



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa
Office for North Africa

Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental
Committee of Experts (ICE)

The industrialization for a sustainable and inclusive
development in North Africa

Aide-memoire



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I. BACKGROUND

The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) is the statutory deliberating organ of the Office for North Africa, of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA/SRO-NA). It is in charge of the supervision of the office activities and meets annually to review the report of activities of ECA-NA; to review short and medium term action plans, the programme of work and the strategic orientations of ECA for the sub-region of North Africa.

The ICE is the formal framework of analysis and exchange between experts from national administrations, regional economic communities operating in the sub-region (mainly AMU), researchers, stakeholders of the private sector and civil society, upon the economic and social conditions in the sub-region, with the aim to elaborate recommendations on national development strategies and to boost regional integration in North Africa.

The 29th session of the ICE will be held in Rabat (Kingdom of Morocco) from 4 to 6th of March 2014, and will be the first meeting to be organized under the new strategic orientation of ECA which focuses on the agenda of the structural transformation of the economies of the continent. The ensuing need to restructuring programs should lead to the refinement of research and analysis efforts made by ECA using more reliable statistical data, with the objective to come up with more efficient policies and strategies for the whole continent.

In addition to their usual responsibilities, the sub-regional offices should elaborate country profiles, with risk analysis taking into account political, economic, social and environmental conditions of the countries within their respective area of responsibility.

In more specific words, this ICE session will be a framework of discussion, analysis and suggestion of ways and means to overcome the challenges of the structural transformation of North African economies to achieve a more sustainable growth able to generate employment, a greater integration of the production systems in the global value chains, the acceleration of the regional integration and the sustainable development. The theme of this meeting is "The industrialization for a sustainable and inclusive development in North Africa", as a preparation for the next session of the conference of African ministers in charge of economic development which will debate the same theme at the continental level.

The choice of this theme arises from the fact that industrialization is a compulsory step towards the structural transformation of African economies. Besides, the efficiency of industrial policies is highly dependent on some key factors, in particular the inclusiveness of the elaboration process, the dynamism and coordination capacity of the institutions in charge of supervision, and the relevance of implementation, monitoring and assessment mechanisms.

In order to further explicit the subject, a round table will be held within the framework of the ICE meeting on "Developing regional value chains to accelerate diversification and sophistication of North African economies". The integration of the developing countries in the world trade takes place increasingly through the participation in the global value chains (GVC), the access to which involves several pre-requisites, in particular in terms of logistics and legal and institutional environment. Moreover, production systems in many developing countries are still dominated by low added-value sectors, due to the technical constraints, on the one hand, and to their lack of participation to decision making regarding the distribution of production through the GVC. To overcome this double constraint, North African countries should develop -in a cooperative manner- the regional value chains (RVC) that will allow them to create more comparative benefits and enhance their capacity to meet the needs of the participation to RVC. Besides, the limited commercial integration in North Africa, coupled with the low level of infrastructures, reveals a huge potential for the development of RVC. Thus, there is a need to analyze all aspects of this major issue, in order to build up a credible strategy for the promotion of RCV in North Africa, and between North Africa and Western Africa, its immediate neighbor. Many lessons can be learned from other regional experiences, in the continent itself or from around the world.

The roundtable will be an opportunity to develop and share analysis on the various aspects of the issue, in particular North African experiences in terms of integration in the GVC, promising niches of the regional value chains, or the role of governments, private sector, and academicians in their promotion.

In addition, the agenda of the ICE will include discussion on the challenges of the various modules of the Post-2015 development Agenda: Millennium development goals, sustainable development goals, 2063 Africa vision-, and the agenda of the regional integration in North Africa. A special session will be dedicated to the discussion of the ECA initiative aiming at setting out an index as a measurement tool of the advancement made by the counties and the RECs in terms of integration, the basic elements of this tool and its relevance for the African countries.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The overall objective of the ICE Meeting is to analyze the recent development and trends of the socio-economic conditions in North Africa, in order to elaborate suitable recommendations on policies and strategies for a sustainable and inclusive development and a more significant integration of the economies of the sub-region countries.

To that end, the meeting will review several reports, mainly : (i) the report on the recent developments of the economic and social conditions in North Africa; (ii) the conceptual and methodological approach for the country profiles; (iii) Report on the sub-regional initiatives; (iv) Report on the regional and international agendas, including the special initiatives in North Africa ; (v) Report on the annual activities of ECA in North Africa and the Bureau's programme of work for 2014.

Finally, the meeting will elaborate recommendations to be submitted to the seventh joint meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of economy and finance and the ECA conference of African ministers of finance, planning and economic development.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE MEETING

It is expected that ICE Meeting discusses and adopts the reports to be presented by the ECA-NA, and elaborates recommendations on policies and strategies to the attention of decision markers, to serve as an orientation for the establishment of national development programs and for the acceleration of the regional integration process. A detailed report of the meeting will summarize the presentations, discussions and suggestions to be brought to the documents submitted, as well as the main conclusions and recommendations.

The report of the meeting will be transmitted to the seventh joint meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of economy and finance and the ECA Conference of African ministers of finance, planning and economic development.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING AND METHOD OF WORK

The meeting will be held through plenary sessions and a round table where technical reports elaborated by the Office and communications of eminent personalities will be presented and discussed. These reports will be published in the web site of ECA-NA <http://www.uneca.org/sro/an/>.

V. PARTICIPATION

Participation to the Experts Committee meeting is open mainly to ministries, national administrations and institutions in charge of planning and economic and social development, regional integration, industry, agriculture, energy, environment, to representatives of the Secretariat General of MAU and other intergovernmental organizations existing in North Africa, to representatives of the private sector and civil society, to universities and research centers, to the United Nations agencies and to other partners of the development of the sub-region.

VI. DATE AND VENUE OF THE MEETING

The meeting will be held from 4 to 6 March 2014 in Rabat (Morocco).

VII. LANGUAGES OF THE MEETING

The languages of the meeting will be French, English and Arabic.

VIII. CONTACTS

Information relating to the organization of the meeting are available in the web site of the Office for North Africa (www.uneca.org/sro-an/) of the ECA and/or from :

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