



United Nations
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Office for North Africa

Thirtieth Meeting of the
Intergovernmental
Committee of Experts

Meeting
Report

3-6 March 2015



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3 - 6 March 2015

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco

**Report of the Thirtieth Meeting of the
Intergovernmental Committee of Experts**

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I. Attendance and organisation of work

1. The 30th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) of the Office for North Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa was held in Rabat, Morocco from 3 to 6 March 2015. The opening ceremony was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Omar Ali Mohamed Ibrahim Abou Eich, Ambassador of Egypt in Algeria, on behalf of the outgoing Bureau and graced by the presence of His Excellency, Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), and of Mr. Abdelhaq Allalat, National Accounts Director and representative of Mr. Ahmed Alami Lahlimi, High Commissioner for Planning (HCP).

2. In attendance were representatives from the following member States: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan and Tunisia.

3. Also represented at the meeting were the following institutions:

United Nations system:

- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nouakchott
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Regional Economic Community

- Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

International and regional organizations

- Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO)
- Regional Office of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- ILO Office for the Maghreb Countries
- Centre de Recherches, études, documentation et information sur les femmes (CREDIF)
- African Center for Training and Administrative Research for Development (CAFRAD)
- African Development Bank (ADB) Group
- Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ISESCO)
- Arab Organization for Industrial and Mineral Development (OADIM)

Diplomatic Corps :

- Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- The Embassy of the Republic of Sudan
- Embassy of the Tunisian Republic
- Embassy of the People's Republic of China
- Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium

- Embassy of the Republic of Benin
- Embassy of Spain
- Embassy of Finland
- Embassy of the Gabonese Republic
- Embassy of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- Embassy of the Royal Netherlands
- Embassy of Russia

Representatives from public institutions and universities:

- Institute of African Studies
- High Commission for Planning
- Souissi Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences
- Mohammed V University
- Faculty of Law - Agdal
- Hassan II University of Science and Technology

Civil society organizations:

- Terjaoui International Scientific Institute for Good Governance and Strategic Planning for Sustainable Human Development (ISTIGOP)

Private sector

- Association of Women Business Leaders of Morocco (AFEM)
- Tilkahia Association for Development
- Moroccan Agency for Investment Development (AMDI)
- Moroccan Export Promotion Centre
- CJD Morocco
- Maroc Export
- FCE Algeria
- CARE Algeria
- BDO Morocco
- Moroccan Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Services (FCMCIS)
- RSO Morocco

Financial Sector:

- Bank Al Maghrib

Private sector:

- Kortbi Consulting

4. The full list of participants is annexed to this report.

II. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

5. In his opening statement, the Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau first thanked his colleagues on the Bureau and the secretariat for the work done since the 29th meeting of ICE. He welcomed participants to the 30th Meeting which, like the two before it, fell within the context of ECA's new strategic direction focusing on the structural transformation of African economies and Agenda 2063 and African development and integration. He recalled that the last ICE meeting had formulated a number of recommendations which had been transmitted to the 2014 Conference of African Ministers of Planning, Finance and Economic Development. One session would be focusing on regional integration with the specific theme of Trading for Industrialization.

6. Taking the floor, Madame Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director of the ECA subregional office for North Africa, first welcomed all participants and expressed her appreciation to His Majesty King Mohamed VI, the government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for their hospitality and welcome. She recalled that in spite of an adverse international environment, Africa had posted 3.3% GDP growth, driven mainly by the performance of East and West Africa. With regard to North Africa, 2014 had not turned out to be that positive because its GDP growth had shrunk for the second consecutive year to 1.5%, as compared to 1.8% in 2013 and 6.6% in 2012.

7. Socially, North Africa was one of the world's regions which had performed the best towards attainment of most of the MDGs. The countries had invested heavily in developing human capital and the results could be felt in terms of poverty reduction, increased schooling rates, declining mother and child mortality, not to mention wider access to drinking water, power supply and sanitation. The impact of the progress made remained, nonetheless, mitigated by the persistence of sharp disparities between men and women, among countries and regions within the same country, a workforce participation rate on the job market which was still weak and a high degree of structural joblessness among the youth.

8. 2015 was going to be a year of major meetings with destiny and decision making to structure the shared vision of a better world for all. It would probably be marked by the adoption of new long-term and ambitious objectives for improving people's lives and protecting the planet both for current and future generations under the post-2015 development agenda. She informed participants that the outcome of their deliberations would be drafted in a report to be presented to the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development scheduled to be held on 30 and 31 March in Addis Ababa. She concluded by thanking all participants once again and wishing every success to the deliberations of the 30th ICE.

9. Taking the floor, Mr. Abdelhaq Allalat, National Accounts Director and representative of the High Commissioner for Planning, Kingdom of Morocco, made it a point to express his appreciation to Madam Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane and commended the work she and her staff continued to do to create a sharing and discussion platform addressing the development problems facing the countries of North Africa.

10. He then went on to welcome all participants and apologized on behalf of Mr. Ahmed Lahlimi Alami the High Commissioner for Planning whose heavy schedule had prevented him from attending the 30th Meeting of the ICE.

11. He then proceeded to read out the message sent by the High Commissioner to the participants and the ECA calling on the countries of North Africa to diversify their economies and to promote regional cooperation and integration within the current context where Africa was becoming a growth pole in the global economy and remains the continent which had demonstrated the greatest resilience under the economic impact of the international crisis.

12. In the view of the High Commissioner, Africa, with an average growth rate of 6% was already swinging the geo-strategic pendulum as a global growth pole even as it remained with one of the lowest regional per capita GDPs.

13. This gap between population increase and economic growth remained a challenge that Africa needed to address if it was to create decent livelihoods for a large swathe of the population which entered the job market annually, creating a prevalence of joblessness and underemployment, particularly among the youth, women and graduates and causing poverty and inequalities to persist. It was to be noted that, hitherto, the engine for economic growth in most African countries remained a few agro-industrial and mining export sectors which had, for all their contribution to developing trade, remained poorly integrated to other economies.

14. He felt that Africa's economic takeoff would only happen with greater economic and sectoral diversification principally in the industrial sector which held the potential for creating wealth and job opportunities while resting on the mastery of technology and the development of national, regional, agricultural and mineral potential of the continent.

15. Among other things, such a strategic direction called for increased mobilization of financial, more particularly domestic resources and greater regional integration that will secure a vast continental market in proximity with a view to sparing African products aggressive global competition.

16. The message ended with an expression of gratitude to participants for their attention and every wish for success in their deliberations.

17. Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, Secretary General of AMU then took the floor to thank and congratulate ECA for organizing this meeting that had come into its own as an unavoidable forum for discussing issues of North African development and which brought together experts of high international ranking. He also mentioned the excellent work relationships between the AMU secretariat and ECA, more particularly with its office for North Africa. ECA had consistently supported AMU in its quest to strengthen and improve subregional integration mechanisms from as far back as 1994.

18. He added that all these activities were meant to stimulate the economic integration of Maghreb countries, in the knowledge that the subregion was relatively unintegrated and the external trade of Maghreb countries was a mere 3% of their trade with the rest of the world. And yet, in a globalizing economy, subregional economic integration had become an absolute necessity, providing as it does for better exploitation of available resources and the creation of value chains that would benefit all countries members of the integrated space. He noted that Africa was posting significant growth rates but needed to develop

infrastructure and deepen integration as both would enable it, as well as the Maghreb, not only to emerge as a force to be reckoned with but also reduce its dependence on traditional markets and the commodities exported thereto alike.

19. He informed participants that the AMU Free Trade Agreement had been signed by its Ministers of Trade in 2010 and that the establishment of the Maghreb Bank for external trade and investment was being finalized. In conclusion, he emphasized the relevance of the selected theme and wished the meeting every success.

III. Election of officers (*agenda item 2*)

20. Following consultations among heads of delegation, the Committee elected the following officers:

| | | |
|------------------|---|------------|
| Chairperson | : | Mauritania |
| Vice-Chairperson | : | Sudan |
| Rapporteur | : | Morocco |

IV. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work (*agenda item 3*)

21. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson of the 2015 ICE Bureau thanked members of the Committee for the trust placed in his country and welcomed all participants. He commended the outgoing bureau of ICE and the ECA subregional office for North Africa for the significant efforts they had made throughout the past year.

22. Following this statement, the Committee adopted its agenda (document ECA-NA/ICE/XXX/1) and its programme of work (document ECA-NA/ICE/XXX/1/Add.2).

V. Introduction to the theme of the meeting

23. By way of introducing the theme of the meeting, His Excellency Mr. Hamid Temmar, former Minister of Industry of Algeria, made a presentation on innovative financing for development in North Africa. He observed that there is a need to reform the financial system through actions aiming at: (i) mobilizing more private funding by capital investment support measures; (ii) instituting instruments for optimum collection of savings; and (iii) creating/operationalizing national investment funds as a matter of professionalism in order to ensure that they operated according to international technical standards. Such reforms imply a due coordination and strategic planning.

VI. Economic and social conditions in North Africa, 2014-2015 (*agenda item 4*)

24. The secretariat described the main conclusions of the document (ECA-NA/ICE/XXX/2) entitled Economic and Social Conditions in North Africa 2014. The report on this survey focused on recently trending macroeconomic and social aggregates as well as the 2015 outlook for the subregion. It analyzed the major economic policy measures adopted in 2014 and highlighted the thrust of short-term policies aimed at pursuing the recovery efforts made after the global financial and economic meltdown, along with the reforms needed to achieve the structural transformation of North African economies.

25. The secretariat used the occasion to thank those member States that had responded to the questionnaire sent out by the Office with a view to preparing the report and called for the establishment of more effective joint mechanisms for the collection of data.

26. The presentation focused on the following:

- The global and regional economic situation;
- Economic performance in North Africa; and
- Human and social development.

27. Among other things, the report emphasized that during 2014, global growth had been maintained at its 2013 level of 2.6% (compared to 2.5% in 2013) without spurring additional demand to offset poor European demand. Indeed, budget consolidation in the developed countries and slowing growth in the emerging countries continued to weigh down global economic growth.

28. In North Africa, political and security factors adversely affected growth, particularly in Egypt and Libya. Two other factors had hampered growth in the subregion: weak demand from Europe (the major trading partner) and the sharp fall in oil prices which began in June 2014. Estimated mean annual growth for North Africa thus continued to decline from 1.8% in 2013 to 1.5% of GDP in 2014.

29. The consolidated trade balance deficit of the subregion deepened by 54% from \$US 33.3 billion in 2013 to \$US 51.3 billion both because of the sharp contraction in the surpluses of Libya (-86%) and Algeria (-51.3%) and because of the high deficits of other countries \$US -28 billion for Egypt, \$US -20.6 billion for Morocco and \$US -6.9 billion for Tunisia.

30. The subregion still remained highly dependent on commodity exports (crude oil, phosphates, iron, gold, copper and agricultural produce) whose price decline during the period under review further weakened the external position of most of the countries of North Africa. Indeed, such countries as Mauritania, Libya and Algeria depend virtually exclusively on such commodities for their export revenue.

31. That situation brought to the fore the need to institute industrial policies, mainly for value addition to commodities, with a view to stimulating employment and incomes and enhancing wealth creation. In that regard, the focus should be on business activities and products having higher value addition and enabling industries to achieve and sustain competitive positions. Such industrial policies could well form part of subregional value chains inducing and benefitting from the effects of greater subregional industrial integration.

32. The stark exposure of public finances to external shocks is reflected in high uncertainties in the matter of development investment. Such vulnerability could be reduced first by reforming the taxation system in order to decouple in national budget structures ordinary spending from export revenue derived from commodities. The idea was also to increase the share of private financing in investment, to mobilize savings and to develop such financial services as would channel savings into productive investment. A significant improvement in the business environment would definitely move things along in that direction.

33. 2015 is also the year when the global development agenda moves to the closing of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and leads to the adoption of a post-2015 development agenda. This will be an ambitious long-term programme to improve living standards for people and to protect the planet from climate change.

34. An assessment of social aggregates reveals the considerable progress made by North African countries towards the achievement of the MDGs and highlights, in particular, those efforts which have enabled them to attain several target objectives, including those having to do with poverty reduction, health and education.

35. All that notwithstanding, many challenges remain because of the development model and its frame of reference for measuring achievement. MDG target 1 on securing full employment and the possibility for everyone, including women and youth, to find decent and productive work, will not be attained by any of the countries even in spite of the sustained growth they experienced before the economic and political crises and which failed to make a significant improvement in the employment situation.

36. This is what has kept the jobless rate structurally high with a subregional mean of 11.5% in 2014. The subregion also has the lowest rate of participation in the employment market at 43.1% compared to the global average of 54.8% and to other regions such as the OECD countries (60%) or Sub-Saharan Africa (65.4%). The situation is even more alarming with regard to women and youth whose full economic and political participation remains a precondition for achieving a development model that would be more dynamic, inclusive and sustainable.

37. The report also notes that the social progress made nationally conceals inequalities among regions of the same country. The problem of equitable sharing of growth dividends still remains in the regional territories. Differences in development between the rich often metropolitan central regions having high concentrations of economic activity and the poor, generally outlying and rural regions are such that they legitimately expose the limitations of the development model adopted.

38. In its presentation on the country profiles, the Secretariat explained that this is a new tool for a dynamic dialogue with the Member States. These country profiles were made pursuant to a resolution of the ECA Conference of Ministers in charge of planning and economic development held in March 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria. This initiative derives from the strategic reorientation of the ECA mandate to support the member countries efforts to achieve the structural transformation of their economies.

39. The Secretariat stated that during the pilot phase, five country profiles were elaborated and that this phase will end upon the launch of the first country profile at the upcoming Conference of Ministers, on 28 March 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

40. The Secretariat stressed the need to develop a partnership with the different institutions producing data in the Member Countries on the basis of a solemn commitment of cooperation and data exchange, as stated by the resolution of the Abuja Conference of Ministers. It also recalled that the ECA works in partnership with the RECs and other UN institutions to collect and prepare these country profiles.

41. Following this presentation, the Committee thanked and commended the Secretariat for the quality and depth of the presentations and commented on the relevance and reliability of the statistical data as well as the need to work more closely with the countries in order to update the available statistics.

42. The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress made by North Africa in intra-subregional trade and felt that an analysis of country performance with regard to institutional quality, rule of law and financial modernization were also needed in order to gain a good understanding of trending developments in North Africa.

43. The Committee noted that by limiting the governance analysis to a single indicator, the survey of economic and social conditions had failed to factor in all dimensions of governance, which would have shown the actual performance of the countries.

44. The Committee noted that while the economic and social indicators appeared to suggest that structural transformation was happening in North Africa but at a slower pace than the progress made in other regions of the continent such as East and Southern Africa, the reason for those gaps had not been analyzed. The Committee was of the view that factoring in this dimension in the finalization of the report and in future issues of the survey would enable member states to learn from the experiences of those subregions in order to improve future performance.

45. The Committee observed that the recommendations contained in the report had yet to take into account various country sub-groupings with regard to such criteria as: whether they were petroleum-importing or exporting countries.

46. Regarding the country profiles, the Committee noted that while the regional approach adopted by the office was important to open up the borders, the country analyses fine-tuned such reflection to a scale which enabled country specificities to be taken more regularly into account. The Committee strongly reported the request by ECA-NA to institute, together with the member states, a sustainable arrangement for data collection which would provide quality country profiles generated from harmonized data. The Committee felt that the country profiles could also be designed as a tool for facilitating the programming of targeted expert work in those countries that so request. ECA, as such, should provide for maximum coverage of the countries and areas of thematic interest (including environment and green economy issues).

47. At the end of its discussions the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the secretariat, adding the amendments compiled in the annex.

VII. Special session on regional integration « trade for industrialization in north africa» (agenda item 5)

- Presentation of ERA 2015

48. The Secretariat presented the theme of ERA 2015, which builds on the key messages of earlier editions of ERA, focusing on industrialization and structural transformation. ERAs 2013 and 2014 had emphasized the importance of commodities and effective industrialization policy options for growth, job creation and economic transformation both at the regional and global levels. The current report further explores the question of how trade as an instrument for accelerating industrialization and structural transformation in Africa.

49. Value chains have become an important feature in the current global economy. African countries showed high participation rates, but were mostly confined to the lower rungs of the value chains. While backward integration had been increasing in many African countries, the larger share of Africa's participation in value chains lay mainly in forward integration driven by commodity exports. Intra-African trade in intermediate goods, which is significantly more diversified than Africa's corresponding trade with the rest of the world, offered opportunities for the creation of regional production networks that could lead to value addition and increased industrialization. However, Africa currently sourced 88 percent of its inputs from outside the African region.

50. The report emphasized the importance of services as key inputs to most businesses in an economy, directly contributing to growth and job creation, attracting FDI and adding to global value chains. The report also focused on the importance of strategic and sequenced use of trade policies to boost intra-African trade and build up regional value chains to strengthen the capabilities and potential of African industries. Also highlighted was the importance of complementary social policies for inclusive growth and structural transformation.

- Transport and Trade Facilitation in North Africa

51. The secretariat informed the Committee about the outcomes of the expert meeting on International Transport and Trade Facilitation which had been held on 25 and 26 September 2014 in Rabat, Morocco. The general idea of the meeting was to broaden the ongoing reflection and efforts to speed up regional integration in its component of facilitating and increasing intra-African trade in North Africa through a substantial reduction of the direct and indirect costs of doing business among countries of the subregion. In that regard, the Office had prepared and presented two working documents on (i) analyzing the state of play in transport and trade facilitation within the subregion; and (ii) assessing North Africa's performance under the Bali Agreement objectives.

52. Participants were informed about the methodology adopted, what had been observed in the preliminary studies presented and the recommendations made by the experts. The analysis specifically highlighted the progress that all member states had made to develop and maintain an effective road and highway transport network. From the analysis of existing policies, regulations and procedures for trade facilitation, it emerged that the levels of performance had been highly contrasted and results had been mixed from one country to another.

53. Among the obstacles encountered and which were mainly to blame for the substandard performance observed were: insufficient border connectivity (road segments yet to be asphalted or below the required quality) a deficit of logistical equipment (weighing scales, forklifts and IT equipment) a still high number of documents and formalities, lack of certain inspection services other than customs (technical and analytical inspection of exported food produce) and such allied services as banking, insurance, postage, telecommunications, catering and accommodation.

54. To address such deficiencies and to raise the performance of member states, a subregional action plan for trade facilitation had been adopted. It was built around four ideas: (i) strengthening and optimizing infrastructure and logistics; (ii) improving the regulatory and institutional framework; (iii) building national capacities; (iv) strengthening interstate cooperation.

55. The Plan was divided into measures of regional, bilateral and national scope together with timelines for the short, medium and long-term. For each of the activities advocated the responsible institutions and administrative structures had been identified. A North African Council on trade facilitation, comprising the various national committees had been proposed and charged with the task of facilitating coordination and plan implementation in all the countries of the subregion.

56. ECA-NA recommended to the Committee the adoption of the recommendations made by the ad hoc Meeting of Experts asking participants to impress upon the various national and regional players the importance of implementing the Plan of Action.

- Developing subregional value chains to speed up the diversification and sophistication of North African economies

57. The secretariat informed the Committee about the outcomes of the aforementioned study which had been considered after being carried out in 2014 and which had been validated by an Expert Group Meeting held on 19 and 20 November 2014 in Rabat, Morocco.

58. The secretariat indicated that promoting RVCs would catalyze regional integration and drive the structural transformation of national economies. In its view, the subregion had significant assets which had enabled it to participate to date in international trade and which have prepared it to integrate more effectively in global value chains and RVCs. Those assets were primarily geographical given the subregion's proximity to Europe, its major partner. Second to that come the major investments that the subregion has made in infrastructure. In addition to all that, many of the countries have preferential access to key markets, especially in the European Union, through association and free trade agreements while others had similar arrangements with the North American market. Accordingly the countries had developed managerial and organizational capacities which enabled them to respond more easily to the exigencies of GVCs. Despite that potential, the countries of the subregion had not sufficiently developed their intra-subregional trade which remained marginal and had poor attraction to subregional FDI, inefficiencies regarding infrastructural and transport networks and an unharmonized regulatory framework.

59. The secretariat then revealed the study methodology before describing the major outcomes. More specifically, most North African countries had adopted policies to promote the integration of their economies in GVCs. Others were still insufficiently integrated in GVCs because of factors having to do with their dependence on natural resources or with varying economic strategies that had limited the overall impact of GVC integration on development and widened economic and social disparities in the subregion. Neither had strong dependence on the EU market generated a sustainable industrialization dynamic because business upgrading had been poor, even in the integrated countries.

60. The study also stressed that RVCs could be one way to develop and consolidate the benefits of GVC integration. RVCs were not to be considered as an alternative strategy to GVCs but as a complementary strategy. To that end, promoting RVCs implies taking into account such macroeconomic and sectoral measures as infrastructural improvement, FDI attraction, trade improvement and, especially creating an enabling policy environment. Clearly, the three countries of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia were increasing their participation in the automobile, aeronautic, textile and apparel as well as agro-food product GVCs. They had also developed policies for deeper integration based on three strategic thrusts: (i) gaining the ascendancy in value chains specifically through a positioning on chain segments having high value addition and/or which were technology intensive; (ii) developing the skills needed to better their positioning in GVCs through training programmes customized to targeted value chains; and (iii) consolidating their attractiveness to FDIs, more specifically through the development of industrial and logistic platforms and investment incentive regimes.

61. The study considered those sectoral value chains having an integration potential for North African countries. The two major developing sectors which currently hold potential for growth and job creation are: the automobile and aeronautic sectors. In addition the study identified other sectors such as the petroleum and gas industries; the iron and steel industry and the renewable energy industry which are so many levers for RVC integration.

62. A comprehensive analysis was conducted on the degree of development of these sectoral areas in countries such as Morocco and Tunisia, and, to a lesser extent, Algeria. The report went on to suggest that in-depth studies should be conducted on these developing sectoral areas in order to make them regional value chains in which all the countries can be integrated.

63. The secretariat recommended for adoption by the Committee the recommendations formulated by the Meeting of Experts and stressed the need to impress upon the various national and regional layers the development of pilot sectoral RVCs.

64. Following these presentations the Committee thanked and congratulated the secretariat for the quality and depth of the presentations and made the following comments.

65. The Committee stressed the need for improving capital mobility both within the subregion and the continent. The full benefits of regional integration would be attained only if the dimensions of this process were taken into account. For that to happen, it was necessary to facilitate the movement of persons as a matter of priority. Such mobility would actually facilitate subregional and create regional value chains in potential sectors. Trading agreements, especially under rules of origin setting the criteria for benefitting from regional preferences should be designed in such a way as to constitute no impediment to the promotion of trade.

66. The link between trade and development through industrialization would only make sense if account was taken of the quality of specialization and what the countries had to offer the outside world. The potential sectors are those whose operators invest in R&D and capitalize on innovation.

67. Private sector participation would be crucial to securing an accurate identification of bottlenecks. RVCs and GVCs are created by the private sector. It was therefore necessary to create an enabling environment for the development of trade in intermediate goods. Similarly, the Committee stressed the importance of physical harmonization among the countries with a special focus on reducing informal trade.

68. It would also be needful to have an ambitious approach to the building of subregional and regional value chains, particularly with regard to trade facilitation and supply-side constraints. In that regard, aid for trade would have to be channeled more into RVCs. The Office might wish to take a more comprehensive look at aid-for-trade within this context.

69. The Committee noted that significant progress had been made in developing infrastructure and logistics but that the many gaps and inefficiencies remaining posed a major challenge to subregional integration and the promotion of RVCs. Fiscal and customs provisions in the law needed to be harmonized if trade was to be facilitated and RVCs developed among North African countries.

70. The Committee emphasized that it was the prerogative of the private sector to create value chains and that of the public sector to facilitate the process. The role of the State was to build the infrastructure and make the rules that would enable private businesses to become competitive should they decide to integrate value chains, to enhance the conditions for private sector development taking into account the constraints specific to each country and their capacity to develop or to import innovation as well as to master technology.

71. At the end of its discussions, the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the secretariat, adding the amendments compiled in the Annex.

VIII. Special session on the implementation of the 2063 agenda: *planning, mobilizing and financing for development funding* (agenda item 6)

72. Three presentations were made on this agenda item.

73. Presenting Agenda 2063 for the development of Africa, the Secretariat described the background to the formulation process, noting that the Agenda represents a new phase in the efforts of Africa to upscale its efforts to move the continent forward so as to achieve the African Union vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

74. The Secretariat indicated that the Agenda 2063 is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. It builds on, and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development. It also indicated that the African expectations expressed in the Agenda 2063 are distilled from the consultations undertaken in the continent, are:

- A Prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development;
- An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the Vision of Africa's Renaissance;
- An Africa of Good Governance, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law;
- A Peaceful and Secure Africa;
- An Africa with a strong Cultural Identity, Common Heritage, Values and Ethics;
- An Africa whose development is people-driven, especially relying on the potential offered by its women and youth; and
- Africa as a Strong, Resilient and Influential Global Player and Partner.

75. Turning to the achievements of past continental initiatives, the Secretariat reminded the meeting of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which been phased into short, medium and long term horizons. Thus, Agenda 2063 represented a collective effort and an opportunity for Africa to regain its power to determine its own destiny. To achieve the goals of the Agenda, he called for an acceleration of the process of continental integration and informed the meeting that a First Ten-Year Implementation Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of had both been prepared for Agenda 2063.

76. Given the magnitude of the resources to be mobilized in order to implement Agenda 2063 the presenter suggested that member countries might wish to consider a number of financing options and innovative mechanisms including:

- Continuing to capitalize on traditional and non-traditional sectors alike as the BRICS were doing;
- Mobilizing sovereign and pension funds to finance development projects;
- Making special government loans to private investors;
- Issuing diaspora bonds;
- Using extractive industry revenue to support development; and
- Stemming/reversing illicit financial outflows.

77. The secretariat also suggested that rich Gulf countries might also be approached for substantial funding but that whatever option was pursued, care should be taken to build an enabling environment for the implementation of Agenda 2063 as showed the development of appropriate and sound macro-economic policies.

78. Taking the floor next was Mr. Nabil Jedlane, lecturer and research fellow at ENCG (Tangier, Morocco) who spoke on financing the economy. Given the vulnerability of national economies in the subregion to external resources, it was necessary to vary the resources, including the domestic, and to encourage private initiative through growth-based taxation and it would be wise for that option to pursue the three objectives of equity, efficiency and administrative simplicity.

79. Using the ongoing reforms in the Moroccan fiscal system as an example, he noted that those reforms had enabled (i) a degree of balance to be achieved in the direct (44%) to indirect (43.8%) tax ratio and (ii) an increase in the volume of investment spending (totaling 189 billion Dirhams). Corruption control and the rationalization of public

spending had helped to increase public investment spending but still remained insufficient. During the recent national fiscal exercise, recommendations had been made to fight fraud and tax evasion and to promote regionalization by working on local taxes.

80. The third presentation of the Special Session was made by Mr. Dhafer Saidane, researcher and professor at SKEMA Business School (Lille, France). He analyzed the capacity of financial systems to mobilize savings and the degree to which North African countries could attract FDIs through the development of RVCs.

81. It was a banking paradox that, in the subregion, the banks happened to be high performers individually (at a micro-level) but that at the macro-economic level, their impact in contributing to growth remained marginal. Public-private partnerships should be explored in order to find a way out of the impasse by creating a new generation of finance and investment banks. Mr. Saidane also singled out the contrasting financial landscape from one country to another and found it highly heterogeneous but poor at channeling and transforming savings into investment lending. While the banks were well capitalized overall their commitment and risk management had room for improvement.

82. Developing RVCs to speed up the diversification and sophistication of North African economies would benefit the subregion, attract FDIs and raise the profile of the subregion to its foreign partners. To encourage FDI inflows, he proposed four specific actions: (i) convergence to a single and/or harmonized investment code; (ii) instituting a collective governance structure to harness and channel FDIs; (iii) creating an collective governance structure to manage the financial architecture of FDIs; and (iv) establishing a structure for collective promotion, communication and training to induce FDI inflows and to optimize resource use within the Maghreb.

83. The ensuing discussions focused both on the challenges and resource mobilization options for financing Agenda 2063. The long-term financing of African economies with a view to structural transformation raised some major questions including (i) the pivotal role of the State in development financing, especially of infrastructure; (ii) achieving an optimum balance between the conventional system of project financing by development banks and opting for structural reform financing; (iii) honoring commitments under official development assistance; and (iv) pursuing needed national financial sector reform given the difficulties facing SME/VSE access to bank funding. In one sense, such reform should enable public banks to improve their efficiency and, in another, institute a system of competition which will encourage the banks to upgrade their products the better to serve business. The bottom line was that investment banking had come to stay in the economic and financial landscape of countries in the subregion.

84. Other trends of thought and action were also identified, including the timeliness of creating a trust fund for the financing of Agenda 2063 or, better still, the reconversion of debt into investment funding.

85. At the conclusion of its discussions, the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the secretariat, adding the amendments compiled in the Annex.

IX. Expert Group Meeting (EGM): *the role of industry in developing green economy in North Africa* (agenda item 7)

86. The moderator recalled that the above theme for the Expert Group Meeting had been selected with a view to continuing and deepening the thinking on diversification in order to achieve the structural transformation of economies in the subregion. The objectives of the round table were:

- knowledge sharing on ongoing policies and initiatives in the subregion with a view to promoting concerted action among key players in the green economy; (i) deepening understanding of the challenges and benefits of the green economy; (ii) feeding into the reports the experiences shared by other countries not covered in the survey;
- Highlighting the role of businesses and identifying the measures to be taken to improve their environmental performance and contribution to the green economy.

87. The Expert Group Meeting discussions were conducted in two sessions during which six presentations were shared in plenary with participants. The first session focused on visions and public policies for an inclusive green economy and briefly described the major outcomes of green economy analyses conducted in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. The second session was thematically focused on the role of industry in developing the green economy in North Africa. The conduct of the ensuing proceedings took the form of two parallel workshops (i) industrial policies within the context of the green economy and (ii) removing the obstacles to business competitiveness and innovation. The work of both working groups was reported back to the plenary.

88. Following these discussions, the Committee endorsed the recommendations proposed by the secretariat and formulated additional recommendations which will be annexed to the report on the Expert Group Meeting.

X. Regional and international agendas and other special initiatives (ECA-NA) (agenda item 8)

89. The secretariat recalled the purpose of the report on the implementation of regional and international development agendas and special initiatives in North Africa. The idea was to help the member States to keep track of progress made in global and regional commitment and to ensure that the priorities of the subregion were taken into account in international and regional negotiations. In this regard, the report provided an update of developments in 2014 concerning the major thrusts of the process of developing the post-2015 agenda, African consultations for Beijing+20, the outcome of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on ICPD+20, the negotiations on climate change and development, the Ninth African Development Forum (ADF IX), as well as the review of the 2014 (ICT 4 All programme) and the follow up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

- **Building the post-2015 development agenda**

90. The September 2015 regular session of the General Assembly will be a defining moment for world leaders in that they will be invited to adopt the post-2015 development agenda which is the culmination of one of the widest consultations ever conducted at the national, regional and global levels. This participatory process involved multiple stakeholders like governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia as well as development partners. The work done by the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals which was concluded in July 2014, after 17 months of preparatory negotiations, has resulted in an initial draft of 17 objectives covering 169 targets.

91. In cooperation with AUC and ADB, ECA organized on 21 and 22 August 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a forum bringing together various development actors on the continent, including universities, civil society organizations, government representatives, the media, the private sector, women and youth groups to debate and propose a framework of solid empowerment for the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda.

- **The Fourth Africa Regional Conference on Women (Beijing +20)**

92. Like other regional commissions and in line with its mandate, ECA has conducted a review of progress accomplished in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. In that context, the SRO for North Africa has kept track of national reviews as well as the drafting and submission of national reports from all the countries of the subregion. In the same vein, ECA-NA has also contributed to the review and validation of the regional assessment of the Arab countries on implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action prepared by ESCWA in October 2014.

93. The African review described progress made by member States including those from the North Africa subregion, regarding action they had taken in implementation of the Beijing Platform for action within the specific contexts of the 12 critical areas. The continental report was considered and validated at the Fourth Africa Regional Conference on Women (Beijing+20) in November 2014.

- **Outcomes of the Special Session of the General Assembly on ICPD+20**

94. The 47th session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development held from 7 to 11 April 2014 and the 69th Special Session of the General Assembly held on 22 September 2014, both in New York, considered the global review report beyond 2014 of ICPD. Following its deliberations, the Commission adopted a resolution which recognized the significant progress made on the essential issues relating to population and development over the past two decades and which urged member states, at the same time to make additional efforts to combat poverty and to achieve fundamental rights and freedoms without any distinction whatsoever in order to enable their people to participate fully in society and to benefit from social, economic and technological progress.

- **Climate Change Negotiations**

a) Outcomes of the Summit on Climate and Development

95. The 2014 World Summit on Climate Change held on 23 September in New York at United Nations headquarters paved the way for the conclusion of a global agreement on climate change on the occasion of the Paris Conference which will be held in 2015. During that summit, participants discussed the need for a sustainable development model based on minimal carbon dioxide (CO₂) use, to minimize the adverse effects on the environment and the climate.

b) Conference of the Parties (CoP20) held in Lima, Peru

96. The 20th session of the Conference of the Parties held from 1 to 12 December in Lima, Peru, made it possible, after marathon negotiations, to adopt a final document calling on participating countries to present in March 2015 their own national commitment plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These national plans will be compiled in a report to be drawn up no later than 1 November 2015. The national plan must include commitments regarding the base year, the commitment period, the action plan, the sectors concerned and the methodology at the global level, these commitments should lead to a 40 to 70% reduction in emissions by 2050.

c) The Fourth African Conference on Climate Change and Development (ACCD4)

97. The fourth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa was held from 8 to 10 October 2014 in Marrakesh, Morocco, in the framework of the African Development Bank's Climate for Development in Africa initiative (ClimaDev-Africa). The Conference was an opportunity to engage in in-depth reflection on Africa's means and resources, with a view to seizing the opportunities offered by climate change, ensuring sustainable food production and providing African people with better livelihoods. The theme of the Conference was "*Africa can feed Africa now: Translating Climate Knowledge into Action*".

98. The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP21), to be held in Paris in December 2015, will be a crucial juncture because it must lead to the adoption of the first universal and binding climate agreement to make carbon dioxide emissions 40 to 70 percent lower by 2050, in order to maintain the global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius. The COP22, to be hosted by Morocco in 2016, will be an opportunity for the region's countries in particular, and for Africa as a whole, to shed light on their vulnerability to climate and on their efforts to participate to the international effort for the fight against greenhouse gas emissions.

- **The Ninth African Development Forum (ADF IX)**

99. The ninth edition of ADF, held for the first time away from ECA headquarters from 12 to 16 October 2014 in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco in North Africa on the theme "*Innovative Financing for Africa's Transformation*" was organized jointly with the Government of Morocco, under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Forum stressed the crucial role of financing in implementing a structural transformation programme based on development initiatives inspired by Africans and focused on African countries.

100. The Forum offered a platform for sharing, analyzing and disseminating information on issues pertaining to innovative financing mechanisms under four thematic topics: (i) domestic resource mobilization; (ii) illicit financial flows; (iii) private equity; (iv) new forms of partnerships.

101. The four thematic areas of the Forum made it possible to discuss how best to use innovative financing sources to achieve economic transformation, which should be underpinned by industrialization and inclusive growth, with a view to generating employment, improving socioeconomic conditions and financing climate change adaptation initiatives.

102. ADF9 forms part of the preparation of the Third United Nations International Conference on Development Financing scheduled to be held from 13 to 15 July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- **ICT 4 All and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**

103. Since 2006, Tunisia has been organizing an annual meeting of the ICT 4 All forum to monitor the commitments made during the World Summit on the Information Society. The forum is intended to reduce the digital divide between North and South, and to guarantee the conditions needed so that everyone can exercise their right to access the Internet, through more effective harnessing of information and communications technology. The 2014 forum, the theme of which was “Digital economy and e-government towards new digital opportunities” addressed two major themes: (i) digital economy; current status and future prospects in developing countries; and (ii) e-government: a catalyst for a modern, open, interactive and citizen-oriented government.

104. Participants agreed on the need for countries which wished to launch e-government to use the trending new technologies such as Big Data, Cloud, unified infrastructure and social networks.

105. The last issue discussed focused on the outcome of the WSIS held in Geneva in June 2014 and its recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda, highlighting:

- Strengthening the role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of information and communications technology for development ;
- Developing information and communications infrastructure to facilitate access to information and communications technology.

106. The Committee commended ECA-NA for reporting to member States on developments in regional and global negotiations regarding the definition of regional and international agendas and called on international organizations to institute programs for building the capacity of national negotiators the better to take into account national priorities and specificities, particularly on issues having to do with poverty, youth unemployment, gender and the elderly.

107. The Committee recalled the causal links between poverty, social exclusion and rising extremism which had led to the deterioration of global peace and security. International cooperation must urgently be promoted to address those challenges. In this regard, the Committee emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation as a coordination mechanism that African countries must increasingly use to address development problems including those relating to security.

108. While recalling the principle of shared responsibility in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, the Committee emphasized the need to follow-up and evaluate on a voluntary and national basis what could be learned from a global sharing of experiences and best practices.

109. The Committee stressed the need to promote the active participation of women in all forums of international negotiations.

110. The Committee also welcomed the timeliness for Africa as a whole the organization in Morocco of CoP22 in 2016 as a way of highlighting and defending Africa's climate change priorities.

111. At the conclusion of its discussions the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the secretariat, adding the amendments compiled in the Annex.

XI. Review of SRO-NA programme activities for 2015: statutory issues (*agenda item 9*)

112. The secretariat presented the review of the activities of the North Africa office for the period March 2014 to February 2015 singling out such work as studies and publications, meetings of experts, advisory services, workshops and seminars.

113. Both the activities conducted and those planned fall within the context of ECA Subprogram 7 entitled "Supporting Subregional Activities for Development" and the strategic framework focusing on enhanced technical backstopping of member States and regional economic communities with a view to building their capacity for regional integration, particularly in areas of priority interest to the North African subregion. The SRO-NA thus continued to assist AMU through the formulation and implementation of a new multi-year cooperation programme as well as other internationally agreed programmes including the MDGs. Particular emphasis was also laid on the mobilization of subregional actors to give coordinated support to regional integration in North Africa through the subregional coordinating mechanism.

114. The implementation strategy comprised capacity building activities through technical assistance services, training workshops and studies on policies pursued to address the specific development challenges facing North Africa, with particular emphasis on advocacy for regional integration.

115. The major thematic areas in which ECA-NA worked during the period under review included North African participation in global value chains, the promotion of subregional value chains, transport and trade facilitation, the green economy and the promotion of green growth in North Africa, the compilation of country profiles. SRO-NA responded to several requests from member States and facilitated their participation, along with AMU, in the preparation of several international events. The Office also expanded its partnerships with a view to enhancing synergy among other actors operating in the subregion.

116. The secretariat then described activities coming at the close of the 2014-2015 biennium before briefing participants on the proposed strategic orientation programme for 2016-2017. The main themes to be addressed will focus on conducting analyses over the coming biennium on balanced and inclusive regional development, regional integration and structural transformation, youth employment and sustainable development. Those analyses will further the efforts being made to improve the quality and quantity of country profiles.

117. The secretariat informed participants that the Office will be pursuing, with the support of its partners, the operationalization of the subregional coordinating mechanism which should play a significant role in speeding up the process of continental integration against the backdrop of the imminent launching of negotiations to establish the Continental Free Trade Area.

118. The secretariat thanked member States for their cooperation in filling out the data collection questionnaires, stressing the importance of the data received, which helped to improve the quality of the report on economic and social conditions. The secretariat encouraged member States to continue with the efforts they were making to provide ECA-NA with relevant information, particularly at the sectoral level so as to enable the implementation of the remainder of the work programme for 2014-2015 and for the coming biennia. It requested member States to support ECA, in particular the African Centre for Statistics in its effort to forge partnerships with national statistical offices, central banks and research centres. Participants were invited (i) to conduct a mid-term assessment of the implementation of the 2014-2015 work programme; and (ii) to adopt the proposed work programme for the 2016-2017 biennium.

119. In addition, the Secretariat gave a brief presentation of the ECA general objective and of the framework adopted for their achievement. In this regard, the new ECA framework of action that divides the ECA action into two pillars (research on policies and dissemination of knowledge) was mentioned. The main purpose of the nine sub-programmes was briefly described and some main activities of the Commission were presented, in particular: the 7th joint annual session of the Commission held in Abuja, Nigeria from 25 to 30 March 2014 on the theme "Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa"; the IXth African Development Forum (ADF IX) held in Marrakech, October 2014 on the theme "Innovative financing for Africa's transformation"; the fourth annual conference on climate change and development in Africa (CCDA IV); the IXth regional conference on women for the review of the Beijing+20, held in Addis-Ababa in November 2014, and 24 workshops for capacity building organized by the IDEP in favor of 521 public officers from the African countries.

120. The Secretariat introduced other statutory businesses and issues on performance management, including the strategic framework, programme budget, annual business plan, annual report of activities, assessment policy and quality assurance policy, performance dashboard which will help assess the operational efficiency, the influence and credibility of the ECA.

121. The Committee took note of the activity report for 2014 and the programme objectives for 2015, commending the secretariat for the quality and relevance of activities conducted and the efforts made to respond to the needs of member States.

122. The Committee took note of the work programme submitted and noted with interest ECA's decision to invest further in the collection and generation of quality data in the subregion as tools for analysis and decision-making on issues of interest to the States.

123. The Committee encouraged the ECA to enable a wider dissemination and awareness raising about the capacity building programme, so as the country members benefit from it in a more relevant and efficient manner.

124. The Committee supported ECA's idea of forging a partnership with national statistical institutes with a view to securing real-time data. Implementing this initiative should help the ECA African Statistics Centre to receive in real-time quality statistics for future activities, particularly in 2016 and 2017.

125. At the conclusion of its discussions, the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the secretariat, adding the amendments compiled in the Annex.

XII. Consideration and adoption of the EGM recommendations (*agenda item 10*)

126. The recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Industry in Developing a Green Economy in North Africa were submitted to the Committee which amended and subsequently adopted them as reproduced in the Annex to this report.

XIII. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations of the ICE report (*agenda item 11*)

127. The Committee considered and adopted the recommendations of its 30th meeting as reproduced in the Annex to this report.

128. Subsequently, the Committee adopted the present report, which contains the amendments it had introduced during its consideration, and requested the secretariat to transmit them to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

XIV. Date and venue of the next ice meeting (*agenda item 12*)

129. It was agreed that the XXXIst Meeting of the ICE should be held before the 2016 Conference of Ministers. The Sudanese delegation expressed the wish to host the next meeting. It has promised to contact the Secretariat later on, after consultation with its government and its approval. Subject to such confirmation and unless any other member State informs the Secretariat of its wish to host the XXXIst ICE meeting, it will be held at the headquarter of the Office in Rabat (Morocco).

XV. Any other business (*agenda item 13*)

130. The Moroccan delegation presented a communication to the Committee. The Head of this delegation commended the ECA Office for North Africa for the quality of the documents presented, as well as the participants for the quality of the discussion.

131. The Committee took stock of the Moroccan communication and invited all delegations and participants to pay tribute to the courage of the Maghreb Women in their fight toward the acknowledgment of their rights. The Committee invited the ECA and all UN and international organizations to support the African women in their fight against poverty and insecurity.

XVI. Closing of the meeting (*agenda item 14*)

132. The XXXth meeting of the ICE addressed a Vote of Thanks to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Government and people of Morocco. The Vote of Thanks is reproduced in the annex.

133. The Chairperson of the ICE Bureau thanked the ECA Office for North Africa, more particularly, Mrs Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, its Director, for the quality of the meeting documents and report. He stressed the need to undertake an efficient follow-up of the ICE decisions by all delegations and the ECA.

134. In her closing remarks, the Director expressed her appreciation for the quality of debate which had enabled the components of the ICE theme to be discussed in detail. She recalled that this debate took place in the context of the global deep transformations which the region is only witnessing the early impacts and which lead the ECA to pay a particular attention to green economy. She expressed the hope that in the next years, the green dimension –desired by the ECA and supported by the member States during the discussion- becomes an integral part of the States planning process.

135. She also thanked participants for the importance they had attached to the statutory issues brought to their attention. She stated that the meeting's report and recommendations will be transmitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers, as requested by the ICE. She thanked the delegates for allowing the other participants contribute to the debate, and reiterated the commitment of the Bureau to help participate all stakeholders to the discussion on the development and integration in North Africa.

136. She encouraged the country members to participate actively to the eight joint annual meeting of the ECA Conference of African ministers in charge of finance, planning and economic development and the African Union specialized technical committee in charge of finance, monetary affairs, economic planning and integration, to be held from 25 to 31 March 2015, in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. She recalled that this ministerial meeting will tackle in depth the themes discussed by the ICE meeting, such as the Development Agenda 2063, planning, mobilization and financing for development, regional integration, and the global negotiations on the post 2015 development programme. In the margin of the conference, side events will be held to discuss the said themes and present the tools and initiatives developed by the ECA to support the continental development and regional integration processes.

137. Finally, she thanked all participants for their quality contribution to the success of the ICE and its meeting. Her particular appreciation went to member States, civil society, the private sector, the ICE Bureau, various agencies, resource persons, ECA colleagues, ECA-NA staff, the language staff, meeting room attendants and logistics personnel.

ANNEX I:

Recommendations of the 30th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts

After its deliberations, the Committee formulated the following recommendations, requesting ECA-NA to transmit them to the Conference of Ministers.

At the conclusion of its discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations and requested SRO-NA to transmit them to the ECA Conference of Ministers:

Economic and Social Performance

Member States should:

1. Complement and update the missing statistics and significantly increase the response rates to various questionnaires ;
2. Institute the needed reforms in national subsidy schemes with a view to increasing the effectiveness of social transfers and the latitude for budgetary manoeuvring in order to speed up structural transformation ;
3. Encourage and facilitate the creation of banking mechanisms for SME and VSE financing, particularly within the context of public-private partnerships while enhancing bank incentives, in order to facilitate SME and VSE funding access and the capacity of banks to address the needs of the SME and small and medium- sized projects segment;
4. Pursue national financing systems reform in the subregion in order to attract investment from international investment banks ;
5. Speed up regional economic integration and promote the diversification of external trading partners through trade and investment facilitation and by taking advantage of the launching of continental free trade area (CFTA) negotiations

ECA should:

6. Include in the next survey of economic and social conditions in North Africa an analysis of country performance by quality of institutions, rule of law and modernization of financial systems and economic governance ;
7. Enhance the indicators by including those that can be used to measure financial sector and knowledge economy performance within the green economy;
8. Factor in, to the extent feasible, country specificities in the recommendations addressed to member States.
9. Beef up country capacities, more particularly of business transactors, to improve their access to the regional market and to take full advantage of the CFTA for economic and trading partner diversification.

Country Profiles

Member States should:

10. Furnish ECA, in good time, with the data and information needed to prepare the country profiles;

ECA should:

11. To the extent feasible, factor sustainable development (green economy) and climate risk indicators into the country profiles ;
12. Help member States to institute a sustainable arrangement for data transmission which makes for quality country profiles generated from harmonized data;
13. Take entrepreneurship development into account by working more with private sector stakeholders, the better to reflect entrepreneurship and the business climate in the indicators.

Regional integration

Member States should:

14. Assume ownership of and implement the subregional plans of action for transport and trade facilitation in North Africa ;
15. Facilitate the sharing among countries of information regarding national regulations governing capital mobility and work towards the harmonization of those regulations;
16. Engage fully in CFTA negotiations and, at the same time, take full advantage of the WTO multilateral trading system.

ECA should:

17. Improve and broaden the space for dialogue with private sector stakeholders the better to identify operational obstacles and to assist them in their regional trade and investment initiatives;
18. Deepen the encouraging findings of the ECA study on RVCs through sectoral analyses in order to fine-tune the identification of potential sectors ;
19. Assist member States to make full use of international technical assistance for building their trading capacity in order to help strengthen regional trade;
20. Promote greater channeling of aid-for-trade into RVCs and help monitor its review;
21. Assist AMU and the countries of North Africa in their participation in CFTA negotiations.

Implementation of Agenda 2063

Member States should:

22. Place the mobilization of domestic resources first in their national development finance strategies and promote, in that regard, the development of innovative financing mechanisms;

Regional, international agendas and other special initiatives

Member States should:

23. Strengthen the participation, particularly of women, in negotiating the post-2015 development agenda so that their priorities, capacities and cultural specificities of african countries are better taken into account.
24. Participate in the regional forum on sustainable development.

ECA should:

25. Continue to assist member States to coordinate their efforts by way of strengthening their common position in the drafting and implementation of regional and international agendas, with particular reference to the definition of MDG monitoring indicators, and keep them informed of progress made;
26. Promote the networking of focal points involved in international negotiations for the definition of global agendas with a view to enhancing their bargaining power and reflecting the priorities of the subregion.

Implementation of the work programme for 2014-2015 and the proposed work programme for 2016-2017

ECA should:

27. Persevere in the priority use of country data which may be more recent than those available in international organizations reports;
28. Reflect more in its work programme for the 2016-2017 bienneum, activities for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the Plan of Action to be adopted at CoP21;
29. Improve its assistance to member States as they mainstream gender in development policies, with particular reference to climate change negotiations.

Green economy

Member States should:

30. Take ownership of the findings and recommendations of the Meeting of Experts and to transmit them to the relevant national departments.

ANNEX II

Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting: *« Strategy for a sustainable green economy »*

Session I: Visions and public policies for an inclusive green economy

Member states should:

1. Consider phasing in environmental governance, including an incentive legal framework, adequate financing mechanisms and relevant monitoring indicators; and
2. Gradually incorporate in all the national development policies and strategies the green economy with larger consideration of sustainable development.

ECA should:

3. Broaden the scope of the study on vision and public policies for an inclusive green economy, to all countries of the region.
4. Deepen its analysis of the opportunities offered by the green economy, especially in terms of job creation, entrepreneurship and the improvement of industrial competitiveness.

Session 2: The role of industry in developing the green economy in north africa

Member states should:

5. Consider setting up a platform to facilitate the sharing of information and good practices and enable the forging of synergies among public and private stakeholders in the green economy and keep the platform updated;
6. Consider social and economic balancing in their strategy for implementing an inclusive green economy in the region.

Group 1: Industrial policies within the context of the green economy

Member states should:

7. Conduct a proactive reflection on industrial development which addresses national, economic, social and environmental imperatives and set green economy priorities and objectives;
8. Assist businesses to green their industry by highlighting the efficiency and profitability gains;
9. Create an encouraging environment to facilitate the access of industrialists to information, technical assistance and financing, particularly in the area of risk capital;
10. Sensitize non-state actors about the economic benefits of a pro-green economy industrial policy;
11. Identify strategic complementarities between green economy production and both national and regional consumption, while gradually adapting productive supply to trending consumption modes;

12. Facilitate the gradual integration of the informal industrial sector in a legal framework compliant with environmental regulations;
13. Promote the use of new technologies in the area of the green economy and their transfer through partnership arrangements among various national and international actors;
14. Promote exchanges and win-win partnerships between the public and private sectors and encourage the development of sustainable industrial zones;
15. Promote training, higher education and scientific research in the area of the green economy, while encouraging regular exchanges between businesses and academia;
16. Establish a logical and conceptual framework for defining follow-up and evaluation of public green economy policies and programmes.

ECA SHOULD:

17. Conduct a proactive reflection on industrial development which addresses regional, economic, social and environmental imperatives and set green economy priorities and objectives.

Group 2: REMOVING THE OBSTACLES TO BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

MEMBER STATES SHOULD:

18. Update their legal and institutional framework with particular reference to national and regional nomenclatures for protecting innovation property and improving government proactivity vis-à-vis business proposals;
19. Establish and pursue strategies that look out for ways to support green innovation;
20. Involve business in the design and implementation of innovative policies for green growth and develop an information technology infrastructure for the development of eco-innovation;
21. Improve access to innovation and green technologies within the context of South-South technology transfers;
22. Improve the skills of financial institutions in risk assessment relative to project gains through, among other things, broader cooperation among loan departments, insurance providers and industrialists;
23. Sensitize SME staff and develop their capacity to manage green innovation;
24. Improve the system for protecting green innovation (registration, valorization) and make it more operational;
25. Improve public-private dialogue in order to secure better knowledge of the law and guarantee the conditions for effective enforcement;
26. Forge synergies among universities, research centres and businesses in order to customize the training available to the needs of industrialists and the private sector and keep abreast of technological change;

27. Create prizes for green innovation in order to stimulate entrepreneurship and creativity in industrial and academic circles;
28. Encourage mobility among researchers, more particularly, young researchers, through regional cooperation programmes;
29. Strengthen the nurturing of young business innovators by supporting the creation of business incubators and technology parks and encourage innovative young enterprises to join professional organizations from their inception;
30. Network the platforms for sharing existing information and expertise at the national and regional levels on eco-innovation and promote the sharing of knowledge at national, regional and international levels;
31. Formulate national action plans for promoting innovation and creating data banks on opportunities for regional eco-investment;
32. Institute programmes for promoting the green economy, targeting consumers and using business publicity spots as support.

ECA SHOULD:

33. Assist member States in formulating a regional Plan of Action for the promotion of green innovation;
34. Networking the information sharing platforms and existing expertise at national and regional levels in terms of eco-innovation and promote knowledge sharing at the national, regional and international;
35. Facilitate the creation of a North African network for the promotion of the green economy.

ANNEX III: Agenda

1. Opening ceremony
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work
4. Economic and social conditions in North Africa
 - 4.1 Economic and social report 2014 - 2015
 - 4.2 Country profiles
5. Special Session on Regional Integration *"Trade for Industrialization in North Africa"*
 - Presentation of the Economic Report on Africa (ERA 2015)
 - Transport and trade facilitation in North Africa
 - Development of regional value chains to accelerate the diversification of North African economies
6. Special session on the implementation of the 2063 Agenda : *"Planning, mobilizing and financing for development funding"*
7. Round table/ Expert Group Meeting : *"Strategy for a sustainable green economy"*
8. Regional and International Agendas and other special initiatives
9. Statutory issues
 - Report on the activities of the Sub-regional Office (March 2014 – February 2015)
 - Draft Work Programme and priorities for 2016-2017
 - Report on ECA activities
10. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations of the EGM "Strategy for a sustainable green economy"
11. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations and of the ICE report
12. Date and venue of the next ICE meeting
13. Any other business
14. Closing of the meeting

ANNEX IV

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رسالة شكر وامتنان مرفوعة إلى حضرة صاحب الجلالة الملك محمد السادس

نحن المشاركون في أشغال الدورة الثلاثين للجنة الخبراء الحكومية الدولية لمكتب شمال أفريقيا التابع للجنة الأمم المتحدة الاقتصادية لأفريقيا، المنعقدة في الرباط، في الفترة ما بين 3 و 6 آذار/مارس 2015، وعلى إثر انتهاء أشغال هذا الاجتماع، نرفع إلى مقامكم العالي عبارات الشكر والامتنان على الحفاوة التي أحاطتنا بها المملكة المغربية بمناسبة هذا اللقاء.

ويشرفنا أن ننهي إلى علم جلالتم أن هذا الاجتماع ناقش الأحوال الاقتصادية والاجتماعية التي سادت في المنطقة خلال سنة 2014. وفي هذا الصدد تطرق الاجتماع لتطورات البيئة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية كما تناول حصيلة إنجاز برنامج عمل المكتب سنة 2014 ومخطط عمله لسنة 2015 ومشروع برنامج العمل للفترة 2016-2017.

وتمحور الاجتماع حول موضوع: "تنفيذ جدول أعمال 2063 قصد التخطيط وتعبئة الأموال من أجل التنمية الشاملة"، بعد انتهاء مرحلة الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية سنة 2015.

وتطرقت الدورة هذه السنة في شكل اجتماع الخبراء المخصص إلى دور الصناعة في تنمية الاقتصاد الأخضر وإنعاشه ودراسة كافة أبعاده قصد تنويع اقتصادات بلدان شمال أفريقيا من أجل إحداث مزايا تنافسية جديدة وتحديد رؤية مشتركة طموحة وطويلة الأمد قصد تحقيق التنمية المستدامة الشاملة في المنطقة.

وقد أصدر الاجتماع توصيات عملية هامة ترمي إلى التصدي إلى كافة التحديات داخل المنطقة بما فيها ظروف الانتقال السياسي والمؤسساتي الراهنة، وكذلك دعم نمو مدرّ للمزيد من فرص العمل والازدهار الاقتصادي والاجتماعي، والحد من جميع أشكال التفاوتات، والتقليص من وقع الصدمات الخارجية، والتكيف مع تغير المناخ، وتعزيز التكامل الإقليمي.

وإذ نعبر لجلالتكم عن شكرنا وامتناننا على العناية الفائقة التي أحاطتنا بها الحكومة المغربية والتي ما فتئت تشمل بها مكتب شمال أفريقيا التابع للجنة الأمم المتحدة الاقتصادية لأفريقيا، فإننا ندعو الله عز وجل أن يحفظكم ويرعاكم ويسدد خطاكم ويجعلكم ذخرا لبلدكم المضيف بمزيد من التقدم والازدهار تحت رعاية جلالتم السامية.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته.

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