Review of the New Urban Agenda as the next critical milestone for advancing Africa's coordinated urban voice globally. ECA also organised a side event, "United for Change," examining local governance, municipal finance, digital transformation, and housing resilience as the practical levers for closing the gap between continental commitments and city-level delivery. More: ECA reinforces Africa's urban agenda at World Urban Forum 13 in Baku

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

In the second quarter of 2026, ECA produced the following key publications:

- 2026 Africa Sustainable Development Report (ASDR 2026) :Turning the Tide: Transformative and Coordinated Actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The ninth edition of Africa's flagship sustainable development tracking report, jointly produced by ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and UNDP. Drawing on the five SDGs under HLPF review in 2026, the report provides the evidence base for the Addis Ababa Declaration and maps the financing, policy, and institutional reforms needed to close Africa's development gaps with less than five years left to 2030. Read the report
- Economic Report on Africa 2026 (ERA 2026): Growth through innovation: harnessing data and frontier technologies for Africa's economic transformation. <https://repository.uneca.org/entities/publication/e06ada07-a490-43bf-a1a7-d53a1c6b2e89>
- Economic Governance Report III: Governance of Public Debt in Africa. An in-depth assessment of public debt governance across African countries, with policy recommendations to strengthen transparency, accountability, and fiscal resilience : <https://repository.uneca.org/entities/publication/7287de92-a822-44e8-ac52-65bd430780f9>
- Joint Policy Brief: The Impacts of the Middle East Conflict on Africa — co-published with the African Union, African Development Bank, and UNDP. From fuel to food to finance, the report maps the shock pathways and calls for a strategic, not reactive, continental response. Read: The Impacts of the Middle East Conflict on Africa

Find more publications at uneca.org/publications and the ECA Institutional Repository at uneca.org/knowledge-services-section/institutional-repository

Blogs

[Blog] Why Africa Must Put Women and Youth at the Centre of Clean Energy Transition • Africa's clean energy transition will only be fast, just, and investable if women and young people are treated as producers, workers, innovators, and decision-makers — not merely as end users of clean energy solutions. Judith Beatrice Auma Oduol, Keiso Matashane-Marite, Edna Akullq, Zuzana Schwidrowski [Read more](#)

[Blog] Why the Next Four Years Are Crucial for North Africa's Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises • SMEs represent 80–90% of formal firms and about half of formal employment in North Africa, yet structural barriers — financing gaps, low digital adoption, and weak AfCFTA readiness — are holding them back at precisely the moment the demographic dividend demands faster job creation. Wafa Aidi and Oumaima Tounchibine [Read more](#)

[Blog] Africa's Youth Boom Could Transform Economies if Opportunity Keeps Pace • Africa is not short of young people with ambition — it is short of systems that connect ambition to opportunity. Drawing on fieldwork from Dire Dawa, this essay argues that the challenge is no longer policy design

but delivery: skills training that leads nowhere, finance that cannot be reached, and support structures that remain fragmented. Jalal Abdel-Latif, Senior Social Policy Advisor [Read more](#)

[Feature] Can Africa Break the Cycle of Crisis and Recovery? • Having weathered COVID-19, the Russia-Ukraine war, and now the Iran conflict in just six years, Africa's structural vulnerabilities — 80 per cent of countries are net importers of refined petroleum, sub-Saharan Africa imports nearly 80 per cent of its fertilizer — remain unresolved. ECA Executive Secretary Gatete argues each crisis makes the case for AfCFTA implementation “much easier,” and points to the Dangote refinery, Morocco's phosphate reserves, and regional transport corridors as proof that the tools for resilience already exist. [Read more](#) | [Watch the Sustainable Africa Series episode](#)

[Blog] Africa Doesn't Have a Poverty Problem. It Has a Measurement Problem. • Africa's six main wellbeing measures — from monetary poverty to the MPI to the Happiness Index — were never designed to be compared, yet they routinely produce gaps of up to 54 percentage points for the same country in the same year. Drawing on ECA's 2026 statistical brief on wellbeing, this essay argues that the real crisis is a governance one: African National Statistical Offices must be resourced and empowered to produce, interpret, and own their own development evidence. Lerato Martha Makana and Maria Dombaxi [Read more](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

Regional High-Level Meeting on the Sustainable Industrialization of Central Africa's Timber Industry | 29–30 July 2026 | Yaoundé, Cameroon. ECA's Sub-regional Office for Central Africa convenes policymakers, investors, and industry leaders to advance a regional vision for transforming the Congo Basin — which supplies 20 per cent of global tropical log exports yet accounts for just 1 per cent of global sawnwood production — into Africa's leading hub for sustainable timber processing and value-added industrial development. [View event](#)

ECA's Sustainable Africa Podcast Series: From ECA's key events, we bring the human narrative to the themes we work on — in conversation with stakeholders, policymakers, and changemakers contributing to sustainable development. Watch the series: [ECA YouTube Channel](#)

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