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Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic
Development**

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Statutory issues of the Economic Commission for Africa

Report on United Nations system support for the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme

Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the results achieved since April 2016 from activities undertaken by the United Nations system in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme. It considers support from three perspectives: Decisions of African Heads of State; decisions from the Joint Annual Meeting of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; and United Nations support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme. The report meets the need expressed by member States for regular and systematic reporting on United Nations activities in support of the sectoral priorities of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels.

* E/ECA/COE/36/1-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/1(III)

I. Decisions of the African Union Assembly

A. Decision on the domestication of the first ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and on the post-2015 development agenda

2. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) developed a toolkit to support countries in their efforts to integrate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 in their national planning frameworks. The toolkit will contribute to a more coherent implementation of the two initiatives in Africa and will be piloted in a selected number of countries in Africa. Where training is concerned, ECA, through the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), revamped its course on fundamentals of development planning to address the integration of agendas 2030 and 2063 into national plans. Broadly, all course directors are informed of the need to ensure that Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 are incorporated in the training materials, which should cover such key aspects as their incorporation into national strategic frameworks. In this context, IDEP participated in a high-level panel held as part of a workshop organized in Dakar in June 2016 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Kazakhstan on the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 into national development plans and strategies in Central and West Africa.

3. The various ECA subprogrammes have been contributing to the further development and refinement of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the goals' monitoring and evaluation framework. Efforts contributing to the indicators of specific goals included the joint operationalization by the African Union Commission, ECA, and African Development Bank Land Policy Commission of a monitoring and evaluation framework with indicators for tracking Africa's commitments regarding land governance. The indicators are being piloted in 10 countries, including those that are set to track achievement of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 – specifically, goals 1, 2 and 5. Under the Land Policy Commission, the African Union Commission, ECA and the African Development Bank also developed a programme to support the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme by integrating the land tenure concerns raised in Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 – also relating to goals 1, 2 and 5.

4. At its fifth session, the Statistical Commission for Africa unanimously endorsed the recommendation to establish an African programme on urbanization data and statistics at ECA, to strengthen the capacity of countries to harmonize urbanization concepts, indicators and methodologies and produce and analyse urbanization data and statistics for improved national planning and policymaking in Africa. Given that the United Nations Statistical Commission has already set up the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is, therefore, no need for another such intergovernmental body. In addition, as part of the Joint Programme on Labour Migration in Africa, work has been launched on the compilation and production of labour migration statistics for the African continent. The Labour Migration Statistics Working Group, consisting of members from ECA, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank will regularly produce biannual reports on labour migration statistics in Africa. The first such report was published in 2016 and widely disseminated among key stakeholders.

B. Decision on a harmonized framework for enhancing private sector investment in transboundary infrastructure in Africa

5. At the request of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, ECA and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, working in collaboration with the regional economic communities, have completed a continental framework designed to accelerate the implementation of the Dakar Agenda for Action and, in particular, the 16 transboundary infrastructure projects endorsed by African Heads of State at the 2014 Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure. The framework is a model law which will be presented to the Assembly of the African Union in July 2017. It consists of sections on project regulators; anti-corruption and transparency standards; free movement of entities, personnel, goods and services; immigration; procurement; settlement of disputes, and other matters.

6. To facilitate the incorporation of the model law in African countries, ECA and the NEPAD Agency are undertaking an exercise to reduce the risks associated with all the 16 projects and will provide technical support on demand to countries that request it.

C. Decision on the 2017 African Union theme "Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth"

7. ECA, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, NEPAD and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) undertook a multi-stakeholder consultative process for the preparation of the 2017 African Union road map on harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth, which reflects the inputs and aspirations of a wide range of key stakeholders.

8. This road map has been developed with due consideration for the urgent need to transform the potential of Africa's large youth population, sometimes referred to as the "youth bulge", into a demographic dividend and to help steer African countries towards the ambitious yet critical aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

9. The demographic dividend may be defined as the benefit that can emerge when, in consequence of declining fertility rates, a country has a relatively large proportion of working-age people in its population and makes effective investments in their health, empowerment, education and employment through public action and private sector involvement.

10. The theme for the eighteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, "United Nations system support for harnessing the demographic dividend through investments", is also in line with this decision. The session will offer an opportunity for the United Nations and the African Union to discuss and fashion appropriate policies for Africa to reap the demographic dividend, including through employment opportunities and decent work for the young people of the continent. The session will be jointly organized with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), through the UNDG regional teams for Eastern and Southern Africa and West Africa, in view of the significant contribution made by these teams to this undertaking. Their active collaboration will help sharpen the focus on strategies to speed up the demographic transition, and create conducive conditions for a demographic dividend, including frameworks for the active and productive participation of youth in economic activities.

D. Decision on Africa's engagement in the global climate negotiations

11. A technical working group meeting on the Africa Adaptation Initiative was held during the sixth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Cairo, from 16 to 19 April 2016. The meeting brought together representatives from the institutions involved – the NEPAD Agency, the African Group of Negotiators, the African Development Bank, ECA, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNDP.

12. On 30 September 2016, on the occasion of Africa Day, during the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakech, Morocco, a high-level discussion was organized on the Africa Adaptation Initiative to heighten its visibility and raise its profile.

13. The business plan under the Climate for Development in Africa initiative (ClimDev-Africa) has been completed. It highlights strategies to support member States in implementing the Paris Agreement and maximizing the benefits of the agreement in making the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

14. As the secretariat of ClimDev-Africa, the African Climate Policy Centre has conducted various assessments to guide and support African member States with the implementation of their intended nationally determined contributions, underscoring conditional and unconditional actions and their means of implementation.

15. With support from other pan-African institutions, such as ECA, the NEPAD Agency convened the second forum of the Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance under the patronage of the Government of Kenya. The theme of the conference was "From agreement to action: implementing intended nationally determined contributions for growth and resilience in African agriculture".

E. Decision on AIDS Watch Africa

16. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are continuing to work closely together and with the African Union Commission and NEPAD on the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and have collaborated with many other organizations within the United Nations family and beyond, including the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) and the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI).

17. Work in this area is under way in support of the regional economic communities and African Union member States. Significant progress has been made in 2016 on the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) road map, and also on the associated risk assessment of the Essential Medicines List, which are central components of the business plan of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa. These two components provide a technical framework that guides companies in their plans to upgrade to international standards of production; it also provides regulators with the tools and criteria for monitoring progress and enables the categorization and future reclassification of individual company capabilities.

18. The UNIDO GMP road map methodology has been adopted by NEPAD and other partners involved in the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative as the basis for regional GMP road map frameworks. Work is due to begin in 2017 on the development of a regional GMP road map framework in

the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region, following conclusion of an agreement between the West African Health Organization (WAHO) and UNIDO. This project will be implemented in close collaboration with other partners, including WHO, NEPAD and UNAIDS, and also in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission.

19. The GMP road map and estimated maximum loss (EML) risk assessment approach was submitted for guidance by the WHO and UNIDO teams to the WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations. These teams have been working with many stakeholders (national and international) in Ethiopia to support implementation of a GMP road map as part of the national strategy and plan of action for development of the Ethiopian pharmaceutical industry. WHO has continued to support the overall implementation of this undertaking, which is considered a national priority, including through the conduct of a feasibility study on the local manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients.

20. At the World Investment Forum in Nairobi in July 2016, a high-level round table was held, co-hosted by UNAIDS and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), that focused on investment in the pharmaceutical sector. The round table included the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration, signed by the Executive Director of UNAIDS, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa, the Cabinet Secretary for Health from Kenya and the Commissioner for Trade and Industry from the African Union Commission.

21. In 2016, the Secretary-General convened a high-level panel on access to medicines, to be coordinated by UNDP and UNAIDS. The panel covered the issue of access to medicines across the world, but gave particular attention to the situation in Africa, including through a public dialogue, held in Johannesburg. A number of United Nations entities formed part of the Expert Advisory Group, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, UNIDO, UNCTAD and others. UNIDO and WHO submitted a joint paper on the critical role that strengthening local production could have on improving access to safe effective and affordable essential medicines in Africa.

22. Other undertakings that have been supported in 2016 include work by UNIDO to support strategy implementation for the development of the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe; collaborative efforts to support Algeria in establishing a centre of excellence for HIV and health, led by UNAIDS; assessment of opportunities for establishing vaccine production in Africa by WHO, UNIDO and the African Vaccine Manufacturers Initiative; development of a market data solution for the East Africa region by UNIDO, with support from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and others.

23. In 2016, the five organizations highlighted by the decision on AIDS Watch Africa (African Union Commission, NEPAD, UNIDO, WHO and UNAIDS) agreed to establish a joint programme for the accelerated development of the industry on the continent, by providing structured and coordinated action across partners. Launching this joint programme will be a priority for 2017, as will be liaison with other partners in delivering on this undertaking.

F. Decision on the Continental Free Trade Area

24. As a member of the Continental Task Force on the Continental Free Trade Area, ECA prepared the draft negotiating text for the consideration of the task force and translated it into the working languages of the African Union. The African Union Commission will circulate the draft text to member States to enable them to consult national stakeholders and will also submit it to the Negotiating Forum on the Continental Free Trade Area. In collaboration with the

African Union Commission and other stakeholders, ECA organized African Trade Week, incorporating the African Trade Forum, which is part of the designated architecture for the Continental Free Trade Area. As the process moves towards text-based negotiations, it is expected that the draft text and the involvement of various stakeholders through forums such as the African Trade Forum will facilitate consensus building among member States in the negotiations.

25. At its July 2016 session, the Assembly of the African Union also established a high-level panel of five eminent persons to champion the fast-tracking of the Continental Free Trade Area. ECA worked in collaboration with the African Union Commission in preparing the panel's terms of reference. The African Trade Policy Centre has earmarked resources to support the work of the panel throughout 2017.

26. ECA continued to provide technical support to the African Union Commission in the various forums, including the Continental Task Force on the Continental Free Trade Area, the Negotiating Forum on the Continental Free Trade Area and the African Ministers of Trade Meeting. Technical support was also provided in the areas of investment policy, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, World Trade Organization issues and economic partnership agreements.

II. Decisions of the ECA and African Union Commission Joint Annual Meetings

A. Integrated reporting and follow-up on sustainable development

27. The ECA online statistical base has been enhanced through the creation of a data portal known as ECASStats. The portal includes a subsidiary portal on the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also envisaged that, once a single reporting framework has been agreed on for the two agendas, a portal will be developed to support annual reports on progress in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B. Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

28. Working together with the Government of Egypt, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNEP, UNDP and UNFPA, convened the second session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Cairo in May 2016, in preparation for the 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Forum provided a platform for member States to engage in dialogue on the implementation of and follow-up to both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It also strengthened member States' understanding and capacity on the policy approaches needed to ensure effective inclusive and duly integrated implementation of and follow-up to the two agendas.

29. In that regard, member States, regional economic communities and major groups reached consensus and adopted key messages setting out the policy actions and measures needed to advance the inclusive and integrated implementation of and follow-up to the two mutually reinforcing transformative agendas. The key messages adopted by the Forum formed the continent's collective input to the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development, in which ECA participated and provided substantive support to

member States in their efforts to advocate and garner international support for the integrated implementation of the two agendas.

30. Consistent with this decision, the 2016 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development adopted recommendations to strengthen the form and work of the Forum designed to avoid duplication and the creation of new structures and to promote learning across the United Nations, regions and subregions. These recommendations and their key messages which will guide the scheduling and format of the Forum include the following:

(a) That the outcomes of the Forum take into account and are informed by review processes on the implementation of the two agendas that are carried out by various stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations, mechanisms and forums, United Nations entities, major groups and other partners. Other reviews of the implementation of the two agendas, or reviews which are of relevance to the agendas, need to be synchronized with the work of the Forum to ensure that such reviews contribute to Africa's assessment of the regional implementation of both agendas. The work of the Forum should enable effective consideration of submissions and other inputs from such review processes;

(b) The learning of lessons and sharing of best practices among countries, within the United Nations system, and with other regional and subregional forums, major groups and organizations, are important processes in accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. The Forum should therefore include arrangements for learning and exchanging experiences. It is important that countries volunteering for review during the sessions of the high-level political forum are given assistance to participate in the Africa Regional Forum, so that they can share their experiences and lessons learned. Case studies should be conducted to support such learning and exchange. African countries should be supported and encouraged to participate and contribute in the various learning and sharing forums.

C. International migration in Africa

31. ECA and the African Union Commission are jointly working on the establishment of a high-level panel on international migration in Africa and a secretariat is being set up at ECA to support the work of this panel. ECA is currently developing a comprehensive programme on migration with a strong African narrative. Studies, as recommended, will be undertaken as part of the comprehensive programme.

D. Organization of an annual African regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information

32. The annual African regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society took place on 15 and 16 November 2016, in Addis Ababa. The review focused on mainstreaming information and communications technology for development policies and strategies in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

E. African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

33. The fifty-fifth session of the Governing Council of IDEP is scheduled for March 2017, when the revised statutes shall be presented for final consideration.

34. To date, the IDEP secretariat has received the names of nine country representatives, from the following member States: Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, the Sudan, Uganda and Zambia. The second West African country to be represented on the Council has yet to be nominated. As the Chair of the Bureau, South Africa was approached through its embassy in Ethiopia, with a view to facilitating the process. In addition, a meeting was held in Dakar with the Ambassador of Liberia to Senegal, followed by a letter requesting Liberia to intervene on the matter as the Chair of ECOWAS. Follow-up efforts are under way.

35. Compared to 2015, assessed contributions paid by member States in 2016 have significantly declined, from \$1.5 million to \$504,000, a drop of some 67 per cent. The IDEP secretariat requests representatives at the tenth Joint Annual Meetings to reiterate the importance of the payment of annual assessed contributions and settlement of arrears to ensure the sustainability of the Institute's capacity-building services.

36. Over the course of the year, ECA partners, such as the University of Geneva, the African Union Commission, NEPAD, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, have worked with and supported IDEP directly. Through its close internal collaboration with ECA divisions, IDEP has also benefited from indirect support from other ECA partners, though, for example, the joint funding agreement with Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

37. During the period under review, IDEP received direct financial support amounting to \$600,000 both for activities conducted solely by IDEP and those involving interdivisional collaboration. In addition, ECA has provided materials that have enhanced IDEP training courses and made available the services of staff members as lecturers on such courses.

F. Review of the strategic framework and programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019

38. The strategic framework, which is currently being reviewed, is intended to examine how well the ECA intergovernmental structure, mechanisms and processes respond to the needs of member States, in terms of their relevance in tackling the challenges of development on the continent and their effectiveness and efficiency in so doing. It will also examine the impact, if any, of the Joint Annual Meetings and the influence that the ECA subsidiary organs have had on policy formulation and implementation in member States.

39. In carrying out such an assessment, a wide range of consultations will be undertaken with member States, the current Bureau of the Joint Annual Meetings, a range of United Nations entities with regional representation, and the regional economic communities, and also with programme managers at ECA and IDEP and in the subregional offices. A questionnaire-based survey will be conducted among member States, international organizations, civil society organizations, participants from the academic sector, think tanks and other bodies, to obtain their views on the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Joint Annual Meetings.

III. United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

A. Direct technical support from ECA for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027

40. Building on the policy influence generated over the course of 2016, the framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027, adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its June 2015 session in South Africa, received support from the Africa Group based in New York, during its preparations for the United Nations General Assembly. This process was concluded in December 2016, when the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/254 on the framework for a United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027.

2. Support for the African Peer Review Mechanism

41. In line with its mandate of promoting good governance on the continent, ECA has been a pillar of support for the implementation of the current exercise to revitalize the African Peer Review Mechanism. Besides being engaged in the process of revitalizing the Mechanism, ECA has contributed to the design of its 2016-2020 strategic plan and the drafting of a civil society organization action plan on the implementation of its revitalization plan.

42. ECA provided technical support to some of the countries participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Liberia, for the launching of an effective and technical competent self-assessment process. It also assisted with the drafting of the external review reports of Chad, Senegal and the Sudan, and of a second-generation external review for Kenya. As a result, Chad, Senegal and Djibouti were peer-reviewed during the January 2016 session of the Assembly of the African Union. ECA also organized a regional meeting for West Africa, to encourage accession to the Mechanism by ECOWAS member States. Working together with civil society organizations, ECA contributed to the drafting of an action plan on the implementation by civil society organizations of the Mechanism's revitalization plan.

43. Based on its current strategic plans, ECA held a strategic planning meeting with the Mechanism secretariat in June 2016, to agree on a joint 2016 workplan. In addition, to formalize this long-overdue partnership, it was agreed that a memorandum of understanding with the secretariat, which was signed earlier in August 2016, in Nairobi, would be formalized on the sidelines of the Assembly of the African Union at its session in Addis Ababa in January 2017.

44. ECA participated in the twenty-fifth summit of the African Peer Review Mechanism at the level of Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi from 22 to 26 August 2016, in the margins of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The Heads of State and Government affirmed their commitment to the cause of improving Africa's governance, building on the interest and hopes of the African people. With a new chief executive officer at the helm of the Mechanism, substantial progress has been achieved and, with the support of the strategic partners (ECA, African Development Bank and UNDP), the Mechanism secretariat was able to complete two country review missions in Chad and Senegal. An agreement was reached for member States of the African Peer Review Mechanism to pay their contribution arrears within three years, and for an increase in the annual contribution from the current \$100,000 to \$200,000,

with effect from 2017. ECA has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mechanism's Continental Secretariat.

45. ECA contributed to the Kenya pre-mission analysis mission, held from 3 to 7 October 2016. The principal objective of the mission was to launch the second review of the Mechanism – the first of its kind since the inception of the process. The mission reviewed the establishment of national structures and verified the inclusiveness of the process at the national level. Specifically, it collected statistics, undertook preliminary desk research, conducted surveys and held focus group discussions in the country on the key issues raised in the draft issues paper.

46. The analysis team also reviewed all the information and data provided and came up with an overall picture of the situation in the Mechanism's four thematic areas. It also finalized the key issues paper and the preliminary analysis to be used by the review mission. The overall aim was to review and assist with improving the quality of the work of the report and the review team.

47. In Liberia, over the period 19-21 October 2016, ECA organized three events in close collaboration with the Mechanism's Continental Secretariat and national authorities, in order to ensure an effective and inclusive process: first, a national awareness-raising campaign; second, a workshop on Mechanism methodologies and a revised questionnaire; and, third, training for the media. After these events, it was expected that the national authorities would launch the nation-wide awareness-raising campaign and the household and exports survey. Liberia agreed to finalize the self-assessment exercise by the end of February 2017 and to be peer-reviewed in July 2017.

B. Support for the regional economic communities

1. Macroeconomic policy

48. ECA developed a programme of action for Senegal, following a scoping mission in December 2015, and a technical mission in May 2016. The Director for Planning at the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning expressed his satisfaction with ECA cooperation in the area of capacity building.

49. In the light of recent good scores notched up in 2015 and 2016 by the regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC), ECOWAS and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), ECA organized a capacity development workshop for IGAD senior staff in Djibouti from 2 to 6 May 2016. Among other issues, the workshop explored the current state of the African economy, regional integration, Agenda 2063 and its 10-year implementation plan, the synergies between Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals, industrialization, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the cost of conflicts. This high-level event served to showcase the work of ECA and to familiarize senior IGAD participants with ECA policy options.

50. The support provided to IGAD was further consolidated by engaging with senior policymakers on issues pertinent to the advancement of the economies of the IGAD region, through deeper regional integration and cooperation, with a view to enhancing their understanding of the development challenges facing the region, and of the best means of formulating appropriate regional policies. This was accomplished at a meeting held in Nairobi, from 12 to 15 December 2016. ECA also drafted an IGAD capacity development strategy, for adoption by its member States.

51. Curbing illicit financial flows is another area where ECA provided targeted policy influence in such countries as Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. ECA helped organize the inaugural meeting of the Consortium to Stem Illicit

Financial Flows from Africa. The meeting took place on 13 and 14 June 2016, under the chairmanship of Thabo Mbeki, Chair of the African Union-ECA High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. The Consortium will serve as a multi-stakeholder platform for leveraging the partnerships established among stakeholders since the release of the Panel's report and, in turn, providing overall strategic direction for efforts to reduce such flows from Africa.

52. ECA was also requested by the African Union to provide technical support to the office of its special representative for the African Peace Fund. In furnishing this support, ECA is exploring options that member States could use to raise revenues to support the budget of the African Union Commission, including the Peace Fund. A report prepared by the Centre for Democracy and Development was to be submitted to the Assembly of the African Union at its session in Kigali in July 2016.

2. Industrialization (regional integration)

53. Following the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Harare in March 2015, which approved the SADC industrialization strategy and road map and reaffirmed the importance of industrial development in poverty alleviation and the economic emancipation of the people of the region, SADC requested support from ECA for the development of its action plan for the implementation of the road map and strategy. This request demonstrates the extent to which ECA can effectively influence policy choices and decisions; the undertaking in question presents another opportunity to reinforce the message sent by ECA on industrialization in Africa as the mainstay of its economic transformation.

54. The SADC secretariat also called on ECA to assist in developing an information and communications technology observatory for the subregion. The observatory is being developed in support of industrialization in the SADC region as an intelligence-gathering tool. When completed, the tool will be used to inform the construction of a database and portal and the preparation of reports, and will also contribute to enhancing intra-African trade within the SADC region. The e-SADC strategy framework is almost complete and its validation is expected to take place in 2017.

55. The delivery of advisory services and technical assistance for Angola, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone is also an indicator of the policy influence exercised by ECA, demonstrating the value attached by member States to the Commission's savoir-faire in trade and industrialization matters.

3. Development planning and public administration

56. In 2016, EAC Vision 2050 was approved by the EAC Council of Ministers at its thirty-third meeting, held on 29 February 2016, and by the EAC Heads of State at their summit meeting held on 2 March 2016. The Secretary General of EAC expressed appreciation to ECA for the invaluable technical and financial support provided towards the formulation of EAC Vision 2050. Based on this satisfactory collaboration, in July 2016, EAC requested ECA to support the formulation of the fifth EAC development strategy; collaboration to that end is currently under way.

57. ECA has been assisting countries in the design and support of their national visions. Thus, technical support was provided to the new Government of Benin, in the form of two technical missions, to assess the country's current Vision 2025, and to inform the development of its successor. The institutional framework for the development of the new Vision and the evaluation of the former Vision has been defined and those responsible for its implementation at all levels identified. In Guinea, ECA has provided support to the country in the development of a long-term development vision, Guinea Vision 2040, and in September 2016, it dispatched a statistics expert to Conakry to provide technical assistance to the country in its efforts to rebase its gross domestic product (GDP).

ECA also supported the articulation of a programme of action for Senegal in the areas of planning and statistics.

58. Similar high-level strategic undertakings followed by delivery, involving multidisciplinary teams, have been entrusted to the Commission by Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and other member States which have yet to receive ECA scoping missions, such as Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and others.

4. Innovations, technology and management of Africa's natural resources:

59. ECA contributed to policy formulation through its input into knowledge production and support for strategies designed to strengthen the capacity of African countries in the management, beneficiation and value addition of natural resources, in particular in the extractive sector.

60. In line with its capacity development strategies, ECA used high-level policy dialogues to enable member States to gain a full understanding of the findings of its studies, and to explore the policy options proposed in its reports in order to turn them into action. Thus, during the period under review, a high-level dialogue was organized by the Centre for Democracy and Development, in collaboration with the Social Development Policy Division, in Yaoundé from 7 to 9 June 2016. The theme of the dialogue was the impact of urbanization on national development planning in Africa and the dialogue's main outcome was the conclusion that African countries should mainstream urbanization into their development planning and strategies. A high-level policy dialogue was organized by the Centre in Kigali, on 17 and 18 May 2016, by the Centre for Democracy and Development on risks in investment in transboundary infrastructure projects in Africa. Participants at the dialogue highlighted the need for the full integration of transboundary projects into both national and regional planning and budgeting processes and the adoption of measures to mitigate potential risks.

IV. Conclusion

61. The Commission calls on member States to sustain and enhance their support for its work, in particular with regard to such matters as structural transformation, industrialization, the Continental Free Trade Area, development planning, trade, regional integration and better management of the continent's vast natural resources for broad-based growth, employment creation and overall improvement of the livelihood of Africans.

62. Member States are also called upon to support the implementation of the United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda and for continuing efforts by ECA to accelerate the implementation of various transboundary infrastructure projects endorsed by the Assembly of the African Union. This may be pursued through the incorporation into national legislation of model laws that enhance private sector investments and minimize the risks associated with the strategic infrastructure necessary to promote regional integration.