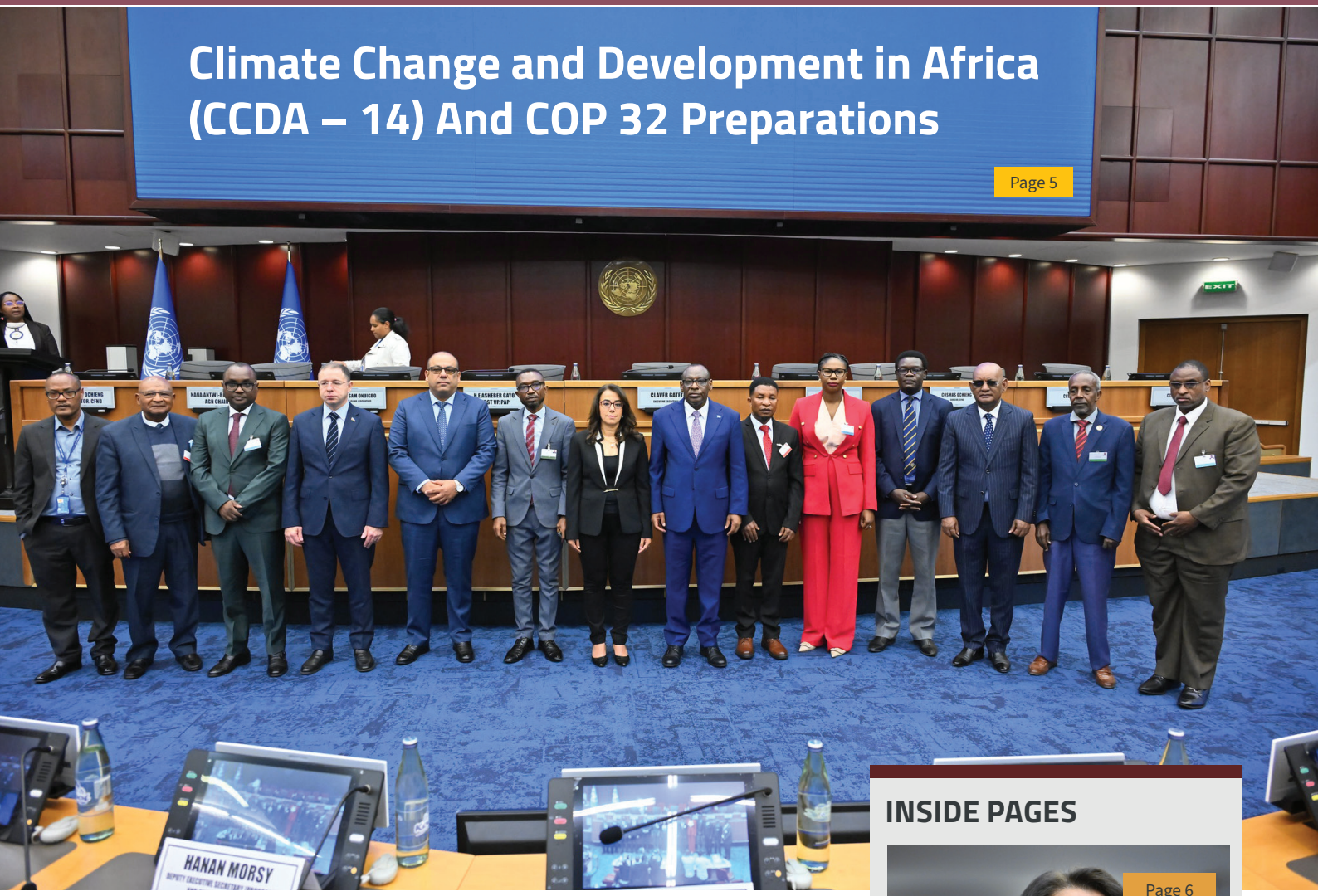
ECA QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #3 | JULY – SEPTEMBER 2026



Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA – 14) And COP 32 Preparations

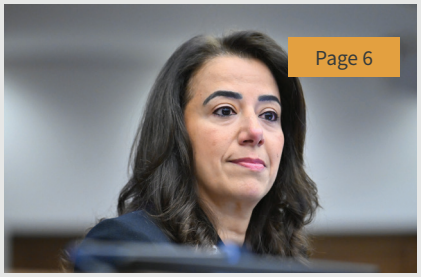
Page 5

CORPORATE OVERVIEW

The third quarter of 2026 marked one of the Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) most intensive periods of global engagement, as the Commission carried Africa's development agenda into the world's most consequential multilateral forums. From the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York to the 46th SADC Summit in Durban, and from a landmark country visit to Mozambique to the margins of the UN General Assembly, ECA's leadership pressed a consistent message: Africa has the vision, the institutions, and the resources. What is needed now is delivery, financing at scale, and a reformed international architecture that works for the continent.

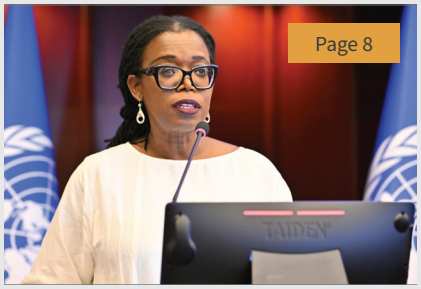
The quarter also saw ECA deepen its engagement on priorities that cut across the sustainable development agenda, from critical minerals and green industrialization to health financing, early warning systems, and preparations for COP32, which Ethiopia will host in 2027. As the international community marks 80 years of the United Nations and less than four years to 2030, ECA continued to translate continental commitments into practical support for Member States, grounding global ambition in country-level action.

INSIDE PAGES



Page 6

Across the quarter, Deputy Executive Secretary Hanan Morsy carried ECA's economic analysis into...



Page 8

Across the quarter, Deputy Executive Secretary Mama Keita brought ECA's...



Executive Secretary Claver Gatete

Advancing Africa's Agenda on the Global Stage

Beyond the major forums and country engagements that defined the third quarter, Executive Secretary Claver Gatete maintained an intensive schedule of continental and thematic engagements, each reinforcing a single underlying argument: Africa has the vision and the frameworks; what is needed now is financing, domestic resource mobilization, and the political will to deliver.

In Addis Ababa, the Executive Secretary opened the Africa Regional Consultation on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, joining African Finance Ministers to press for a unified continental position ahead of the Seville negotiations. Africa has the world's youngest population, vast critical mineral reserves, significant renewable energy potential, and a 1.5-billion-person market through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). "The challenge is not opportunity," he told participants. "It is financing at scale, cost, and accessibility. A fragmented Africa cannot shape global outcomes. A united Africa can." At the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Industry and Minerals, he sharpened the point further: Africa cannot industrialize on external financing alone, and domestic resource mobilization must power the continent's structural transformation.

Continued on pag ... 18

No Time for Incrementalism: Africa at the High- Level Political Forum (HLPF 2026)



The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, held in New York in July, brought together heads of state, ministers, and multilateral leaders to assess progress on the 2030 Agenda at a moment of mounting urgency. With fewer than four years remaining to the SDG deadline and a financing gap in the trillions, ECA arrived in New York with a clear mandate: move the conversation from diagnosis to delivery and ensure Africa's priorities; energy, industrialization, urban transformation, and a reformed global financial architecture, remain at the centre of the global agenda.

Executive Secretary Claver Gatete anchored ECA's presence across more than a dozen sessions, speaking to the interlinkages between Africa's structural transformation and the SDGs under review. On energy, his message was unequivocal. Over 600 million Africans still lack electricity, and only 38 per cent had internet access in 2024, against a global average of 68 per cent. These are not peripheral statistics; they are the foundation on which industrialization, food systems, digital transformation, and job creation all depend. "Energy is priority number one for Africa," he said at the UN Principals' Meeting on the Secretary-General's Global Grids Accelerator. "Water needs energy. Critical minerals need energy. AI needs energy. Food systems need energy. If we get energy right, we unlock transformation across every sector." At a dedicated session on advancing energy and digital connectivity, he posed the central question facing the continent: should Africa remain merely a participant in the clean energy transition, or become a leader? His answer was clear: Africa holds 60 per cent of global solar resources and 30 per cent of critical mineral reserves, and must convert these assets into manufacturing capacity, regional value chains, and shared prosperity.

At the HLPF Africa Day, the Executive Secretary presided over the launch of the 2026 Africa Sustainable Development Report, produced jointly by ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and UNDP. The report, which tracks Africa's progress across five priority SDGs, mainly; water and sanitation, energy, industry, urban development, and partnerships, found that while gains have been made, progress remains uneven and far too slow to meet 2030 targets. "Africa is at a decisive moment," the Executive Secretary said. "The ASDR 2026 demonstrates that progress is possible, but only through transformative and coordinated action." He characterized the challenge not as an ambition gap, but as an execution gap and called for strengthened institutions, mobilized finance, accelerated regional integration through the AfCFTA, and climate resilience at the heart of development planning.

On poverty and youth employment, the Executive Secretary spoke at a side event on transforming informal work into sustainable livelihoods, stressing the need to harmonize education systems, professional qualifications, and skills certification across the continent to unlock labour mobility and economic opportunity for Africa's young people. At a separate session on partnerships for poverty reduction, he highlighted that approximately 600 million Africans experience multidimensional poverty,

Continued on pag ... 18



Mozambique Country Visit: Turning Resources into Resilience

Executive Secretary Claver Gatete travelled to Mozambique for a high-level country visit that brought together meetings with the President, five ministers and senior government officials, the private sector, the investment promotion authority, and the Port of Maputo. The visit reflected ECA's commitment to country-led, demand-driven technical assistance, and offered an opportunity to align the Commission's support with Mozambique's national development priorities at a pivotal moment: the country is navigating a post-election political transition, managing continued security challenges in Cabo Delgado, and seeking to convert its vast natural resource endowment into lasting structural transformation.

At the heart of the discussions was a question the Executive Secretary pressed consistently across every meeting: how does Mozambique move from exporting raw materials to building the industries around them? President Daniel Francisco Chapo outlined his vision to make Mozambique a regional energy hub, expanding hydropower beyond the existing Cahora Bassa plant, developing gas-fired power generation, and leveraging Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) revenues to finance downstream industries including fertilizer production. Beyond energy, the President identified agriculture, industrialization, digitalization, and tourism as the country's four additional strategic priorities, supported by three transport corridors connecting southern and central Africa to global markets. The Executive Secretary welcomed this ambition and urged the Government to focus on a limited number of transformative priorities, stressing that delivery and early visible results are what build public trust, particularly among a young population with high expectations. "Delivery is the greatest challenge, not planning," he said. "Governments must start somewhere, demonstrate progress, and gradually build trust."

Across meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, and Planning and Development, and the Secretary of State for Mines, ECA reaffirmed its technical support across debt management, domestic resource mobilization, public financial management, data and statistics, and African common positions in global negotiations. The Executive Secretary emphasized that responsible mineral governance, strong negotiation capacity, balanced fiscal incentives, local content frameworks, and sovereign wealth mechanisms is what determines whether resource wealth delivers development or replicates the resource curse. "The question is no longer whether the opportunity exists," he said. "It is whether the governance, the value chain strategies, and the investment frameworks are in place to capture it fully."

Meetings with the private sector added a further dimension. At APIEX, discussions focused on simplifying investment procedures, modernizing the investment code, and integrating Special Economic Zones with AfCFTA implementation. At the Chamber of Commerce, attention turned to SME access to finance, certification standards, and digital trade platforms. At the Port of Maputo, DP World presented expansion plans to increase container capacity from 230,000 to one million TEUs within five to seven years, a development the Executive Secretary identified as a strategic opportunity to position Maputo as a complementary regional hub alongside Dar es Salaam and Mombasa, anchored in integrated mineral and agricultural value chains. The visit concluded with a shared commitment to maintain close coordination through regular dialogue and a focused programme of technical support aligned with measurable results.

More: ECA and Mozambique align on a shared vision for structural transformation | Beyond raw exports: ECA and Mozambique chart a path to industrial growth

UNGA 81: Africa's Moment: ECA at the 81st UN General Assembly



The 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly convened in New York in September against a backdrop of mounting global uncertainty, shifting geopolitical centres, debt pressures, climate shocks, and the uneven gains of technological change. UN Secretary-General António Guterres set the tone in his opening address, warning that a 21st-century Security Council without permanent African seats is "unjust and indefensible," and calling for networked multipolarity built on international law rather than fragmentation into rival blocs. For ECA, UNGA 81 was not a moment for observation. It was a platform for action, and Executive Secretary Claver Gatete moved through the week with a dense schedule of high-level engagements focused on one overriding objective: mobilizing investment and political commitment for Africa's industrialization.

The week opened with the Unstoppable Africa session, where the Executive Secretary joined Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, AUC Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, Global Compact CEO Sanda Ojiambo, ministers, CEOs, and financial leaders to discuss what it will take to unlock investment at the scale Africa needs. The following day, the Executive Secretary co-participated in the Africa Critical Minerals Investment Roundtable convened by the Milken Institute, where he pressed investors and business leaders to move beyond decades of declarations about Africa's resource potential and build the industries around it. "For decades, we have talked about Africa's vast resource endowment and its potential,"

Continued on pag ...14

Beyond Raw Exports: ECA at the 46th SADC Summit



The 46th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, held in Durban, brought Southern Africa's leaders together at a moment of clear strategic opportunity and equally clear risk. The region sits atop some of the world's most critical mineral reserves: cobalt in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, platinum and manganese in South Africa, lithium in Zimbabwe, copper in Zambia. Demand for these minerals is projected to more than triple by 2030 under net-zero scenarios. Yet despite minerals representing 10 per cent of SADC's GDP and 25 per cent of its exports, they contribute just 7 per cent of direct employment in the region. The gap between what the region possesses and what it captures in value remains enormous.

Executive Secretary Claver Gatete addressed Summit participants with a direct challenge. "Africa exports minerals; others manufacture batteries, electric vehicles, and renewable energy technologies. Africa exports agricultural commodities; others process, package, and market higher-value food products. Business as usual cannot continue." He outlined six strategic priorities for the region: mobilizing financing through development finance institutions, sovereign wealth funds, and private sector partnerships; accelerating mineral beneficiation into integrated regional value chains; transforming agriculture into an industrialization engine; developing regional fertilizer chains using Southern Africa's natural gas and phosphate reserves; strengthening trade through the AfCFTA; and investing in energy infrastructure and digital connectivity as foundations for industrial growth. The economic case was concrete: ECA research shows that a battery precursor plant in the Democratic Republic of the Congo costs approximately three times less than an equivalent facility in the United States. The opportunity is clear, and the region has the assets to seize it.

Alongside the Summit, ECA engaged the 9th SADC Industrialisation Week, where a five-year ECA-led initiative, supported by the International Climate Initiative, was highlighted as a practical vehicle for developing responsible mineral value chains across six SADC countries. The initiative focuses on ESG-compliant mining policies, improved environmental monitoring, and ensuring that artisanal and small-scale miners are included in the benefits of responsible extraction. As SADC Executive Secretary Elias Magosi

Continued on pag ...18

Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA – 14) And COP 32 Preparations



From Pledges to Implementation: Africa's Road to COP32

Addis Ababa once again became the centre of Africa's climate diplomacy in September, as the city hosted the Fourteenth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-14), convened jointly by ECA, the African Union Commission, and the African Development Bank under the theme "From Pledges to Implementation: The Belém–Antalya–Addis Roadmap." The three-day conference brought together ministers, negotiators, financial institutions, civil society, youth, and the private sector to forge a unified African position ahead of COP31 in Antalya and COP32, which Ethiopia will host in Addis Ababa in 2027.

Opening CCDA-14, Executive Secretary Claver Gatete set a tone of frank assessment. Africa contributes less than four per cent of global emissions yet requires approximately $277 billion annually to implement its climate commitments through 2030. And current climate finance flows cover only around 11 per cent of that need. "We have negotiated commitments. We have set targets," he told delegates. "Yet implementation continues to lag behind." His call was not for more pledges, but for actionable African proposals that COP31 and COP32 can deliver on: drought resilience, climate protection, electricity access, and job creation from African resources. AUC Commissioner Moses Vilakati reframed the stakes: "the question before African leaders is no longer what the continent wants from global climate negotiations, but what Africa proposes to the world". The African Development Bank (AfDB) James Kinyangi echoed the shift: "Africa is not merely a victim of climate change. We are a source of solutions."

The conference closed with strong consensus around six working committees established to carry the agenda forward across climate finance, agriculture, just transition, circular economy, and adaptation. With a mandate to integrate COP31 outcomes and prepare assessments for CCDA-15 in advance of COP32. The Executive Secretary's closing message was direct: "Africa's climate story should not be defined by vulnerability alone." The continent must press for climate justice and international support while harnessing its own assets: renewable energy, critical minerals, biodiversity, youth, to shape the rules and investments driving global climate action.

On the margins of CCDA-14, the Africa Regional Ministerial Mid-Term Review of the Doha Programme of Action gathered ministers and development partners to assess progress for Africa's 32 Least Developed Countries, which represent nearly three-quarters of the world's 44 LDCs. The Executive Secretary highlighted persistent structural gaps: manufacturing contributes only nine per cent of African LDCs' GDP, government revenues reach just 15 per cent of GDP compared to 24.3 per cent across developing economies, and electricity access in rural areas stands at just 25 per cent. He called for greater investment in productive capacity, deeper regional integration through the AfCFTA, and more affordable and predictable international development finance, stressing that sustainable graduation from LDC status requires economies that can "produce and process more, diversify into higher-value activities, and create decent jobs." Ministers committed to translating Addis Ababa commitments into concrete progress before the global mid-term

Continued on pag ...18

Shaping the New Industrial Compact



Deputy Executive Secretary Hanan Morsy

Across the quarter, Deputy Executive Secretary Hanan Morsy carried ECA's economic analysis into the rooms where Africa's development agenda is being shaped. From global financial forums to the continent's most critical debates on industrialization and mineral wealth.

At the G-24 Webinar on Industrial Policy, she made the case for a structural shift in how African economies grow: through stronger regional integration, the development of regional value chains, and bolder domestic reforms. She called on governments to invest in upskilling youth and leveraging emerging technologies, not as supplementary goals, but as the foundations of a new industrial model.

At the 2026 African Caucus Meeting, hosted by The Gambia under the theme "Transforming Africa's Economies through Investment, Innovation, and Inclusion", Morsy addressed the pressures mounting on African economies; tightening financial conditions, rising debt burdens, and structural shifts demanding more than incremental responses. She made the case for shock-resilient development frameworks anchored in fiscal resilience, the full operationalization of the AfCFTA as an industrialization vehicle, and a green transition pathway that shifts the very paradigm of development finance on the continent.

More: africancaucus2026.org

In Abidjan, she delivered the opening remarks at the Ministerial Forum on Critical Minerals, Value Chain, and Beneficiation a gathering confronting one of Africa's most glaring contradictions: the continent holds roughly 30 percent of the world's critical mineral reserves yet captures less than five percent of the associated value added. The gap, she argued, is not geological, it is economic and institutional. Africa must pursue integrated regional value chains under the AfCFTA, redefine beneficiation to include battery components, electric mobility, green steel, and advanced manufacturing, and anchor continental industrial strategy in strategic, de-risked financing.

"We must move from resource nationalism to regional industrialization, redefine beneficiation to capture the downstream values, and put financing as core strategy."

More: Critical Minerals Forum — Opening Remarks

The quarter closed at the Africa Economic Conference 2026, held July 10–12 at the African Development Bank headquarters in Abidjan under the theme "Strengthening Africa's Geopolitical Agency and Trade Resilience in a Multipolar World." Bringing together policymakers, economists, development practitioners and researchers from over 36 countries, the conference examined how Africa can deepen its autonomy in a rapidly shifting global order. Morsy called on the continent to move beyond navigating uncertainty toward actively shaping outcomes through industrialization, regional value chains, domestic resource mobilization, and economic resilience.

More: AEC2026 — African Development Bank

Health is How Africa Grows: ECA's Health Financing Initiative



Throughout the quarter, ECA moved its Transforming Health Financing in Africa initiative from continental mandate to country-level action, bringing together governments, statisticians, finance ministries, and health leaders around a single proposition: that investing in health is investing in the economy health makes possible.

The initiative traces its mandate to the Tangier Declaration, adopted at the April 2026 meeting of African Ministers of Finance, where a cross-continental consensus emerged that health must be treated as an investment in human capital, productivity and economic resilience not a line item in a social expenditure budget. With up to 50% of health budgets in many African countries still funded externally, and average tax-to-GDP ratios hovering around 16%, the arithmetic of aid dependency has become a structural risk the continent can no longer afford to ignore.

In September, ECA carried the initiative to Togo, the first country-level engagement under the initiative, and a deliberate choice of a country already progressing toward universal health coverage. Rather than leading with deficits, the mission asked a more demanding question: how can existing progress be financed sustainably and extended to every Togolese, from salaried workers to informal traders whose earnings are seasonal, irregular, and invisible to conventional insurance models? Discussions engaged the Minister of Health, the Economic Adviser to the President, and the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance and Budget, generating coverage across ECA's digital platforms, the UN Country Team in Togo, and Togolese national media, where the headline in Horizon News put it plainly: "Investir dans la santé, c'est aussi investir dans la croissance économique."

"Universal health coverage must adapt to the economic realities of the people it is intended to protect."

More: From Health Expenditure to Investment: Togo and ECA Advance Sustainable Health Financing — ECA

Back in Addis Ababa, ECA convened the inaugural meeting of the High-Level Advisory Group, the initiative's highest political and strategic body chaired by Executive Secretary Claver Gatete, with former Nigerian Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo serving as Champion. With five countries; Ethiopia, Botswana, Togo, Sierra Leone and Guinea already participating and technical assessments underway, the Group examined the full landscape of innovative financing options: earmarked levies on tobacco and mobile money, social health insurance with tiered access, natural resource wealth funds allocated to health, and domestic capital markets and pension funds as investable asset classes. The AUC representative anchored the discussion in continental commitments, Agenda 2063, the Africa Health Strategy, the Abuja Declaration not as parallel frameworks, but as a single, coherent mandate for self-financed health systems. Read more here: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-convenes-high-level-advisory-group-to-advance-africa%27s-shift-from-aid-dependent-to.html

Continued on pag ...15

The Long Game: DES Mama Keita on Africa's Fiscal Future and Its Youth



Deputy Executive Secretary Mama Keita addressing audience at ADIF 2026

Across the quarter, Deputy Executive Secretary Mama Keita brought ECA's institutional leadership to bear on two fronts that rarely share the same stage: the architecture of Africa's long-term economic governance and the everyday realities of the continent's youngest generation.

On July 1–2, DES Keita moderated the opening session of the Africa Regional Consultation on Operationalizing the Sevilla Commitments on Financing for Development, convened at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa. The two-day hybrid gathering brought together African governments, the African Union Commission, multilateral development banks, the private sector, civil society and UN entities, all focused on one central question, as FfD4 Co-Facilitator Ambassador Chola Milambo put it: "The question is no longer what we agreed, but whether these commitments will make measurable differences in people's lives."

The consultation addressed the full breadth of Africa's financing challenge: average government debt at 71% of GDP, 14 nations facing high debt stress, $88.6 billion in annual illicit financial flows draining the continent's fiscal base, and declining ODA. Thematic discussions covered domestic resource mobilization, lowering Africa's cost of capital, systemic debt solutions, AfCFTA implementation financing, climate finance, and digital innovation. The action-oriented recommendations that emerged will feed into ECOSOC deliberations, the Financing for Development Forum, and African Union policy processes, carrying Africa's unified position into global financing discussions.

More: Africa Charts Path from Commitment to Delivery — ECA

https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/africa-charts-path-from-commitment-to-delivery-on-sevilla-financing-agenda.html

At the First Bureau Meeting of the 58th ECA Session, a foundational moment in the run-up to the 2027 Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, She presented the roadmap to COM2027, DES Keita situated the conference within a challenging global context: geopolitical tensions, declining ODA, a $1.3 trillion annual financing gap for the SDGs, and mounting debt burdens testing Africa's fiscal space.

Yet she was equally clear-eyed about the continent's assets. A highly skilled youth demographic, abundant natural resources, and the AfCFTA as the world's largest free trade area by size. COM2027's theme, "Shaping the Future of Work in Africa: Youth Employment, Growth and Fiscal Resilience," will anchor the continent's common positions on job creation, domestic resource mobilization, innovation, and climate finance heading into 2027.

At the 2026 UN Adolescent Life Skills Training, held in Addis Ababa under the theme "Own Your Orbit, Build Your Strength," DES Keita delivered the opening remarks to adolescents aged 13–18, joined by partners including the China Mission to the African Union, UNFPA, UNAIDS, and the Office of the RCHC. She called on participants to embrace resilience not as the absence of difficulty, but as the capacity to respond, adapt, and move forward.

"Resilience does not mean we will never face difficulties. It means developing the capacity to respond, learn from experience, adapt and move forward."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

Macroeconomic Policy and Finance

- Can Africa Finance Its Own Development? As ODA fell by 23.1% in 2025, ECA renewed its call for domestic resource mobilisation. "First and foremost, it is the responsibility of each country to finance its own development," said Stephen Karingi, Director of ECA's Macroeconomy, Finance, Governance and Planning Division. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/can-africa-finance-its-own-development_.html

- Currency Devaluation Won't Fix African Trade. A new ECA study spanning 20 years and all 54 African countries found that exchange rate adjustments deliver only "tiny, delayed export gains" — and frequently cause economic hardship first. The real culprit is structural: production capacity too thin, infrastructure too weak, and trade barriers too entrenched for monetary policy to move alone. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/economic-commission-for-africa-study-currency-devaluation-alone-won%e2%80%99t-fix-african-trade.html

- Training the UN System on Sovereign Credit Ratings. ECA and the UN Development Coordination Office launched a specialised training programme for UN Resident Coordinator Offices on sovereign credit ratings and development finance. Addressing how ratings shape borrowing costs and investment across the continent, and how countries can engage rating agencies more strategically. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/strengthening-un-country-teams%27-capacity-on-sovereign-credit-ratings-and-development-finance.html

- Mozambique: From Creditworthiness to Climate Finance. A three-day national workshop in Maputo explored the full spectrum of innovative financing available to Mozambique. From capital market development and thematic bonds to debt-for-climate swaps, nature markets, and blended finance. ECA's message: creditworthiness is not a rating exercise; it is a prerequisite for mobilising development resources. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/mozambique-and-eca-advance-dialogue-on-stronger-creditworthiness-and-innovative-financing.html

African Centre for Statistics

- Africa 2035 Digital Implementation Roadmap. ECA unveiled a continental framework to translate the outcomes of WSIS+20 into coordinated, time-bound action. Aligning with Agenda 2063 and the AU Digital Transformation Strategy, with standardized indicators to track progress across member States. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-unveils-the-africa-2035-digital-implementation-roadmap-as-region-shifts-to-wsis%2b20.html

Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infra-structure

- Eastern African Aviation Takes Off. Aviation stakeholders concluded a landmark policy dialogue in Arusha, validating the MASA framework and charting a continental implementation roadmap. "Efficient air transport is indispensable to the success of the AfCFTA," delegates affirmed. Recognising that seamless skies are inseparable from seamless trade. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eastern-african-aviation-stakeholders-develop-roadmap-for-masa-implementation.html



- Tokenised Money and Africa's Digital Finance Frontier. On World Fintech Day, ECA convened regulators, industry leaders, and researchers to examine stablecoins and tokenised money as tools for cross-border payments. A timely conversation given that Africa's 54 million digital asset users make it one of the world's fastest-adopting regions. Nigeria alone accounts for 25.9 million of those users. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/celebrating-world-fintech-day-eca-and-partners-advance-dialogue-on-tokenised-money-and.html

- Africa's Silent Pandemic. Road traffic crashes kill more young Africans than any other cause — and consume an estimated 3–5% of GDP across the continent. ECA called for road safety to be reframed as an economic priority, not merely a health or infrastructure issue. Rwanda offers proof of concept: 11.6 deaths per 100,000 people, against 19+ across the rest of the continent. "The solutions are well established," ECA noted. "What is missing is implementation at scale." More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/africa%E2%80%99s-silent-pandemic-why-road-safety-must-become-an-economic-priority.html

- Rethinking ICT Taxes for Digital Access. ECA convened 144 participants from 46 countries for an online workshop on ICT tax optimisation, launching a new Tax Impact Calculator that allows governments to model the trade-offs between fiscal revenue and digital affordability. The message: taxes that price people off the internet undermine the very digital economy governments are trying to build. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-calls-for-optimized-ict-taxes-to-power-africa%E2%80%99s-digital-future.html

- PPPs for Social Sectors: The Second African Forum. The Second Forum for PPP Units in Africa convened at Africa Hall on September 29–30, bringing together ministers and practitioners to tackle a harder problem than infrastructure PPPs: how to finance housing, healthcare, education, and sanitation through the private sector when user fees alone cannot sustain them. Deputy Executive Secretary Hanan Morsy represented ECA at the opening. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/second-african-ppp-units-forum-opens-in-africa-hall-to-tackle-social-sector-service-delivery.html

Regional Integration and Trade

- East Africa's Legislators Step Up on AfCFTA. ECA's African Trade Policy Centre convened East African legislators in Nairobi to build their capacity to oversee AfCFTA implementation. Recognising that domestication, not just ratification, is where trade agreements live or die. "Meaningful benefits for African citizens" depend on lawmakers who understand what they are legislating, the workshop concluded. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/east-africa%27s-legislators-step-up-on-afcfta-implementation.html

- Opening AfCFTA's Doors in Cameroon. A workshop in Douala validated two practical tools to help Cameroonian businesses, especially MSMEs, women, and young

Continued on pag ...10

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

entrepreneurs navigate AfCFTA trade procedures: a step-by-step trading guide and a centralised Trade Information Portal. "For these opportunities to become a reality for businesses, it is essential to make trade procedures simpler," said ECA's Koffi Elitcha. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-supports-cameroon-to-facilitate-access-to-trade-information-and-unlock-afcfta.html

- Ethiopia Closes the AfCFTA Information Gap. Ethiopia validated a step-by-step trading guide and a companion Trade Information Portal designed to take businesses from understanding AfCFTA rules to completing an actual transaction. Available in Amharic and local languages to reach traders who need it most. "We want to see a shift from awareness to action," said Expertise France's Country Director. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/ethiopia-moves-to-close-the-afcfta-information-gap-with-new-trader-guide-and-digital-portal.html

Gender, Poverty and Social Policy

- International Youth Day: Different Contexts, Common Aspirations. To mark August 12, ECA drew on focus group discussions with young people in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa to surface what African youth are actually asking for: education systems that match a changing labour market, accessible capital for entrepreneurs, and digital and flexible work pathways. Their message was direct; "Africa's education systems, institutions and employment policies" must catch up with a world that has already moved on. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/on-international-youth-day%2C-we-celebrate-the-aspirations%2C-creativity%2C-and-resilience-of.html

- Expanding Pathways from Safety Nets to Livelihoods. At the AU's Specialized Technical Committee in Windhoek, ECA's delegation held high-level meetings with The Gambia and South Sudan to advance concrete progress on integrating informal workers into social protection systems, digital social registries, and gender-responsive budgeting. The institutional scaffolding that makes safety nets into springboards. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-strengthens-partnerships-on-social-protection-and-youth-employment.html

- Can Sport Build Djibouti's Future? An ECA delegation visited IFM-Sport Djibouti to explore how the sports economy; coaching, management, marketing, tourism, infrastructure, could create employment for young people beyond the pitch. With



Africa's sports economy at just 0.5% of GDP against a global average of 2%, the headroom for growth is substantial. The visit feeds into ECA's 2027 Economic Report on Africa, which centres youth employment. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/can-sport-create-new-opportunities-for-djibouti%e2%80%99s-youth_.html

Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resources

- Critical Minerals and Value Addition. In partnership with the Nigeria Energy Forum, ECA published Lithium in Nigeria: Enhancing Sustainable Production, Processing and Value Addition, making the case that Africa must move beyond raw resource export to capture the economic value of its critical mineral wealth. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/nigeria-energy-forum-and-eca-underscore-need-to-add-value-to-critical-minerals-for.html

- Kenya, Uganda, and Somalia: Climate-Proofing Livestock. ECA, AU-IBAR, and IGAD launched a three-year regional initiative to build climate resilience in livestock, land, and insurance systems across Kenya, Uganda, and Somalia. "Africa's persistent hunger is fundamentally a challenge of converting existing assets into value, jobs, trade and resilience," said ECA's Medhat Elhelepi. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/kenya%2C-eca%2C-au-ibar-and-igad-launch-effort-to-build-climate-resilience-in-livestock%2C-land.html

- Uganda: Resilience Beyond Output. Uganda launched its own country programme under the same regional initiative, targeting the 4.5 million people whose livelihoods depend on livestock. "Resilience is not only about increasing output; it is about fixing the systems around it," said UN Resident Coordinator Leonard Zulu. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/uganda-to-build-climate-resilience-in-livestock%2C-land-and-insurance-systems.html

- Somalia: Livestock Is the Economy. Somalia launched its own programme under the ECA–AU-IBAR–IGAD climate resilience initiative, a fitting priority given that livestock contributes nearly 50% of Somalia's national GDP and is its single largest source of export earnings. The launch marked a shift from fragmented sector interventions to one coordinated national framework. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/building-climate-resilience-in-somalia-by-accelerating-food-systems.html

- Seychelles Launches RESIslands. Seychelles became the second of nine African island states to launch the RESIslands Project, a Green Climate Fund initiative building climate resilience across Cabo Verde, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and others. "Climate change is not a distant policy debate for us," said Minister Marie-May Jeremie. "It is our daily reality." More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/seychelles-officially-launches-resislands-project%2C-reaffirms-leadership-on-climate.html

SRO North Africa

- Equipping Egypt's Private Sector for AfCFTA. ECA convened more than 80 Egyptian business leaders to build practical knowledge on trading under the AfCFTA a timely intervention given that Egypt currently directs just 15% of its exports (~$8 billion of a $50 billion total) to African markets. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-and-egypt-equip-the-private-sector-to-tap-into-afcfta-markets.html

- Training Egypt's Tax Officials. ECA and Egypt's Tax Authority completed a four-day capacity-building workshop for tax officials in Alexandria and Hurghada — part of an ongoing series targeting domestic resource mobilisation. The fiscal stakes are high: Africa's public debt grew at nearly four times the rate of economic output between

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

2010 and 2023, leaving debt service competing directly with essential public services. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca%2C-egypt-train-officials-in-support-to-domestic-resource-mobilisation.html

SRO Southern Africa

- Green Industrialisation in Southern Africa. ECA and South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment convened government, private sector, and civil society in Pretoria to validate research on accelerating green industrialisation across six SADC countries. "Inclusion must remain central to climate action and industrial transformation," the workshop concluded, calling for stronger governance and private-sector-led commercialisation of green technologies. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/south-african-stakeholders-review-and-validate-recommendations-towards-accelerating-green.html

- Responsible Mining for SADC Industrialisation. At the 9th SADC Industrialisation Week in Durban, ECA spotlighted a five-year initiative supporting six nations to extract critical energy transition minerals: cobalt, copper, lithium, manganese, responsibly. "Benefits from responsible mining need to trickle down to the entire mining value chain," said ECA's Oliver Maponga, including artisanal and small-scale miners. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/how-responsible-mining-will-support-sadc-industrialisation.html

- Sustainable Tourism for COMESA. ECA and COMESA convened a virtual workshop to develop a regional sustainable tourism framework, as the sector rebounds to ~100 million visitors and $65 billion in receipts across the continent. The challenge: COMESA "lacks a sufficiently coordinated mechanism" to ensure that growth is sustainable or that the benefits reach communities rather than pass through them. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/comesa-and-eca-convene-second-consultative-workshop-on-regional-sustainable-tourism.html

- Zambia Rebuilds Its Local Content Strategy. ECA convened stakeholders in Livingstone to shape Zambia's new National Local Content Strategy. It's first since the previous one expired in 2022. With mining domestic procurement requirements set to reach 40% by 2031 and a pharmaceutical market valued at $300–400 million, the ambition goes beyond import substitution: "The bigger objective is to build productive capacity," said the Livingstone District Commissioner. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-calls-for-a-stronger%2C-competitive-and-regionally-aligned-local-content-strategy-in.html

- Lesotho Turns the Diaspora Into a Development Partner. Remittances represent 21% of Lesotho's GDP, yet diaspora savings held abroad could add a further 10.5% if channelled



productively. A national workshop concluded with a practical framework to direct those resources toward agriculture, manufacturing, renewable energy, and infrastructure, reframing the diaspora not as a remittance source but as a strategic development partner. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/lesotho-moves-to-unlock-diaspora-investment-potential-through-new-practical-remittances.html

- Zambia: Capture the Value, Not Just the Resource. A national workshop in Lusaka brought together six Southern African countries to validate regional studies on green industrialisation and participants called for something concrete: a "Lusaka Compact on Green Industrialisation" to convert policy ambitions into bankable projects. "The question is not whether Zambia has resources to industrialise, but whether we can capture more of the value they create within the economy," said ECA's Olayinka Bandele. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/zambia-and-southern-africa-urged-to-accelerate-green-industrialisation-and-build-regional.html

- Zimbabwe: Green Industrialisation as Survival Strategy. Zimbabwe validated the same regional studies at a national workshop in Harare, framing the green transition in unusually direct terms. "Green industrialisation is not an eco-friendly option," said Ambassador Tadeous Chifamba. "It is an economic survival strategy." UNIDO's representative added that the transition "must create opportunities for women and men, young people, entrepreneurs, workers, farmers and communities." More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/zimbabwe%2C-un-and-eca-call-for-accelerated-green-industrialisation-to-drive-inclusive-and.html

- Malawi: We Will Industrialise. Malawi hosted its own National Workshop on Innovative Climate Action, with the Principal Secretary striking an unambiguous note: "Malawi has decided to industrialise, and we will!" ECA Director Eunice Kamwendo reframed the terms: "Green industrialisation is not only about protecting the environment. It is about building a more competitive economy." More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/malawi-calls-for-green-industrialisation-to-drive-inclusive-economic-transformation.html

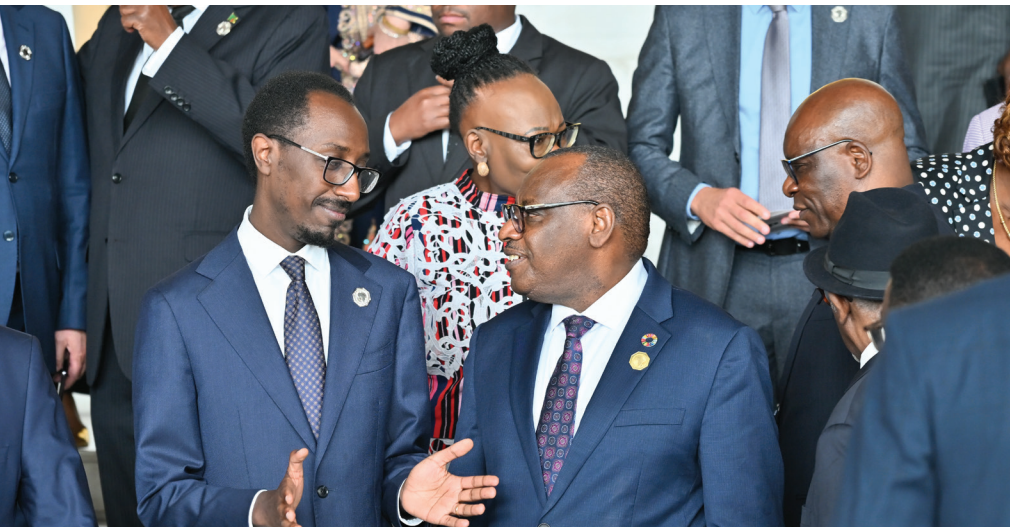
- Lesotho MSMEs: From Opportunity to Trade. A three-day workshop in Maseru equipped Lesotho's small businesses to move beyond identifying AfCFTA market access and into active participation in regional value chains. "The African market is opening up," said Principal Secretary Palesa Matobako. "But opportunity rewards those who are prepared." More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/lesotho-msmes-equipped-to-turn-afcfta-market-opportunities-into-sustainable-trade.html

SRO Central Africa

- Central Africa's Forest Wealth, Industrialised. Central Africa supplies 20% of global tropical log exports but a mere 1% of global sawn timber production, a structural gap ECA is determined to close. A regional scoping meeting in Yaoundé launched a study to build competitive timber value chains, leveraging Special Economic Zones and AfCFTA to add industrial value where it has long been exported away. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-launches-

Continued on pag ...14

AU 49th Executive Council Ordinary Session




















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Umoja wa Afrika
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

regional-drive-to-turn-central-africa%27s-forest-wealth-into-industrial-value.html

- Strengthening AfCFTA in Central Africa. Despite continental commitments, only Cameroon has actively utilised AfCFTA preferential terms through the Guided Trade Initiative. A four-day ECA seminar in Yaoundé brought together eight Central African countries to close that gap, addressing what Director Jean Luc Mastaki called "an implementation chain that remains incomplete." More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/afcfta-eca-strengthens-national-implementing-committees-to-expand-central-africa%E2%80%99s.html

- Central Africa's Data Governance Framework. ECA, ECCAS, AUDA-NEPAD, and the EU concluded regional consultations in Douala to develop a data governance framework for Central Africa. Harmonising national approaches and enabling secure cross-border data flows. "Data must become a factor of integration, not a new frontier," said Christelle Onana of AUDA-NEPAD. The framework was built with member states, not for them. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-and-partners-advance-eccas-regional-data-governance-framework.html

- Gabon Revises Its AfCFTA Strategy. Nearly 60 stakeholders from government, the private sector, universities, and civil society gathered in Libreville to validate Gabon's updated National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy. A plan to leverage a continental market of over one billion consumers for economic diversification, local value addition, and job creation. "Success depends on aligning trade reforms with industrial policies and infrastructure supporting the private sector," said ECA's Adama Ekberg Coulibaly. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-supports-the-revision-of-gabon%27s-national-strategy-to-better-harness-the-opportunities.html

SRO West Africa

- Demographic Dividend for Togo. A high-level technical workshop brought together nearly 100 experts from Togo's sectoral ministries to integrate demographic dividend-sensitive expenditures into the country's 2027 national budget — turning population data into a fiscal planning tool. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/togo-eca-and-unfpa-provide-high-level-technical-support-to-strengthen-the-integration-of.html

- Digital Platform to Track Africa's Demographic Dividend. ECA and UNFPA launched a digital monitoring platform in Abidjan to help eight West African pilot countries track implementation of the AU's Demographic Dividend Roadmap — across health, education, employment, and governance. With nearly 60% of Africa's population under 25, the platform's premise is simple: "Measure better in order to understand better; understand better in order to make better decisions." More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/in-abidjan%2C-eca-and-unfpa-take-a-major-step-towards-better-monitoring-of-the-demographic.html

- Strengthening Tax Administration in Niger. With a tax-to-GDP ratio of just 8.05% — against a 15% developing-country benchmark and a 20% WAEMU target — Niger's fiscal challenge is structural. ECA launched a technical training programme for 30+ officials from the Directorate General of Taxes, focusing on transfer pricing, to build the domestic revenue capacity the country needs. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-provides-high-level-technical-support-to-niger-to-strengthen-tax-administration-and.html

- West Africa's Rice Value Chain, Activated. ECA convened 150+ SMEs, processors, buyers, and finance providers from across ECOWAS to forge concrete commercial linkages in West Africa's rice sector — part of a sustained push to reduce the region's dependence on food imports. The sessions were explicitly designed for outcomes, not declarations: "new commercial linkages among BSOs, SMEs, buyers, processors and finance providers," said ECA's Amadou Diouf. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-convenes-west-african-businesses-to-unlock-rice-value-chains-and-strengthen-regional.html

SRO East Africa

- Eastern Africa Leads the Continent. ECA launched its 2026 Macroeconomic and Social Overview for Eastern Africa, projecting regional growth at 5.8% against Africa's 4.0% and 1.6% for developed economies. Rwanda (10%), Uganda (5.8%), Tanzania (5.7%), and Kenya (5.3%) are leading the charge, even as debt burdens and a fragile SDG outlook cloud the horizon. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-launches-2026-eastern-africa-macroeconomic-and-social-overview-report%2C-highlighting.html

- Briefing Africa's Ambassadors. At a high-level briefing in Kigali, ECA presented Eastern Africa's economic outlook to African ambassadors and finance officials. The headline figure — 5.8% projected growth — was tempered by a sharper warning: "Growth alone is not enough," said Director Andrew Mold, pointing to weak job creation, rising debt service burdens, and over-dependence on commodity exports. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/african-ambassadors-briefed-on-eastern-africa%27s-economic-outlook-amid-strong-growth-and.html

- Making AfCFTA Inclusive in Eastern Africa. An expert workshop in Kigali confronted a quiet data point: women make up 70–80% of informal cross-border traders in Eastern Africa, yet only 31% use the internet compared to 40% of men. "Translating the AfCFTA's commitments into tangible benefits for women, youth and small businesses will require sustained action at both national and regional levels," said ECA Director Andrew Mold. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/experts-call-for-accelerated-action-to-make-afcfta-trade-and-investment-more-inclusive-in.html

IDEP

- Senegal: Social Protection as Economic Strategy. Sixty senior Senegalese officials completed a two-week IDEP executive training that reframed social protection — not as spending to manage vulnerability, but as an investment in human capital. With 75% of Senegal's population under 35 and fewer than one in ten workers holding social protection coverage, the stakes of that reframing are generational. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/sixty-senegalese-leaders-armed-with-skills-to-turn-social-protection-into-growth-engine.html

- ECA and DHL: Putting MSMEs on the Continental Map. ECA and DHL Express Sub-Saharan Africa signed an MOU to help African small businesses navigate the AfCFTA — through joint training on customs, logistics, e-commerce, and market access, with a focus on women- and youth-led enterprises. DHL's GoTrade programme has already supported 8,000+ SMEs in Sub-Saharan Africa; full AfCFTA implementation, ECA projects, could boost intra-African trade by 45% by 2045. More: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/eca-and-dhl-partner-to-advance-msmes-participation-in-intra-african-trade.html

Health is How Africa Grows...

Continued from page 7

A five-day Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) workshop at ECA headquarters deepened the analytical foundations of the initiative, bringing together delegates from Botswana, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Togo alongside WHO and Afristat. The work addresses a core problem: health financing data is fragmented across national accounts, household surveys, health accounts and labour statistics, visible in pieces, invisible as a system. The SAM framework integrates these sources into a single coherent statistical architecture, making health's contribution to production, employment and household welfare legible to the audience that matters most for sustainable financing: ministers of finance. More here: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/invest-in-health-eca-trains-four-countries-to-make-the-economic-case-for-health-spending.html

"Ministers of finance cannot fund pipelines. They need projects."

At the 76th WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC76), held August 25–28 at the Adwa Museum in Addis Ababa under the theme "Roots and Wings — Heritage Meets Digital Health", ECA Chief of Staff Aboubakri Diaw addressed health ministers from 47 Member States on behalf of the Executive Secretary. He laid out the continent's health financing reality with precision: debt servicing now consumes more public expenditure than health in median low-income countries; external health assistance has declined nearly 30%; out-of-pocket costs at 35% of regional health expenditure, well above WHO's 20% benchmark, push 150 million Africans into poverty every year.

The remedy, he argued, is structural, not incremental. Health ministries must stop presenting budget requests and start presenting investment cases. Quantified, linked to productivity, growth and fiscal returns. Governments must replace fragmented financing plans with nationally owned health-financing compacts, bringing health, finance, planning, revenue, debt management and the private sector around a single credible proposition. And digital health must graduate from project to revolution: when every dollar is traceable from national budget to facility to patient, accountability becomes the mechanism that generates fiscal space.

"Africa does not have a reform deficit. It has a sustainably financed-reform deficit. A reform without a budget line does not constitute a policy." Read his full statement here and More: Health Financing is Africa's Next Economic Frontier — ECA | ECA Calls for a New Fiscal Compact — ECA

> "Universal health coverage must adapt to the economic realities of the people it is intended to protect."

UNGA 81: Africa's Moment:...

Continued from page 5

he said. "We need to move beyond that and build industries around it, processing on the continent, backed by energy, rail, roads and ports for regional value chains." At a session convened by Africa Finance, he highlighted free movement of goods, infrastructure investment, and government engagement as indispensable to mobilizing domestic capital for Africa's industrialization.

On the political side, the Executive Secretary joined Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, AUC Deputy Chairperson Selma Malika Haddadi, Kenya's President William Ruto, Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, and Uganda's Vice President Jessica Alupo to discuss accelerating implementation of the Pact for the Future. His message was consistent with the position ECA has advanced across every forum this quarter: the Pact's commitments must be linked to Agenda 2063 and national development priorities, financed through programmes that address structural barriers; debt, the high cost of capital, and Africa's underrepresentation in global institutions, and measured by results, not declarations. At the launch of the Global Grid Accelerator on the margins of UNGA, he stressed that regional power pools are one of Africa's most practical tools for unlocking energy potential: countries can trade surplus electricity, lower costs, and expand access to reliable power all of which are critical for industrialization under the AfCFTA. The week closed with a virtual conversation with Columbia Business School students on the opportunities and realities of doing business in Africa, the transformative potential of the AfCFTA, and why young people must be at the heart of the continent's economic transformation.

More: Secretary-General's address to the opening of the General Debate of UNGA 81

> "We need to move beyond that and build industries around it, processing on the continent, backed by energy, rail, roads and ports for regional value chains."

High-Level Political Forum 2026 (7-15 July 2026 New York)














Deputy Secr


MR. CLAVER GATETE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECA






ILO


ASSEMBLY HALL
2026 Africa Sustainable Development Report
Rapport 2026 sur le développement durable en Afrique
2026 Africa Sustainable Development Report
2026 Africa Sustainable Development Report



Climate Change and Development ...

Continued from page 5

> "Africa's climate story should not be defined by vulnerability alone."

review in Doha in March 2027. Read his statement here: Opening statement at the Doha Programme of Action Ministerial Review | Closing remarks at the Doha Programme of Action Ministerial Review

Also on the margins, ECA co-hosted a briefing with Armenia's COP17 Presidency on the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference in Yerevan. The Executive Secretary stressed that biodiversity cannot be treated as a purely environmental issue. For Africa, it is inseparable from economic development. The continent hosts over a quarter of global biodiversity yet loses approximately $195 billion annually in natural capital through unsustainable practices. ECA's approach, he outlined, centres on integrating nature into economic decision-making through natural capital accounting, embedding biodiversity into national development planning, and mobilizing new finance including biodiversity credit markets.

More: Opening statement at CCDA-14 | African leaders open CCDA-14 | Stakeholders close CCDA-14 with calls for climate finance | Statement at the UN Biodiversity Conference 2026 briefing

Advancing Africa's...

Continued from page 2

Read more here: https://archive.uneca.org/archive2/stories/aligning-finance-with-production-critical-for-africa%e2%80%99s-structural-transformation.html

At the African Union Executive Council's 49th session, he called for integrating water security, industrialization, climate action, finance, and regional integration into a single development agenda. Stressing that no country can rely indefinitely on external financing to transform its economy.

At the Africa Food Systems Forum, the Executive Secretary pressed for movement from aspiration to action, investing in infrastructure, supporting farmers, expanding finance, promoting value addition, and establishing clear accountability for results. At the Africa Early Warnings Forum in Addis Ababa, he joined the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Chief Kamal Kishore and other leaders to stress that early warning systems deliver real value when they help farmers protect yields, businesses secure supply chains, and governments protect infrastructure before disaster strikes. With people and communities at the centre. And at the inaugural Africa Mindset Reset Forum in Kigali, attended by over 2,500 participants, his message cut to the heart of the quarter's theme: "One thing that is missing in all of this is implementation. The focus now must be on delivery and execution."

Beyond Raw Exports...

Continued from page 4

noted, the path forward requires "investing in infrastructure and skills, transforming agricultural value chains, and beneficiating critical energy transition minerals at source." ECA's message was consistent: if the region combines its critical mineral wealth with regional energy markets, fertilizer production, modern transport corridors, and competitive agricultural value chains, it can become not merely a supplier of raw materials, but a centre of industrial production.

More: ECA calls on SADC to turn mineral and agricultural wealth into industrial prosperity

| Statement at the 46th Ordinary Summit of SADC | Opinion: SADC's critical minerals can power Africa's structural transformation | How responsible mining will support SADC industrialisation

> ...Africa exports agricultural commodities; others process, package, and market higher-value food products. Business as usual cannot continue.

No Time for Incrementalism...

Continued from page 2

with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) bearing the heaviest burden. And called for coordinated international action to close the financing gap and prioritize job creation and social protection. "Progress is possible," he noted, pointing to Rwanda, Liberia, and Sierra Leone as examples of countries that have achieved measurable poverty reduction. As Coordinator of the UN Regional Commissions, the Executive Secretary also convened fellow Executive Secretaries to advance the Regional Reset and Country Configuration, reinforcing the unique value regional commissions bring to SDG implementation.

More on HLPF: Statement at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum | Launch of the 2026 Africa Sustainable Development Report | Transforming Informal Work into Sustainable Livelihoods | Advancing Energy and Digital Connectivity | Africa's 2026 SDR sets priorities to fast-track progress | Harnessing Partnerships for Accelerated Poverty Reduction

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

- This quarter, ECA's analytical output deepened the evidence base on three of Africa's most pressing structural challenges: sovereign financing, exchange rate policy, and the gendered dimensions of the energy transition.

- Africa Sovereign Credit Rating Review: 2026 Mid-Year Outlook (13th Edition). This edition analyses long-term foreign currency sovereign credit rating actions across Africa in the first half of 2026, comparing the methodologies of Moody's, Fitch, and S&P across regions — and making concrete recommendations to both rating agencies and African governments on how credit ratings can be improved and better reflect African realities. More: https://repository.uneca.org/entities/publication/0249499e-472a-4e55-824f-6a0e66569b14

- Exchange Rate Fluctuations and External Trade Balance in Africa. Drawing on 20 years of quarterly data across all 54 African countries, this study finds that currency depreciation produces only modest, delayed export gains — and that structural constraints, particularly in CFA franc zone and non-resource-intensive economies, blunt the effectiveness of exchange rate policy. The conclusion: trade resilience requires industrialisation, facilitation, and infrastructure investment — not monetary adjustments alone. More: https://repository.uneca.org/entities/publication/e90d75f6-4b97-4a77-b0a7-5a7253832ce1

- Gendering the Clean Energy Transition in Africa: Unlocking Women's Participation in Clean Energy. Clean energy is not gender-neutral — and this report makes the case with precision. Women bear disproportionate burdens from energy poverty, from health risks and time poverty to constrained economic opportunity. A gender-responsive energy transition is not a social addendum to Africa's clean energy agenda; it is a prerequisite for making that transition inclusive, sustainable, and just. More: https://repository.uneca.org/entities/publication/56adc3e1-7e6d-4101-9226-623d2d711195

Find more publications at uneca.org/publications and the ECA Institutional Repository at http://repository.uneca.org/

Opinions and Blogs

[Blog] Investing in Africa's Health: Unlocking Fiscal Space for Economic Transformation • With governments covering only 33% of health expenditure while households bear 40%, the financing model is both insufficient and unjust — and the gap in per capita health spending across African countries has widened by nearly $120 in less than a decade. Health is not a social cost. It is the foundation of productivity-driven growth. Nadia Ouedraogo, Aboubakri Diaw, Stephen Karingi Read more

[Blog] U.S. Enactment of the GENIUS Act: Impact on Africa • The United States' new stablecoin law risks accelerating dollarization of African economies at precisely the moment Africa is building its own digital finance architecture. With Sub-Saharan Africa processing over $205 billion in on-chain value between 2024 and 2025, the continent's response must be strategic: regional regulatory frameworks and homegrown digital assets that protect monetary sovereignty. Stephen Z. Chundama Read more

[Blog] Africa's Jobs Challenge: Moving from Dialogue to Delivery • Between 12 and 15 million young Africans enter the labour market every year. Roughly 3 million formal jobs are created. Africa does not lack ideas — it lacks the bridge between ideas and action. The Africa Development Impact Forum's Implementation Clock is a direct attempt to close that gap. Veronica Masubo Read more

[Opinion] SADC's Critical Minerals Can Power Africa's Structural Transformation • With demand for critical minerals projected to more than triple by 2030 under net-zero scenarios, Africa's window to build value-added processing and manufacturing capacity is now — or it risks repeating an old narrative of resource wealth without industrial transformation. Claver Gatete, ECA Executive Secretary Read more

[Blog] Africa's Economy Is Growing — Depending on Which Spreadsheet You're Reading • Of 1,619 local-currency GDP comparisons across 54 African countries from 2010 to 2024, over one-third differed by at least 3% — with gaps reaching 66.7% for South Sudan. "The continent knows what it is worth. The task is to show which receipt we are reading — and why." Lerato Martha Makana, Maria Dombaxi Read more

[Blog] The Age of Quantum Computing Will Soon Be Upon Us: Is Africa Ready? • Public investment in quantum technology has reached $65.9 billion globally, with $10 billion in venture capital added in 2025 alone. Africa's strategic response should not be to compete on hardware — but to build awareness, develop skills, and move urgently on post-quantum cybersecurity before the window closes. Stephen Z. Chundama, Aminata Dembele Read more

[Blog] Young Sudanese Seek a Greater Role in Recovery and Peacebuilding • Economic opportunity and political inclusion are not separate agendas for Sudan's young people — they are the same one. "Peace cannot be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people." Zuzana Schwidrowski Read more

[Guest Blog] Seychelles Launches RESIslands Project: Reaffirming Its Leadership in Climate Resilience • A $4.95 million Green Climate Fund initiative, RESIslands gives African island states the institutional and financial tools to manage what is already their daily reality. "Climate change is not a distant policy debate for us," said Minister Marie-May Jeremie. "It is our daily reality." Sanika Santhosh, Rebecca Julienne, Shana Pareemamun Read more

[Guest Blog] Of Motherhood, Poverty and a Failing Healthcare System • Africa finances only 41% of its own health budgets — and the gap falls heaviest on pregnant and lactating women living in poverty, who absorb the costs of a system that cannot hold them. A call for structural change, told through the lives of those the system has failed. Tabitha Wanja Read more

LOOKING AHEAD - KEY EVENTS IN Q4 2026

Official Launch of the Africa Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA) | 7 October 2026 | Port Louis, Mauritius. An African Union initiative makes its formal debut — an agency that will evaluate sovereign, sub-sovereign, and corporate entities across the continent, bringing African expertise and local context to credit assessments long dominated by three international agencies. Africa is no longer only the subject of credit opinions; it is beginning to author them. View event

Tenth Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa | 19–23 October 2026 | Addis Ababa. Africa's highest decision-making body for statistical standards convenes under the theme "Unleashing the value of data in Africa: making official statistics a true mirror of the continent" taking on the challenge of transforming abundant but fragmented data into integrated, trusted, and actionable information that can actually drive development decisions. View event

Twelfth Session of UN-GGIM: Africa | 19–23 October 2026 | Addis Ababa. The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa convenes for its twelfth session under the theme "Seeing Africa Clearly: Unleashing Africa's Spatial Intelligence for Integrated, Trusted and Actionable Data" — advancing interoperable geospatial systems as the infrastructure for evidence-based governance across the continent. 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

CONTACT

UN Economic Commission for Africa Menelik II Ave., P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251-11-544-5000 | Fax: +251-11-551 4416

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