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Forty-first meeting

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 15–17 March 2023

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Statutory issues

Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa on its twenty-fifth session

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa has the honour to transmit to the members of the Commission the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa on its twenty-fifth session.

* E/ECA/COE/41/1.



Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa on its twenty-fifth session

Introduction

1. A joint session of the Intergovernmental Committees of Senior Officials and Experts for North and West Africa was held in hybrid mode from 1 to 3 November 2022 in Marrakech, Morocco. The theme of the meeting was “Food and energy security in North and West Africa in a context of multiple crises”.
2. Based on the rules governing statutory intergovernmental meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the present report is focused on reports and recommendations of the Subregional Office for West Africa of ECA and the discussions that occurred during the joint plenary session of the Intergovernmental Committees.
3. The following three reports of the Subregional Office for West Africa were discussed: (a) report on the evolution of the economic and social situation in West Africa: review of the subregional profile; (b) 2022 report on the review of the implementation of agreed regional and international development agendas and initiatives: the Sustainable Development Goals; (c) report on the implementation of the work programme of the Subregional Office for West Africa for the period 2021–2022. The session also provided an opportunity to present the 2023 work programme, served as a platform for reflection on the theme of the session and allowed for the formulation of relevant recommendations for strengthening the regional integration process and the inclusive and sustainable development of West African countries facing multiple crises.

Participation

4. The 15 ECA members that were served by the Subregional Office for West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) participated in the session. Regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the Liptako-Gourma Integrated Development Authority, the Central Bank of Western African States, and the West African Development Bank were represented. Entities of the United Nations system, namely the Office of the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the West and Central Africa Regional Office of the World Food Programme, were also represented at the meeting. Other organizations that took part include the following: the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development, the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa, the Niger Basin Authority, the National Association of Nigerian Traders, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation, the Regional Consortium for Research in Generational Economy and the African Solidarity Fund.

I. Opening of the joint session [agenda item 1]

5. Four speeches were delivered at the opening ceremony by the following people: (a) the outgoing President of the Bureau of the thirty-sixth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for North Africa and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy and Trade of Libya, Saad Lihniash Mohamed Abdullah; (b) the outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the twenty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa and Director of Development Planning in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Gambia, Alagie Fadera; (c) the Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) of ECA, Hanan Morsy; and (d) the Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union, Taïeb Baccouche.

II. Election of the joint Bureau [agenda item 2]

6. The following Bureau was elected:

<i>POSITION</i>	<i>COUNTRY</i>
President	Ghana
Vice-President	Benin
Rapporteur	Gambia

III. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work [agenda item 3]

7. The following agenda, which was presented by the secretariat, was adopted:
1. Opening of the joint session.
 2. Election of the joint Bureau.
 3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
 4. Special meeting on food and energy security in North and West Africa amid multiple crises.
 5. Ad hoc expert group meeting on crisis resilience and sustainability in North and West Africa.
 6. The evolution of economic and social conditions in North and West Africa: review of subregional profiles.
 7. Review of the implementation of regional and international development agendas and special initiatives.
 8. Presentation of flagship initiatives across the Economic Commission for Africa.
 9. Consideration and adoption of the draft recommendations of the ad hoc expert group meeting on crisis resilience and sustainability in North and West Africa.
 10. Consideration and adoption of the draft recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committees of Senior Officials and Experts for North and West Africa.
 11. Date and venue of the next joint session of the Intergovernmental Committees of Senior Officials and Experts for North and West Africa.
 12. Other matters.
 13. Closing of the joint session.

IV. Special meeting on food and energy security in North and West Africa amid multiple crises [agenda item 4]

A. Presentations

8. The session featured presentations and contributions from panellists, the aim of which was to provide an analysis of the food and energy security landscape in the subregions and to propose solutions for sustainable food and energy security.

9. The session was moderated by the incoming Chair of the thirty-seventh Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for North Africa, Sidi Mohamed Zenvour. Presentations were made by the Director of the Subregional Office for North Africa, Zuzana Schwidrowski, and the Director of the Subregional Office for West Africa, Ngone Diop. The panellists were the Secretary-General of the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests of Morocco, Redouane Arrach; the Deputy Executive Secretary of CILSS, Hubert Ndjafa; and the Director of the Implementation Support Unit for the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and representative of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, Nwanne Vwede-Obahor.

10. The Director of the Subregional Office for North Africa outlined the food and energy security situation in North Africa. Countries were not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 and food prices had reached a new high in 2022. Conflicts and temperature extremes had exacerbated the challenges. Undernourishment in North Africa was projected to rise in 2030. Water scarcity was severe. The policy responses that had been suggested with a view to tackling food and energy insecurity in North Africa were the following: suspend taxes on food items, increase the supply using food stocks, ban exports, subsidize farms, use cash transfers, invest in food systems, increase incomes and employment, sustainably increase agricultural productivity, reduce food loss and food waste, generate decent jobs, have adequate income and social protection, and promote artificial intelligence.

11. The Director of the Subregional Office for West Africa presented a report on the food and energy security situation in West Africa. West Africa was currently experiencing high inflation, food insecurity and extreme poverty. Crises could bring opportunity to countries because Africa had one of the richest solar resources on the planet but accounted for less than 1 per cent of global solar power capacity. The main challenges for energy security were related to unreliable electricity supply, high electricity losses and power outages. West Africa was not on track to meet Goal 2, target 2.1 (by 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round). With the high dependence on wheat imports in West Africa, the conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation was exacerbating the vulnerability of African countries. Benin, for example, was almost 100 per cent dependent on the Russian Federation and Ukraine for wheat importation. The key policy responses highlighted by Ms. Diop were to accelerate energy transition to renewable energies, build resilient agricultural systems, foster regional integration and partnerships under the African Continental Free Trade Area and leverage the potential of the West Africa power pool.

12. Mr. Arrach shared the experience and the changes in agricultural policy of Morocco. The increase in investment in the agricultural sector as part of the implementation of the new “Green Morocco” strategy had been the main innovation in the sector. The volume of investments had tripled between 2007 and 2020, with half of mobilized financing injected into water management. He emphasized the strong involvement of the private sector in financing

production, processing and marketing infrastructures, which was in addition to the efforts of the State. The trade policy for the reinforcement of food security had also been densified with the opening of trade since 1993, and the targeting of the competitiveness of the sector and the agricultural sector. He encouraged the implementation of processing and marketing strategies to meet food security needs.

13. Mr. Ndjafa began his presentation by outlining the mandate of CILSS and its main interventions, which were focused on monitoring and being alert to vulnerable areas of food security through the Harmonized Framework. The effects of climate change, political crises, insecurity and governance were the main structural factors related to the frequency of food insecurity episodes in the subregions, in general, and in the Sahel, in particular. He emphasized the crucial issue of energy supply in the subregions and the need to undertake synergistic actions by prioritizing increased investment in energy production, transport and infrastructure distribution.

14. Ms. Vwede-Obahor stressed the need to give due consideration to the humanitarian dimension of food insecurity and to work on ways to accelerate development through a multisectoral approach to addressing food and energy security in a holistic manner. Social cohesion was crucial, as was reducing disparity. She noted the role of the United Nations system in supporting countries in the fight against food and energy insecurity but also highlighted the challenges of political will. She concluded by noting the need to strengthen intra-African and triangular South-South cooperation in order to mobilize funding and share technological knowledge to strengthen food and energy supplies.

B. Discussion

15. The experts reiterated that there was a financing gap in the agricultural and energy supply sectors, including for equipment and infrastructure. They highlighted the weaknesses in the budgetary capacities of countries to respond effectively to the ongoing food security crisis.

16. They noted the need to not always present a gloomy picture of the continent by omitting resilience capacities; an example given was the non-realization of the expected impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak across the continent. For the experts, public subsidies should not be the ultimate solution for resolving crises, especially those of a one-off nature, at the risk of crowding out funding for structural programmes.

17. The experts discussed the opportunity to promote partnerships between North and West Africa on the basis of the potential and comparative advantages of each subregion: natural resources in West Africa and agricultural and energy technology in North Africa.

18. They noted the need to include the issue of cold chains when addressing the challenges of food insecurity in order to meet the challenges of conservation and rational consumption by reducing food loss and waste. They also insisted on strengthening energy efficiency by prioritizing renewable energies and the choice of appropriate equipment.

19. They considered that the crises, in particular the food and energy crises, could potentially generate conflicts and wars if new thinking and policies were not put into practice soon enough. In addition, illegal or irregular immigration needed to be considered in the context of food and energy security, in particular in host and transit countries, and to be taken into account in the related development strategies and programmes.

20. The experts insisted on the need to give priority to family farming, which had a direct impact on the food situation of the populations, in particular the

most vulnerable, in order to take into account, the predominantly rural and poor profile of the subregions.

21. They also noted the centrality of an efficient statistical system to produce high-quality statistical information and to conduct credible analyses and evaluations of development policies and programmes, in general, and in the area of food security, including the ability to make relevant comparisons between periods and between countries and regions.

22. Finally, the experts noted the need for African countries to undertake synergistic and cooperative actions to defend a common position at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They also noted the possibility of leveraging the green economy to respond to the issue of food insecurity.

C. Recommendations

23. In the light of the discussion, the Intergovernmental Committees made the following recommendations:

- (a) Member States should:
 - (i) Strengthen intra-African and triangular cooperation to mobilize financing and share technological know-how to strengthen food security and energy supply;
 - (ii) Accelerate the development of cold chains to improve food availability and reduce food loss and waste in consumption patterns at the household level;
 - (iii) Strengthen energy efficiency by targeting the development of energy from renewable sources and the choice of appropriate equipment in the production, transport and distribution process;
 - (iv) Consider the issue of irregular immigration in the strategies and programmes for solving the challenges of food and energy security, in particular in host and transit countries;
 - (v) Strengthen support for family farming in order to have a direct impact on the food situation of households, in particular the most vulnerable;
 - (vi) Intensify agronomic research to develop seed varieties that were adapted to the effects of climate change in the subregions;
- (b) ECOWAS and other organizations should undertake synergistic actions at the subregional level with a priority focus on increasing investment in energy generation, transport and distribution in the subregion;
- (c) ECA and other entities of the United Nations system should advocate to strengthen the financing capacities of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and subregional basin organizations (e.g. Niger Basin Authority, Organization for the Development of the Senegal River, Volta Basin Authority, Gambia River Basin Development Organization, Lake Chad Basin Commission, Adaptation Benefits Mechanism) involved in the production, development and dissemination of hydroclimatic, food and nutrition security information and services, following a nexus (water-energy-food) approach for the benefit of the West African countries of the Sahel.

V. The evolution of economic and social developments in West Africa: review of the subregional profile

[agenda item 6]

A. Presentation

24. The review of the subregional profile for West Africa was presented by the Chief of the Demographic Dynamic for Development Section of the Subregional Office for West Africa, Bakary Dosso. He said that the growth of gross domestic product in 2022 and that projected for 2023 were below the 2021 value and that inflation was on an upward trend. The subregional inflation average was estimated to have been 16.8 per cent in 2022 and was mainly fuelled by the combination of COVID-19 and the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The fiscal deficits, current account balances and public debt ratios of countries had deteriorated further, reducing fiscal space for socioeconomic investments and creating a strong response to shocks. Regarding the social development situation, countries were far from attaining Sustainable Development Goal 3, targets 3.1 on reducing maternal mortality and 3.2 on reducing mortality rates of children under 5. More effort was needed to achieve Goal 4, target 4.6 on literacy. Poverty levels were decreasing, but more than 27 per cent of the population in the subregion was still living on less than \$2.15 a day. Unemployment among young people was high and more than 25 per cent of them were not in employment, education or training in 2021. The crises had weakened the subregion's socioeconomic performance. In terms of recommendations, Mr. Dosso said that countries should engage in sound macroeconomic policies to promote stable and sustainable growth, price stability and sustainable fiscal policy; reduce the external dependence on strategic goods, invest in renewable energy and in health and education. There was also a need to enforce national and regional mechanisms and to address peace and security challenges, especially in the Sahel.

B. Discussion

25. The experts noted the shift from cyclical to structural challenges in the security crisis in the Sahel and the intensification of its complexity since 2012, and drew the attention of decision makers to the urgency of the social and geopolitical situation, which required the adoption of appropriate measures.

26. They stressed the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the subregion's tourism sector and recommended the implementation of subsidy measures to protect households from the effects of the rise in cereal prices following the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Furthermore, the progressive reduction in fiscal space as a result of successive crises did not allow countries to finance effective responses. The experts therefore suggested a prioritization of expenditures and an intensification of the digitalization of public finance administration in order to increase the mobilization of local resources.

27. The experts questioned the main factors of resilience in West and North Africa in order to take measures to strengthen and maintain that resilience to shocks and crises, although the successive crises reduced the chances of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and increased the burden of debt servicing.

28. Finally, the participants expressed the hope that the analysis of the current socioeconomic context was not exclusively negative and pointed out the need to also highlight potential and performance, particularly in terms of economic

growth. They recommended that facilities for access to innovative financing be improved.

C. Recommendations

29. In the light of the discussion, the Intergovernmental Committees made the following recommendations:

- (a) Member States should:
 - (i) Strengthen the digitalization of the economy, in particular in the public finance sector, in order to reinforce the mobilization of domestic resources to finance development;
 - (ii) Strengthen macroeconomic stability to ensure more resilience to shocks and crises;
 - (iii) Adopt sound macroeconomic policies to promote stable and sustainable growth and appropriate reforms for price stability, a sustainable fiscal policy, a predictable exchange rate policy and a viable balance of payments policy;
- (b) ECOWAS and other organizations should take urgent action to restore security in the subregion, in general, and in the Sahel, in particular, where insecurity has become a structural phenomenon and an impediment to sustainable development since 2012;
- (c) ECA and other entities of the United Nations system should:
 - (i) Advocate to strengthen and facilitate access to innovative financing (e.g. green funds, Sustainable Development Goal funds);
 - (ii) Continue to support countries in the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area to accelerate the structural transformation process in the subregion through industrialization and trade.

VI. Review of the implementation of regional and international development agendas and special initiatives [agenda item 7]

A. Presentation

30. Economic Affairs Officer of the Subregional Office for West Africa, Mamoudou Sebego, noted that, according to the findings of an analysis of recent data, West Africa was experiencing a mixed performance against a backdrop marked by fragile recovery from the critical phases of the COVID-19 pandemic and from the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The subregion was not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Although progress was noted for Goal 8 owing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs, a regression in progress was noted for the period 2000–2020 for Goals 12, 13 and 16. Considering recently available data, however, ECOWAS countries were making encouraging strides in reducing extreme poverty (six countries), improving access to drinking water (five countries), improving access to energy (five countries) and improving home-grown development financing (six countries). Significant progress was still needed in 80 per cent of ECOWAS countries in terms of hunger and food insecurity, access to quality health services,

industrialization and economic diversification, improved living conditions in cities, and peace and good governance.

B. Discussion

31. Following the presentation, the experts emphasized the strong interlinkage role of Goal 2 in accelerating the achievement of all Goals by 2030, in particular by improving yields and productivity in the agricultural sector. They indicated that achieving such results necessarily and primarily involved water management, as was the case with the performance achieved by Morocco in that area.

32. The experts reiterated the urgency of improving consumption patterns in line with Goal 12 while drastically reducing food waste in households and noted that countries should undertake courageous reforms in that area.

33. The experts recalled the need for environmental issues to be taken into account in a holistic manner in the formulation and implementation of sectoral development policies and strategies. The promotion of an energy transition to increase the use of renewable energies was encouraged.

34. They also hoped that the follow-up of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development initiative would be taken into account in the evaluation of progress made on Goal 17.

35. Finally, the experts insisted on the need to prioritize data from national sources in the assessment of progress on the Goals, in particular data on food security, including the situation of cereal deficits in countries.

C. Recommendations

36. In the light of the discussion, the Intergovernmental Committees made the following recommendations:

(a) Member States should:

(i) Consolidate policy actions to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 2, 3, 6 and 16, and to consolidate progress on Goals 1 and 8;

(ii) Strengthen the monitoring framework by enhancing statistical capacity, including by conducting regular household surveys;

(iii) Align the national development plan with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, and ECOWAS Vision 2050 for better coherence and synergy in the implementation of a public development programme;

(b) ECA and other entities of the United Nations system should strengthen the use of more current data from national statistical production and dissemination offices in the assessment of socioeconomic performance, in particular in the area of food security.

VII. Presentation of flagship initiatives across the Economic Commission for Africa [agenda item 8]

37. Economic Affairs Officer in the Regional Integration and Trade Division of ECA, Wafa Aidi, reiterated the support of ECA for members of the African Continental Free Trade Area and noted that ECA was supporting the negotiation process, research and advocacy based on empirical evidence and capacity-building activities, including on cross-cutting issues, such as digital trade and the environment. The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area was aimed at creating a single market and expanding intra-African trade. Negotiations were ongoing, mainly on phases 2 and 3, but many issues needed to be finalized, including some under phase 1. Trade under the Agreement had already started under the Guided Trade Initiative and had materialized between Ghana and Zambia. According to studies carried out by ECA, the main gains were expected from the following sectors: industrial, transport, energy and agriculture, including agrifood. Those gains would require prior economic diversification, support to address production infrastructure gaps and the development of regional value chains. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, digitalization accelerated worldwide, including in Africa. In terms of direct support provided to member States, 37 national strategies for implementation of the Agreement had been validated and, of them, 16 were being implemented.

VIII. Statutory issues [agenda item 9]

A. Presentations

38. The Director of the Subregional Office for West Africa, Ngone Diop, and Knowledge Manager of the Subregional Office for West Africa, Privat Denis Akochaye, introduced the activity report for the period from October 2021 to September 2022, as well as the 2023 work programme for the Subregional Office. In addition, the Director of the Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division of ECA, Said Adejumobi, also presented an outline of the 2023 ECA strategy and work programme.

39. In terms of the main results recorded over the past year, the Office had continued to strengthen its support for capacity-building in countries and for ECOWAS in the area of development planning, in particular in the formulation of national development plans and long-term prospective studies, including ECOWAS Vision 2050 and its community strategic framework, which were in the process of being finalized. Such support also concerned the deployment of two planning and modelling tools, namely the integrated planning and reporting toolkit and the ECA macroeconomic model, to strengthen the monitoring, evaluation and reporting capacities for development policies and programmes and for the Sustainable Development Goals. The Office also continued to strengthen its support for the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, notably through the formulation of national strategies and the implementation of the associated priority action programmes. Such support also concerned the facilitation of intra-African trade in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area through the establishment of business linkage platforms and support for the promotion of products “made in West Africa”. At the level of population dynamics for development, the Office continued to provide support for the establishment of tools and instruments for strengthening the capture of the demographic dividend, strengthening human capital and mobilizing resources for development financing. At the request of countries, the Office was finalizing

studies to support policymaking, in particular in the informal sector and value chains in West Africa.

40. With regard to the 2023 programme of activities, the Office planned to continue to strengthen its support for countries and regional economic communities in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development policies and strategies, notably the African Continental Free Trade Area, national development plans, national and regional long-term development visions, integrated national financing frameworks, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, including voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews. Such support would also concern interventions related to the empowerment of women, girls and young people, the strengthening of human capital by leveraging demographic dynamics for development, and the digitalization of economies, in general, and public finances, in particular, in order to boost the mobilization of internal revenue for the financing of sustainable development.

41. The Director of the Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division of ECA presented the ECA strategic framework, which was based on three core functions (convening, think tank and operational functions) and four pillars (political influence, credibility and trust, accountability and learning, and operational effectiveness). He also described the various institutional changes that had taken place over the past four years, and presented the institutional organization. He explained the rationale for organizing joint sessions of intergovernmental committees of senior officials and experts for the different subregions and outlined the main areas of ECA intervention over the past three years, highlighting some of the key results achieved. He ended his presentation with the main areas of intervention for 2023 adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

B. Discussion

42. Following the presentation, the delegates expressed recognition for the quality of the support that their respective countries had received from ECA. They also expressed the hope that ECA would continue to concentrate its interventions on areas and themes in which it had a comparative advantage, which would result in a greater impact for the beneficiaries.

43. The countries, regional economic commissions and intergovernmental organizations of West Africa listed the support they had received from ECA as well as the productive collaborations in which they had engaged, and encouraged the continuation and strengthening of such activities.

44. Delegates also recognized specific support ranging from the formulation of national development plans and vision statements to the deployment of the integrated planning and reporting toolkit, the macroeconomic model, integrated national financing frameworks, voluntary national and local reviews, and the capture of the demographic dividend and the formulation and implementation of national and regional strategies related to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

45. In terms of collaboration, representatives of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the World Food Programme, the Central Bank of West African States and ECOWAS reiterated their willingness to strengthen productive collaboration with ECA. Thus, they proposed the development of a coherence analysis framework on macroeconomic dynamics and food security in West Africa.

46. Finally, the experts recommended that issues related to monetary policy in the subregion and access to credit be addressed in the various ECA economic analysis reports.

C. Recommendations

47. In the light of the discussion, the Intergovernmental Committees recommended that ECA and other entities of the United Nations system should:

(a) Support the adaptation of the ECA macroeconomic model to the national level;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of countries to capture the demographic dividend through the development of instruments and tools, and to mainstream it into public policy documents;

(c) Continue to provide support to countries and regional organizations for the formulation of national prospective studies, and national and regional development plans and strategies, including the ECOWAS Sahel strategies and the development of voluntary national reviews;

(d) Strengthen support provided to countries for the development of integrated national financing frameworks, including the implementation of the associated road maps;

(e) Continue to support capacity-building for planning and monitoring, and for the evaluation of national development policies and strategies, and progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including through the deployment of the integrated planning and reporting toolkit;

(f) Establish, in collaboration with ECOWAS and the World Food Programme, a framework or study to analyse the coherence between the macroeconomic framework and food security;

(g) Emphasize the challenges of structural transformation through the improvement of the business climate in order to attract the capital needed for industrial and manufacturing development.

IX. Date and venue of the next session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa [agenda item 11]

48. Ghana offered to host the twenty-sixth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa. The date will be determined by ECA in collaboration with the authorities in Ghana.