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Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Statutory issues: reports on the work of the subsidiary bodies of the
Economic Commission for Africa**

Progress report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

I. Introduction

1. The present progress report is being submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development during the fifty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in accordance with current practices and in response to its request for regular updates on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP).¹ The report contains a summary of the work of the Institute between April 2022 and March 2023 and highlights of the key results achieved by the Institute, in particular regarding the implementation of its training programmes, its knowledge generation and knowledge dissemination activities, the latest developments relating to its human and financial resources, and the partnerships it has established. The report concludes with an outline of the prospects for 2023.

2. During the period under review, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change and the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine continued to have a severe impact on the socioeconomic development of African States. To support efforts by member States to promote socioeconomic recovery and bolster their resilience, IDEP continued to deliver innovative online training courses on sectoral, national and regional development and medium- to long-term planning.

3. During the reporting period, and as illustrated in figure I, IDEP organized 54 training activities, conducted in English, French and Portuguese, through

* E/ECA/COE/41/1.

¹ The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning is a pan-African institution created by the General Assembly with the primary purpose of accompanying and supporting African countries in their quest to build human resource capacity as a necessary prerequisite for sustaining independence and promoting socioeconomic development. Its main activities, derived from its mandate, are organized around a portfolio of capacity development and training programmes, along with a set of policy research and dialogue initiatives. It also offers on-demand advisory services to governments and public institutions and serves as a forum for the exploration of alternative thinking on African development.



which it strengthened the capacity of 3,053 government officials and other stakeholders (including 861 women) from 45 countries in: (a) macroeconomic development and planning; (b) regional integration; (c) social development; and (d) integrated natural resource management. Particular emphasis was placed on the needs and interests of women and young people. IDEP also gradually resumed in situ activities. Of the total number of officials trained, 69 per-cent attested with concrete evidence to having utilized the knowledge, skills and tools that they acquired through IDEP training to influence socioeconomic policy in their respective countries.

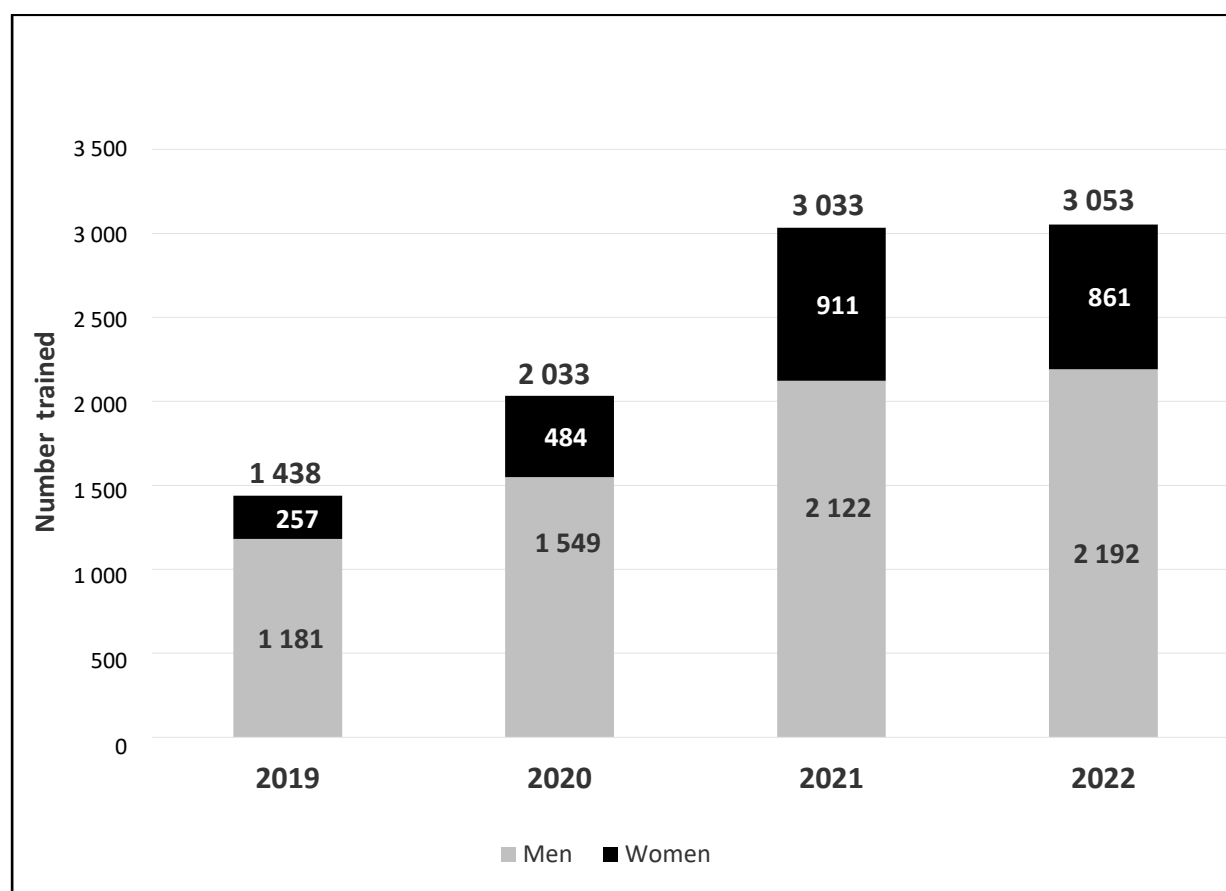
4. In addition, under the Institute's think tank function, 737 experts participated in eight analytical research activities to strengthen their capacity in public policy formulation. Those activities included three seminars on coastal erosion and migration and on socioeconomic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and four high-level policy dialogues that were focused on the situation of young people and women, innovative and inclusive financing for small and medium-sized enterprises, development and macroeconomics. Furthermore, the Institute presented the preliminary results of eight country case studies on debt management and fiscal policies at an expert group meeting.

5. The African continent's large population of women and young people presents an enormous opportunity for socioeconomic transformation. Harnessing their potential by equipping them with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to exploit economic opportunities is vital to countries' recovery and structural transformation. To support the achievement of that goal, the Institute organized 10 courses, two high-level policy dialogues and one development seminar, which were attended by 1,490 women and young people, in the areas of macroeconomic growth, debt management, climate change, social inclusion, gender and trade, and women's empowerment.

6. Specifically, the Institute expanded the ECA Young Economists Network from 759 to 988 students at 89 universities in 29 countries. A total of 505 young economists (including 42 women) participated in training sessions on general equilibrium modelling. In line with the theme of the fifty-fourth session of ECA, "Financing Africa's recovery: breaking new ground", 287 students participated in a high-level policy dialogue entitled "Towards 10 per cent growth" to review research findings on economic policies and interventions to achieve growth rates of 10 per cent. In addition, 307 young experts received training on harnessing digital transformation to accelerate agricultural entrepreneurship, negotiating ways to combat and mitigate the impact of climate change, and youth employment.

7. To enhance the capacity of member States to respond to economic shocks and instability stemming from the global response to the pandemic, climate change and the ongoing conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, IDEP launched a series of capacity development activities on mainstreaming risk management in development planning. The aim of those activities was to equip decision makers with the skills and tools they need to understand the interconnected nature of risk in a globalized world, perform risk assessments and analysis, and implement effective risk management measures.

Figure I
Evolution in the number of trainees, 2019–2022



II. Supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union through training and research

A. Training

8. IDEP has continued to offer online courses to strengthen the capacity of officials to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate resilient policies to build forward better. Particular attention has been given to strategies to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, climate change and the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

9. In addition to its online training courses, IDEP also integrates in situ courses into programmes that require hands-on activity. In line with the IDEP strategic plan for the period 2019–2023 and the Institute’s annual business plan, the Institute held 54 online training courses, attended by 3,053 individuals (including 861 women) from 45 countries, to enhance participants’ skills in the area of development planning and in the formulation and management of public sector policies to promote structural transformation and sustainable development. In addition, risk management components have been mainstreamed in training activities to provide decision makers with the skills and tools they need to understand the interconnected nature of risks in a globalized world, perform risk assessments and analysis and implement effective risk management strategies. Risk management courses enhance the capacity of

decision makers to formulate economic responses to global shocks, including those stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the ongoing conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, thereby supporting recovery efforts and leveraging opportunities for development.

10. Courses delivered in 2022 were focused on thematic areas, including the empowerment of women and young people, climate change, opportunities and challenges stemming from the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area, innovative financing mechanisms to support the continent's recovery, natural resource governance, macroeconomic modelling and risk management.

11. The Institute continued to emphasize the importance of empowering women and young people in supporting national recovery and structural transformation efforts. In that connection, 1,438 government officials, young experts and students (including 415 women) received training in the design of gender-responsive policies and resilient strategies for the post-pandemic era with a view to leveraging the opportunities stemming from the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area. In that regard, eight bilingual courses and four high-level policy dialogues were held.

12. The Institute also emphasized the importance of strengthening implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. Several initiatives were implemented to that end, including a well-attended online course on the role of parliamentarians and civil society stakeholders in the implementation of the Agreement, which was attended by 428 parliamentarians and experts on the African Continental Free Trade Area, including 62 women. With support from the Government of Italy, the Institute also launched a two-year training programme on making the Area effective, with the aim of boosting intra-African trade. A further aim of the training programme was to increase the share of global trade of eight African countries, namely Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, through the promotion of inclusive, sustainable and development-friendly trade arrangements and support for capacity-building programmes.

13. To provide capacity-building support to African States to enhance their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to strengthen their participation in multilateral climate negotiations, the Institute has created a number of instruments and training programmes, including:

(a) Blue economy valuation toolkit, developed to guide data collection and analysis related to the socioeconomic value of the oceans, seas and coasts and to improve decision-making by development planners;

(b) Training programme on an African climate-resilient investment facility, developed to strengthen the capacity of African institutions, including national Governments, river basin organizations, regional economic communities and power pools, and the private sector to plan, design and implement investment projects in selected sectors so as to increase their resilience to climate variability and change, and ensure the ongoing delivery of services and a return on investment;

(c) Course on climate change negotiations for young African negotiators, designed to equip young Africans with the skills they need to engage in negotiations held within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to collaborate with other climate change actors to formulate practical and innovative action plans in their respective countries;

(d) Workshop on water issues (Atelier 2022 de Dakar sur les enjeux de l'eau), which equipped journalists from countries in West Africa with

knowledge of water policy and management and followed up on resolutions adopted at the 9th World Water Forum. The journalists also received training on how to report on issues related to water and waste management in the light of climate change-driven resource scarcity.

14. The Institute also delivered the following tailor-made training courses:

(a) Training course for representatives of the Government of Senegal on gender, youth employment and social inclusion to provide middle- and senior-level officials and decision makers with the skills and tools they need to enhance gender and youth development efforts, develop gender-informed policies, and advance the empowerment, employment and social inclusion of young women;

(b) Training course for representatives of the Government of the Gambia on risk management, in which participants identified and monitored frequently overlooked risks using strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis. The course provided government officials, development planners and private sector stakeholders with the skills needed to mainstream and manage risk in strategic planning processes.

15. As part of the Institute's monitoring and evaluation strategy, IDEP conducted a survey to assess the extent to which the skills and tools acquired by course participants had influenced policy design and development planning in their daily activities. In 2022, 69 per cent of the participants surveyed provided concrete evidence attesting to their having utilized the knowledge, skills and tools they had acquired through IDEP training to influence socioeconomic policy in their respective countries.

B. Master's degree programme

16. Collaboration with the University of Johannesburg on the 18-month Master of Philosophy programme in industrial policy, which started more than five years ago, is currently under review; it is expected that a new phase of the programme will be launched on the basis of the lessons learned during the past five years.

C. Research

17. IDEP interdisciplinary research complements the Institute's training programme. It provides strategic guidance in the design of the Institute's courses and is used to ensure that course contents are updated and adapted in accordance with changes in the operating environment.

18. During the period under review, the Institute organized the following research activities, which were attended by 737 participants, with the aim of strengthening the link between development research and policy action while also providing a framework for debate and innovative thinking:

(a) In May 2022, a high-level policy dialogue, which was attended by 200 participants, with 130 attending online, was organized jointly with the ECA Subregional Office for West Africa, the Subregional Office for North Africa and the Government of Senegal under the theme "Innovative financing of small and medium-sized enterprises for resilient recovery in Africa: a gender and youth perspective", with the aim of highlighting innovative solutions for resilient recovery and mechanisms to facilitate access to finance while promoting gender and youth inclusion and providing participants with an opportunity to discuss innovative, resilient and inclusive recovery solutions and mechanisms to foster women- and youth-led entrepreneurship;

(b) In May 2022, a high-level policy dialogue entitled “Financing African development through sustainable and innovative mechanisms: public-private partnerships, cryptocurrencies, remittances and diaspora investments”, which was attended by 81 participants, including 21 who attended online, was organized jointly with the International Labour Organization and the Government of Senegal during the fifty-fourth session of ECA, with the aim of deepening participants’ understanding of those mechanisms and exploring innovative ways to harness the potential of development financing through discussions on sustainable development financing trends, challenges and opportunities, and on how a sustainable performance index could be used to evaluate the environmental, social and governance dimensions of contributions of companies to sustainable development and stakeholder satisfaction. Participants learned how the use of the index allowed relevant conclusions to be drawn for a given company or country. The dialogue provided an opportunity for participants to share their experiences and formulate recommendations in connection with the creation of an enabling policy and regulatory environment;

(c) In May 2022, a high-level policy dialogue entitled “Toward 10 per cent growth”, which was attended by 287 participants with 183 attending online, was held to highlight the levers that should be activated to ensure that growth is inclusive and sustainable and to review the findings of research sponsored by the Young Economists Network on economic policies and interventions to mobilize financial resources and achieve growth rates of 10 per cent;

(d) In May 2022, in order to follow up on a research project by IDEP and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, an expert group meeting, which was attended by 59 experts and representatives of regional development banks from Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone, with 40 attending online, was convened under the theme “Debt, taxation and financing for development: immediate responses to global emergencies”, with the aim of presenting the preliminary results of eight country case studies and the executive summary of a new handbook on debt management, taxation and financing for development and holding discussions on related topics, including domestic resource mobilization, fiscal measures, and the need to restructure economies in the wake of global emergencies;

(e) In June 2022, a development seminar entitled “Climate change: coastal erosion and environmental migration”, which was attended by 100 participants and included the screening of a short documentary film and a discussion on the effects of coastal erosion, was organized in collaboration with climate change experts from ECA, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal, and the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use, with the aim of providing a platform for participants to analyse the impact of coastal erosion on the socioeconomic development of local communities, to assess the issue of environmental migration and its impact on unemployment and the active labour force, and to propose climate change adaptation measures to address coastal erosion, while considering examples of ecosystem- and community-based adaptation measures that could facilitate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 17;

(f) In September 2022, a seminar, which was attended by 10 researchers on the ECA-IDEP fellowship programme, was organized to review papers published by researchers taking part in the programme and assess the preliminary findings of research projects entitled “Climate change: coastal erosion and environmental migration in West and East Africa” and “Methods of financing sustainable development in West Africa: overall effectiveness in the context of COVID-19”. The event provided an opportunity for participants to discuss and analyse the preliminary research findings with the Director of IDEP, and prepared them for upcoming policy dialogues overseen by the Strategic

Planning, Oversight and Results Division at ECA, at which the research findings would be presented to a broader audience;

(g) In December 2022, a one-week tailor-made course on youth employability and skills development was held for officials of Senegal working at the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Youth, Entrepreneurship and Employment, with representatives of agencies supporting youth and women's entrepreneurship initiatives, technical and vocational education and training institutes, agricultural development agencies and civil society also attending, in order support efforts by decision makers to develop effective gender and youth development policies;

(h) In December 2022, IDEP held a policy dialogue on youth employability and skills, which was attended by those taking part in the aforementioned course on the same theme, to facilitate the sharing of best practices in youth employment initiatives in Senegal and discussions on the formulation of a unified strategy to strengthen the skills and job prospects of young people.

D. Fellowships

19. IDEP continued to contribute to the capacity-building efforts of member States and to the promotion and strengthening of intra-African knowledge-sharing and mutual learning through its fellowship programme, which also allowed it to reinforce its partnerships with various divisions of ECA, planning institutions, specialized government agencies, international organizations, universities and research centres.

20. In early 2022, two ECA fellows joined IDEP:

(a) The first fellow, from Nigeria, conducted research on climate change, coastal erosion and environmental migration in East and West Africa, and the finalized research paper was presented at a development seminar on coastal erosion and forced migration;

(b) The second fellow, from Cameroon, carried out research on the impact of COVID-19 on financing for development in West Africa, and the findings were submitted to an ECA policy and programme dialogue meeting;

(c) The fellows authored two policy briefs, which are currently undergoing peer review, the first setting out recommendations on climate change and coastal erosion, and the second setting out recommendations on development planning and economic management.

E. Gender mainstreaming

21. During the period under review, IDEP systematically ensured that a gender dimension was embedded in relevant training curricula and in specific modules addressing gender issues. Specifically, the Institute delivered courses on the following themes: gender mainstreaming in national strategies to exploit opportunities stemming from the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area; gender, youth employment and social inclusion; advocacy of gender mainstreaming in artisanal and small-scale mining activities and in natural resource governance; and support for gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive economic policy management within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. IDEP also organized a webinar on the impact of public policies on gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa and a high-level policy dialogue on innovative financing for small and medium-sized enterprises, as seen from a gender and youth perspective, at which participants discussed how innovative financing could support the continent's resilient recovery.

F. Knowledge resource centre

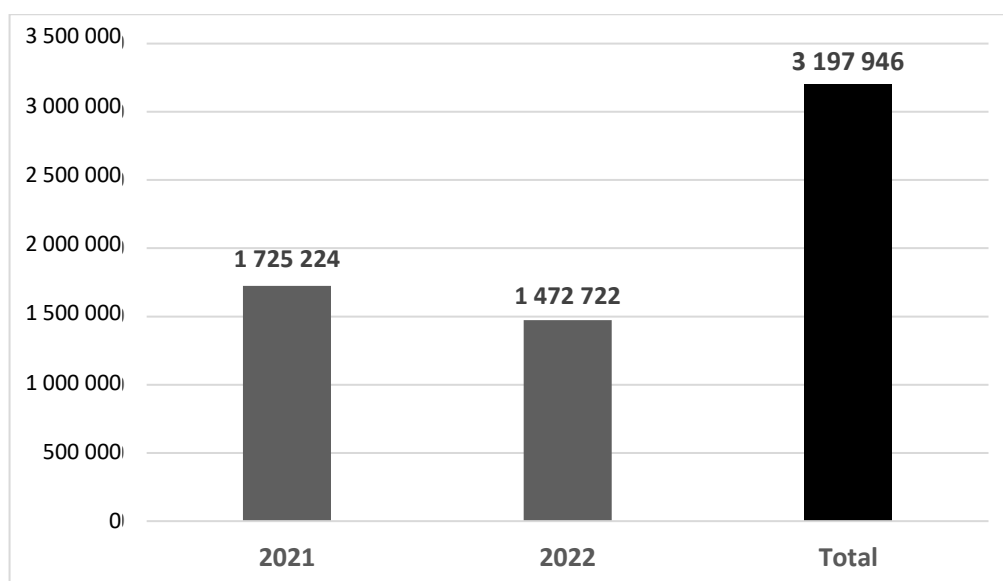
22. The IDEP knowledge resource centre continued to meet the needs of the Institute's training and research programmes by sharing information and providing documentation services to trainees, faculty members, conference participants, researchers, visiting scholars and governments.

23. Owing to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns, the library was closed to physical access. However, users of library services, which consisted mostly of course participants and fellows, were served online and remotely. Among its services, the library provided users with annotated bibliographic materials in English and French.

24. The knowledge resource centre at the library continued to catalogue and index documents and publications in digital format in the institutional repository. In 2022, 332 titles were added, bringing the total collection to 23,505 records, of which 9,160 are freely available in full text. There was a total of 1,472,722 full-text document downloads in 2022, compared with 1,725,224 in 2021. The decrease in the number of downloads between the years 2021 and 2022 was due to technical difficulties with the platform, which prevented users from accessing materials online.

Figure II

Downloads of documents from the digital library



25. Under its think tank function, IDEP provides a platform for practitioners, policymakers, civil society actors, IDEP alumni and resource persons² to share best practices and lessons learned through its community of practice activities. The Institute also ensures that knowledge and skills gained through its capacity-building and research activities are applied by beneficiaries to influence policy formulation and implementation at the national and subregional levels.

26. To that end, the Institute organized a three-week community of practice in November 2022 on the impact of public policies on gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. The main goal of that event was to provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on discussions held on 8 March 2022 with IDEP

² Resource persons are subject matter experts who play an essential role in performing tasks and/or providing information.

alumni on the impact of gender mainstreaming in public policies, and to facilitate an in-depth debate on gender equality and women's empowerment.

III. Finance, human resource development and partnerships

A. Finance

27. The present section is primarily focused on the mobilization of resources and associated strategies employed by the IDEP leadership team.

28. The Institute's activities are financed by resources from four broad sources:

(a) Financial support from African member States through annual payments of assessed financial contributions, based on a predetermined schedule that is approved and adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

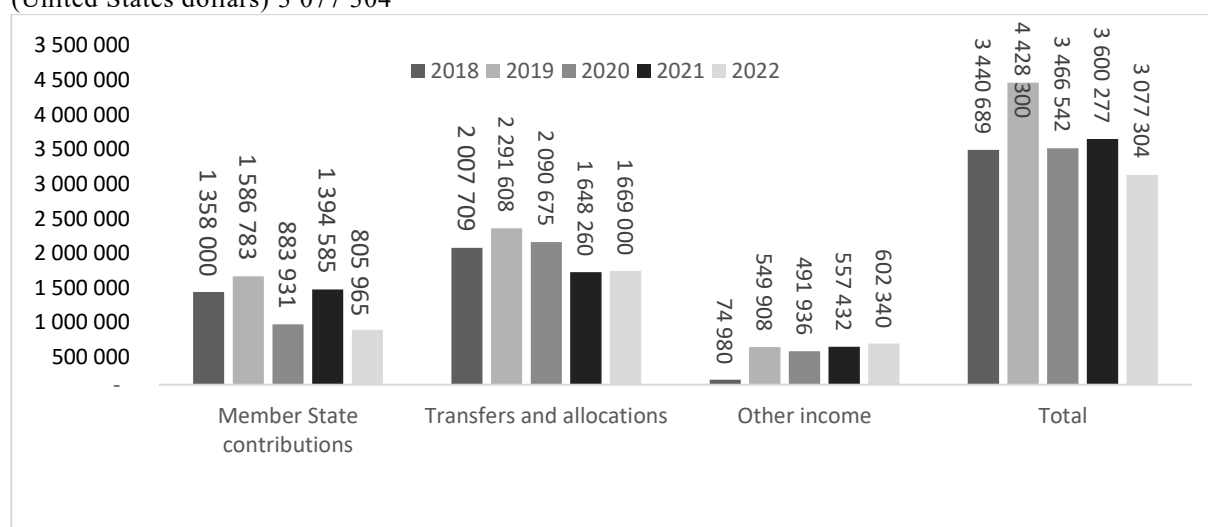
(b) Regular United Nations grant, which is currently a fixed annual subvention of \$1.4 million that is approved by the General Assembly and that underpins the approved annual programme budget;

(c) Resources from ECA to support specific programmes and training activities;

(d) Extrabudgetary funds from such sources as multilateral and bilateral funding institutions, private foundations and other development partners.

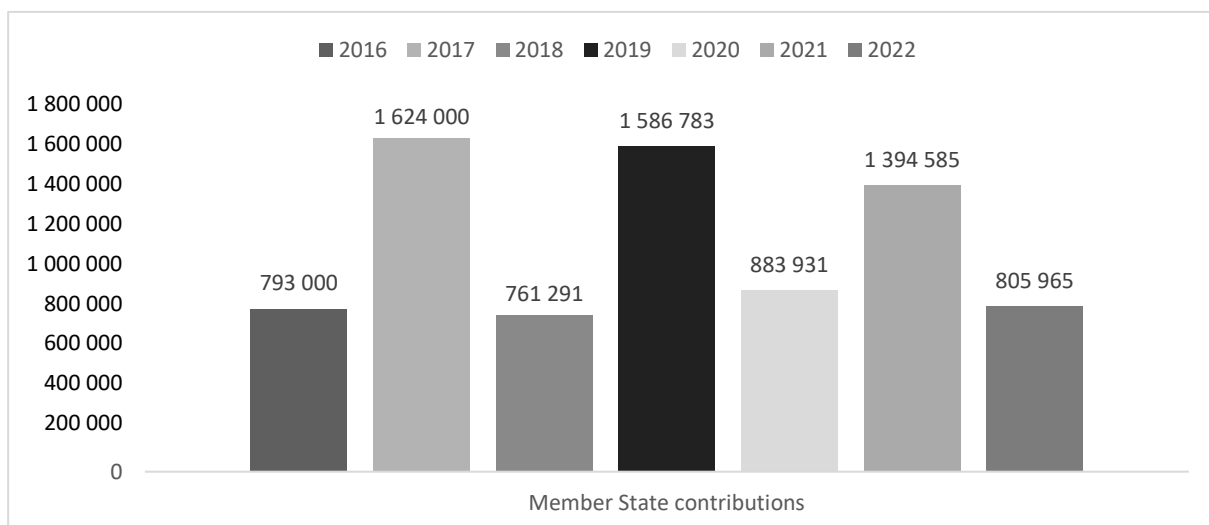
29. Figure III shows the total amount of income generated between 2018 and 2022, broken down into three categories. The "member State contributions" category includes assessed contributions collected during the given year. The "transfers and allocations" category includes the United Nations grant and extrabudgetary support from ECA. The "other income" category includes resources mobilized through external partners.

Figure III
Categories of income, 2018–2022
(United States dollars) 3 077 304



Note: The average annual budget of IDEP is \$3.6 million.

Figure IV
Member State contributions, 2016–2022
 (United States dollars)



30. The average amount collected from member States over the past five years is \$1.1 million, while the yearly assessed contribution currently stands at \$1.358 million. There seems to be a trend in which member States that reach their target for contributions in one year then significantly miss their target in the following year. That dynamic makes it difficult to plan and budget as income from member States is uneven.

31. IDEP is appreciative both of member States that are striving to settle their outstanding arrears and of those that have continued to make regular payments. The contributions made by member States as at 31 December 2022 are shown in table 1.

32. As illustrated in table 2, IDEP still has a significant balance of arrears to collect. Unpaid assessed contributions stood at a high of \$18.5 million as of 31 December 2022 and weigh heavily on the capacity of the Institute to implement its mandate.

33. IDEP will continue to engage with member States in respect of their contributions and is in discussions with the relevant authorities of countries with significant outstanding arrears.

Table 1
Contributions made during the reporting period by country, as at 31 December 2022
 (United States dollars)

Index	Country	Annual assessed contribution	Annual contribution paid in 2022	Arrears paid	Total amount paid in 2022
1	Gambia	10 000	-	103 454	103 454
2	Lesotho	15 000	-	30 000	30 000
3	Libya	80 000	-	76 604	76 604
4	Madagascar	20 000	-	20 000	20 000
5	Mali	15 000	15 000	15 000	30 000
6	Morocco	32 000	-	68 521	68 521
7	South Africa	80 000	80 000	-	80 000

<i>Index</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Annual assessed contribution</i>	<i>Annual contribution paid in 2022</i>	<i>Arrears paid</i>	<i>Total amount paid in 2022</i>
8	Sudan	32 000	-	160 000	160 000
9	Tunisia	24 000	-	13 914	13 914
10	Zambia	32 000	32 000	191 470	223 470
	Total	340 000	127 000	678 964	805 965

Table 2

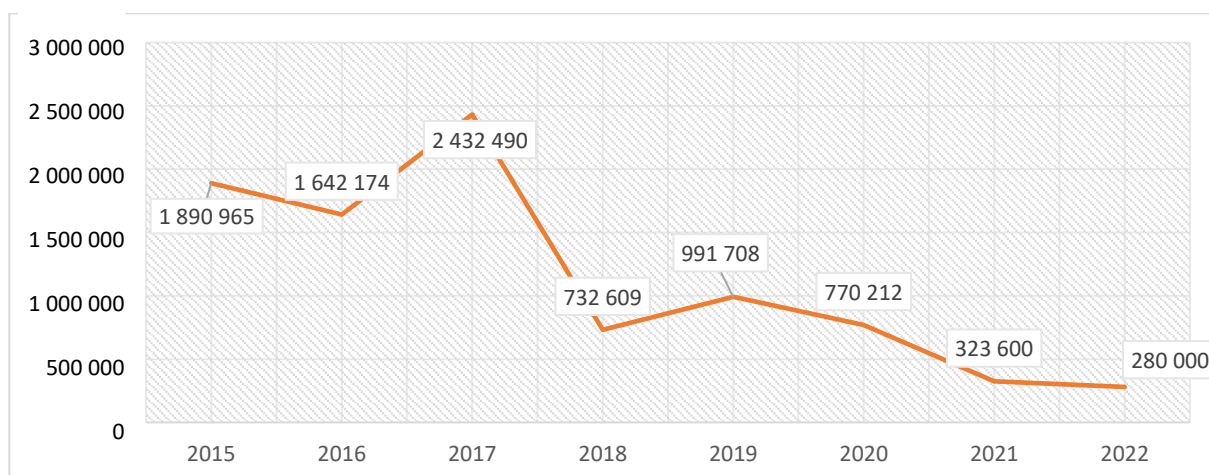
Total contributions made since the establishment of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, by country, and balances due, as at 31 December 2022
(United States dollars)

<i>Index</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Current annual assessed contribution</i>	<i>Total assessed contribution</i>	<i>Total amount paid</i>	<i>Balance due</i>
1	Algeria	80 000	2 640 000	-	2 640 000
2	Angola	32 000	1 056 000	992 000	64 000
3	Benin	15 000	495 000	480 291	14 709
4	Botswana	24 000	792 000	-	792 000
5	Burkina Faso	15 000	495 000	465 000	30 000
6	Burundi	15 000	495 000	60 000	435 000
7	Cameroon	24 000	792 000	649 321	142 679
8	Cabo Verde	10 000	330 000	-	330 000
9	Central African Republic	15 000	495 000	16 761	478 239
10	Chad	15 000	495 000	88 851	406 149
11	Comoros	10 000	330 000	-	330 000
12	Congo	15 000	495 000	455 869	39 131
13	Côte d'Ivoire	32 000	1 056 000	995 618	60 382
14	Democratic Republic of the Congo	32 000	1 056 000	-	1 056 000
15	Djibouti	15 000	495 000	-	495 000
16	Egypt	80 000	2 640 000	2 480 000	160 000
17	Eritrea	15 000	420 000	-	420 000
18	Eswatini	20 000	660 000	568 770	91 230
19	Ethiopia	32 000	1 056 000	40 580	1 015 420
20	Equatorial Guinea	10 000	330 000	260 000	70 000
21	Gabon	20 000	660 000	40 000	620 000
22	Gambia	10 000	330 000	307 535	22 465
23	Ghana	32 000	1 056 000	954 599	101 401
24	Guinea	20 000	660 000	160 000	500 000
25	Guinea-Bissau	10 000	330 000	30 000	300 000
26	Kenya	32 000	1 056 000	996 278	59 722
27	Lesotho	15 000	495 000	465 000	30 000
28	Liberia	15 000	495 000	30 000	465 000
29	Libya	80 000	2 640 000	1 065 338	1 574 662
30	Madagascar	20 000	660 000	587 040	72 960
31	Malawi	15 000	495 000	405 000	90 000
32	Mali	15 000	495 000	495 000	-
33	Mauritania	10 000	330 000	30 000	300 000

Index	Country	Current annual assessed contribution	Total assessed contribution	Total amount paid	Balance due
34	Mauritius	15 000	495 000	-	495 000
35	Morocco	32 000	1 056 000	993 224	62 776
36	Mozambique	32 000	1 056 000	340 943	715 057
37	Namibia	24 000	744 000	696 000	48 000
38	Niger	15 000	495 000	24 875	470 125
39	Nigeria	80 000	2 640 000	2 290 331	349 669
40	Rwanda	15 000	495 000	180 000	315 000
41	Sao Tome and Principe	10 000	330 000	10 000	320 000
42	Senegal	24 000	792 000	719 480	72 520
43	Seychelles	10 000	330 000	300 000	30 000
44	Sierra Leone	20 000	660 000	640 055	19 945
45	Somalia	10 000	330 000	-	330 000
46	South Africa	80 000	2 240 000	880 000	1 360 000
47	Sudan	32 000	1 056 000	1 024 000	32 000
48	Togo	15 000	495 000	465 538	29 462
49	Tunisia	24 000	792 000	410 471	381 529
50	Uganda	24 000	792 000	692 971	99 029
51	United Republic of Tanzania	24 000	792 000	696 000	96 000
52	Zambia	32 000	1 056 000	1 056 000	-
53	Zimbabwe	40 000	1 320 000	1 280 000	40 000
	Total	1 358 000	44 291 000	25 818 739	18 472 261

34. As illustrated in figure V, financial support from ECA has decreased steadily over the past five years: IDEP received approximately \$324,000 from the Commission in 2021, but only \$280,000 in 2022. ECA extrabudgetary support is provided primarily through the regular programme of technical cooperation.

Figure V
Extrabudgetary contributions from the Economic Commission for Africa, 2015–2022
 (United States dollars)



35. With the integration of the Institute into the Umoja system, the resources provided by ECA to support specific programmes and training activities are

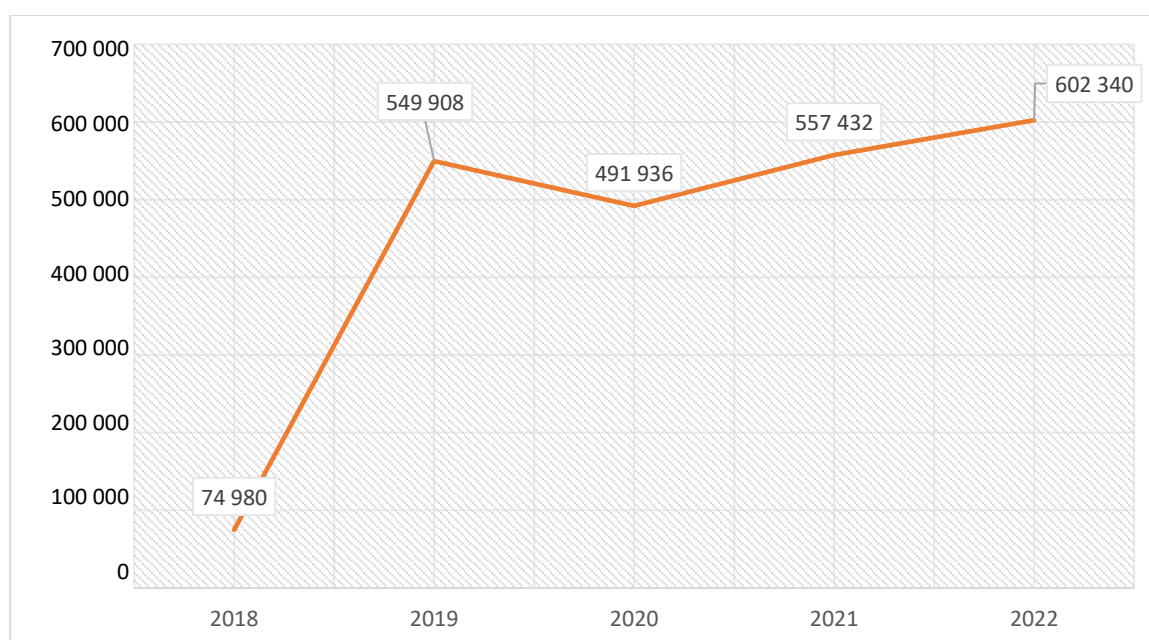
disbursed directly under the relevant budget code. As a result, the financial resources recorded as having been received from ECA are reduced for accounting purposes.

36. The Institute will continue to engage with ECA leadership on the need to increase budgetary support to ensure the predictability of the Institute's flow of funds, programme planning and service delivery.

Figure VI

Financial resources mobilized through external partners, 2018–2022

(United States dollars)



37. As part of its strategic plan for the period 2019–2023, and as illustrated in figure VI, IDEP continued to expand its funding base through increased and targeted external resource mobilization initiatives, with a view to fully financing and meeting its strategic objectives.

38. Despite the ongoing stringent donor funding environment, IDEP received a grant award of \$557,432 from the Government of Italy in 2021, which was subsequently renewed in 2022. The two grants will provide the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area and participating countries with high-level specialized training relating to taxation, customs, trade and legislative issues, with the objective of supporting local companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises, in improving their international trade relations, especially with the European Union and Italy.

39. The Institute also signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to design, develop and roll out an updated and tailored training programme on gender-responsive economic policy management for African member States and four regional economic communities, namely the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The aim of the training programme is to build the capacity of African regional economic communities and their member States to adopt and implement gender and economic policy management initiatives, thereby accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 by making sure

that economic policies and poverty reduction strategies deliver results equitably to women and men and to girls and boys.

B. Human resources development

40. The post of Head of the Research and Training Division (P-5 level), one of the Institute's key positions, is vacant but is expected to be filled in the first quarter of 2023.

41. A United Nations volunteer and associate researcher was recruited in March 2022 to help to reinforce the Institute's capacity in research and policy development. The post has been generously funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea.

42. In line with the ongoing effort to reinforce the Institute's position as the training arm of ECA and to increase collaboration with other divisions, two training sessions were organized with the Human Resources Management Section of ECA.

43. The training session on data analytics, which was held online over a period of two weeks, enhanced the capacity of 46 ECA staff members, including 2 IDEP employees, to use data effectively in their work. The course was designed for staff members working in research, analytics and data reporting, as well as those wishing to enhance their capacity to access, use, interpret and communicate data.

44. The training session on leadership and innovation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, which took place over a period of one week, deepened the understanding of 20 ECA staff members, including 2 IDEP employees, of the voluntary national review and voluntary local review processes and enhanced their capacity to support efforts by African States to implement the two agendas. The course also covered how innovation in science and technology could support implementation.

45. The two courses enhanced the capacity of 66 ECA staff members, including 4 IDEP employees. This compares with 62 staff members in 2021.

C. Partnerships

46. The Institute continued to foster and strengthen its partnerships with various ECA divisions, planning institutions, line ministry departments, international organizations, regional economic communities, universities and research centres. Through its activities, IDEP continued to promote capacity-building and support constructive analysis and debate with regard to the development policies of member States.

47. Of particular note in 2022 were activities with the following partners: the African Union Commission, four regional economic communities (ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD and SADC), universities involved in the ECA Young Economists Network, including the University of Johannesburg and the University of Portsmouth, UNDP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Open Society Initiative for West Africa, Association Africa 21, and ASeS (Farmers Solidarity and Development).

Table 3

Partner categories

<i>Type of partner</i>	<i>Number of partners</i>
Entities of the United Nations system	4
Member States and regional economic communities	4
International organizations	4
Academic and research institutions	89
Total	101

48. The aforementioned partnerships resulted in the design and delivery of training and research programmes that were focused on:

(a) Youth and women's empowerment to support the recovery and structural transformation of countries:

(i) Innovative financing of small and medium-sized enterprises for resilient recovery in Africa: a gender and youth perspective (Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa);

(ii) Gender-responsive economic policy management in the context of post-pandemic recovery (regional economic communities and UNDP);

(iii) Technical and vocational education and training (UNESCO);

(b) Climate change: blue economy opportunities, coastal erosion, migration and water access:

(i) Blue economy valuation toolkit (UNESCO and the University of Portsmouth);

(ii) Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility (World Bank, African Union Commission and African Development Bank, with initial funding support from the Nordic Development Fund);

(iii) Atelier 2022 de Dakar sur les enjeux de l'eau;

(c) African Continental Free Trade Area and new mechanisms to finance African recovery (Association Africa 21):

(i) Role of parliamentarians and civil society actors;

(ii) Towards an effective African Continental Free Trade Area (Government of Italy and ASeS (Farmers Solidarity and Development));

(iii) Financing African development through sustainable and innovative mechanisms (IOM and Skema Business School);

(iv) Expert group meeting on debt, taxation and financing for development: immediate responses to global emergencies, at which the preliminary results of eight country case studies were presented (Open Society Initiative for West Africa).

IV. Prospects for 2023

49. As previously mentioned, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine have severely undermined the socioeconomic development of African States. Those shocks have helped to underscore the urgency of addressing risks in development planning. IDEP, in consultation with member States is committed to strengthening the design and delivery of training and research programmes in the areas of risk management and risk mainstreaming in development planning processes. Through its activities, IDEP aims to enhance the practical knowledge and skills of relevant stakeholders in the area of risk analysis, explore mainstreaming incentives and bottlenecks, evaluate societal, geopolitical, environmental and technological challenges, and ensure that risks are addressed effectively in development planning frameworks.

50. To ensure the predictability of the Institute's flow of funds and to respond effectively to requests for assistance from member States, IDEP will advocate an increase in the United Nations grant and, in support of a recommendation made to ECA by the Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in 2022 (see E/ECA/CM/54/4/Rev.1), will establish regular consultations with the permanent missions of member States to increase awareness of the activities of the Institute and any resulting financial implications.

51. The Institute will, moreover, continue its gender mainstreaming initiatives, deliver youth-focused courses, and strive to increase the number of women taking part in its training courses and benefiting from its technical advisory services.
