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Sub-Regional Office for West Africa-ECA/SRO-WA

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## NINETEENTH (19<sup>th</sup>) SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (ICE-19) OF WEST AFRICA

Outcome document

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

25-26 February 2016

Dakar (Senegal)



**Sub-Regional Office for West Africa**

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## **Introduction**

1. The nineteenth session of the intergovernmental committee of experts (ICE) for West Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was held from 25 to 26 February 2016 in Dakar (Senegal), with logistic and financial support from the government of Senegal. The theme of the meeting was ***“The ECA Country Profiles: tools to serve the structural transformation of West African countries”***.
2. The choice of this theme was deemed all the more pertinent, given the need to provide support to countries of the continent in general and those from the sub-region in particular, in the process of structural transformation of their economies.
3. The ECA country profiles aim at providing countries in the sub-region with an analysis of their economic and social conditions, defined by a number of indices, particularly the African Social Development Index (ASDI), the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) and the Regional integration Index (RII). This analysis will be based on national sources of comparative data, to respond to the needs of decision-makers and other users in the research sector as well as non-state actors.
4. The main objective of the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the ICE is to allow ECOWAS member States and other stakeholders in West Africa to debate on recent developments that could have an impact on the economic and social development of the sub-region, in order to identify the main challenges to be met and to make recommendations towards accelerating the economic growth and structural transformation of the sub-region.
5. The meeting offered the opportunity for discussion on the central theme, and reviewed the Report on economic conditions in 2015 and the outlook for 2016 in West Africa. In addition, experts revised a recurrent report on the implementation of the regional and international agendas, with emphasis on the transition from MDGs to SDGs as well as a report on the need to implement the Africa Mining Vision in order to mobilize more resources to finance development. The 2015 report on the Office activities and the 2016 draft programme of work were presented to member States for consideration and adoption.

## **Participation**

6. The meeting brought together delegates from RECs/IGOs, Member States as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society. Experts representing the following Member States attended the meeting: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.
7. Among the RECs/IGOs that attended the meeting were: ECOWAS, WAEMU, MRU, AFRISTAT, CBWAS, AfDB, WAWA, African Monetary Union's Regional Council, Regional Stock Market/DCBR, Water and Sanitation for Africa, AidAction, as well as

other stakeholders involved in the development and regional integration of the sub-region.

### **Opening Ceremony**

8. Four speeches were delivered at the opening ceremony, namely: i) Address by the Director of the ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa, Mr. Dimitri Sanga, ii) Welcome remarks by the Coordinator of the United Nations System in Senegal, delivered by the FAO Resident Representative, Mr. Vincent Martin iii) Speech by the outgoing President of the 19<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, M. Pierre N'Diaye and finally, v) Opening speech by the delegate Minister for the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Planning, in charge of Budget, H.E. Mr. Birima Mangara.

### **Election of the Bureau**

The meeting elected the Bureau as follows:

President: **Senegal**

Vice President: **Ghana**

Rapporteur: **Cote d'Ivoire**

### **Adoption of the Programme of Work**

9. Delegates from member States adopted the programme of Work as presented by the Secretariat.

### **1. Presentations**

#### **Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work of the ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa in 2015 and outlook for 2016**

10. The Secretariat presented the report on the activities of the Office for the period from April 2015 to March 2016. It emphasised the implementation of the recommendations from the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts and considered the activities undertaken by the Office, notably meetings, workshops, seminars, publications, and advisory services and technical assistance to Member States and sub-regional organisations as well as outlook for 2016.

#### **Report on the socio-economic conditions in 2015 and outlook for 2016 in West Africa and the report on ECA country profiles.**

11. The Secretariat reviewed the economic performance of the sub-region and noted the slowdown of economic activity, due in part to climate variability, lingering effects to the Ebola virus disease, as well as the collapse of oil prices and the reduction in commodity prices. The Secretariat then presented the ECA country profiles as tools

to support structural transformation in West African countries. Country profiles as defined within the ECA repositioning framework, were identified as new knowledge products aimed at providing periodic macro-economic and social development assessments in the sub region. They also constitute a valuable source for data collection and analysis on the development challenges faced by national statistical systems.

**Report on the implementation of regional and international agendas: from MDGs to SDGs**

12. The Secretariat presented a report on the performance of the sub-region in the area of MDGs and proposed guidelines for the successful implementation of the SDGs by 2030. The report noted that despite significant progress recorded on some MDGs, West Africa needs to make more efforts, in the next 15 years, in the area of fighting against poverty and inequalities and promoting women empowerment, improving infant and maternal health and access to sanitary infrastructure while strengthening the quality of basic social services offered to the people.

**Report on “mobilizing more resources for development financing: need to implement the Africa Mining Vision”**

13. The report encouraged better resources mobilization from mineral and oil exploitation through the strict adoption of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and an adherence to the Initiative for Transparency in the Extractive Industries (ITEI). It called upon member States to arm themselves with the needed political will to address the constraints, namely the lack of infrastructure and inadequate energy supply, weak negotiating power for mining contract... for an enhanced contribution of natural resources towards development.

**Presentation on ECA continental initiatives: African Social Development Index (ASDI)**

14. The Social Development Policy Division (SDPD) of ECA presented its social Development Index as a monitoring and evaluation tool towards inclusive social development. Its features, components and factors, methodology for calculation, conceptual framework and uses were discussed before highlighting empirical experiences of its implementation in the ECOWAS region and Africa.

**Report on ECA continental initiatives: ECA Capacity Development Strategy to support transformation in Africa**

15. ECA presented its Strategy for strengthening capacity as redefined by the repositioning process in the Commission. The presenter emphasized particularly, the

different types of services and ECA's intervention methods in the area of capacity-building. He also underlined the importance of requests emanating from member States and the steps to follow so as to obtain responses to the expressed needs.

### **Presentation by ECOWAS on “Financing the regional development projects in the ECOWAS space”**

16. ECOWAS presented the orientations of its 2020 Vision after having conducted a diagnosis of the economic structure of West Africa. The organisation highlighted major projects arising from the Community Development Programme (CDP) and underscored the related financing strategies before announcing the upcoming high level conference and round table scheduled for the second semester of 2016.

### **Experience of Senegal on the transition from MDGs to SDGs**

17. The Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning of the Republic of Senegal presented the progress report on the implementation of MDGs and the transition to SDGs as well as its articulation with the Plan Senegal Emergent (PSE). The ministry identified challenges and issues relating to tools for assessing progress in the implementation of the said development agenda. It highlighted lessons drawn from the implementation of MDGs and called for more efforts towards achieving SDGs.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **3.1 Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work of the ECA Office for West Africa in 2015 and outlook for 2016**

#### **For ECA**

- Undertake an analysis of the sources of growth in ECOWAS countries in order to identify factors and strategies aimed at promoting robust, sustainable inclusive and job creating growth in the sub-region
- Lead the reflexion aimed at putting in place a strategy towards wealth retention within the ECOWAS sub region
- Continue supporting member States in developing their statistical systems in order to allow them to monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of SDGs

#### **For member states**

- Pursue the development of their national statistical systems and support the sub regional development initiatives,

### **3.2 Report on the socio-economic profiles in 2015 and outlook for 2016 in West Africa as well as the report on ECA county profiles.**

#### **For member states**

- Strengthen technical collaboration with ECA and domesticate country profiles as decision-making support tools for economic and social policies towards structural transformation in the sub-region.

#### **For ECOWAS and sub-regional organisations**

- Expedite the organisation of the donors' round table towards financing the Community Development Programme (CDP) in order to quickly embark on implementing the identified projects

#### **For ECA**

- Coordinate and pull efforts together for data collection, processing and dissemination and studies preparation within the sub-region in order to reduce the burden of the work on national structures that deal with data production and avoid duplication.

### **3.3. Report on the implementation of regional and international programmes: MDGs to SDGs**

#### **For member States:**

- Undertake and pursue the domestication of SDGs and their mainstreaming into national development programmes;
- Promote the active involvement of other stakeholders (civil society, parliamentarians, and the private sector) in the process of domestication, financing, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of SDGs.

#### **For ECA**

- Take into account recent data in assessing the progress made by member States in the implementation of the MDGs, notably those relating to extreme poverty reduction;
- Support member States in the process of domesticating SDGs when formulating development policies and programmes;

- Strengthen the capacity of pertinent structures for production of statistics of at national level in order to ensure better monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of SDGs;
- Develop a common framework (common roadmap) for SDGs' domestication, implementation and monitoring and evaluation at sub-regional level;

### **3.4. Report on the theme: “mobilizing more resources to finance development: need to implement the Africa Mining Vision”**

#### **For member states:**

- Strengthen capabilities and put in place incentives in order to ensure a better retention of qualified human resources within the national mining administration;

#### **For ECA**

- Strengthen member States' capacity in terms of formulating, negotiating, implementing and evaluating mining contracts

### **3.5. Report on ECA continental initiatives: African Social Development Index (ASDI)**

#### **For member states**

- Promote economic development and social inclusive policies and adopt the African Social Development Index as a planning, monitoring and advocacy tool for development policies and programmes at national level

#### **For ECA**

- Pursue its efforts aimed at disseminating and strengthening capacities towards the adoption of African Social Development Index and support initiatives for experiences sharing on its implementation at country and sub-regional levels.

### **3.6 Report on ECA continental initiatives: Strategies on development capacities of ECA to serve the transformation of Africa (by CDD)**

#### **For ECA**

- Strengthen communication on the ECA strategy on development capacity for member States and other stakeholders.

### **3.7 Recommendations of the Ad hoc Experts Group Meeting**

The meeting endorsed the recommendations made by the experts group meeting on *“innovative financing for the structural transformation of West African economies”*, held as a prelude to the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the ICE from 23 to 24 February 2016.

### **3. Organisation of 20th session of IEC**

Cabo Verde offered to explore the option of hosting the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts

The Committee adopted the ECA proposal to postpone the ICE meetings to October /November, instead of February/March, in order to better consider the resolutions of the Conference of ministers and to deal with the issues at the next session.