

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Office for North Africa

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Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Intergovernmental

Committee of Experts (ICE)

Rabat (Morocco)

26th February –1st March 2013

**Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Intergovernmental**

**Committee of Experts (ICE)**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

After deliberations, the Committee made the following recommendations and requested the Office to forward them to the Conference of Ministers:

**Strengthening the statistical system and improving the quality and relevance of the data**

**To member states**

1. To Strengthen the statistical system for the production of data, that are more reliable, regularly updated on a regular basis and where relevant, geo-referenced and disaggregated by sex and age, in order to get more information that is more detailed of better quality, more consistent with national development objectives.
2. To ensure greater decentralization of the data collection mechanisms and to promote the use of ICTs for their collection, processing and dissemination.
3. To ensure the timely availability of national data for the needs of ECA reports and publications and in particular for the development of country profiles.

***To ECA***

1. To support member states to strengthen their statistical system.
2. To encourage the use of ICTs or the data collection, processing and dissemination

**Economic and social performance**

***To Member States***

1. To revise the development paradigms and models in order to achieve a growth that is sustainable, inclusive and job creating and taking into account the people’s needs;
2. To encourage, where appropriate, a quick exit of the current political transitions through the adoption of national consensus on societal projects and the restoration of an attractive environment for the investors;
3. To secure funding for the implementation of major transport infrastructure in particular for opening Regional and increased local production;
4. To strengthen development strategies for renewable energy and agricultural productivity, to reduce dependence on imported energy and food products;
5. To strengthen the investment promotion in rural and inland areas in particular through special tax regimes;
6. To reform social protection systems, including subsidy mechanisms for more equity and efficiency, taking into account present and future challenges posed in particular by demographic changes
7. To continue paying special attention to gender issues and the reduction of gender based inequalities in all of economic and social development policies
8. To further explore the human resource capital of the region and in particular the female labor force to a greater contribution to development potential it represents.

***To ECA***

1. To update the country data used in the report based on the updates they would provide ECA with.
2. To include to the report country based analysis of the impacts of the crisis and the mechanisms put in place to mitigate them.
3. To continue organizing forums for discussion and knowledge sharing at the regional level to accelerate the formulation and implementation of sustainable development policies.

**The MDGs and the post-2015 agenda**

***To member states***

1. To continue the efforts to maximize the achievement of the MDGs before 2015 and mobilize the appropriate domestic and international resources to do so;
2. To undertake a qualitative assessment of the results achieved;
3. To integrate a country specific analysis to improve the process of planning, implementation and evaluation of the MDGs and reduce all forms of inequality such as those related to income, geographical space, gender and age;
4. To sensitize member states to take into account, in the context of the of the post 2015development agenda and the ICPD +20 review processes, the problem of demographic change (including issues of youth, aging) and its consequences in terms of social protection in development policy;
5. To deeply and participatorily examine the experiences and lessons learnt from the achievement of the MDGs in order to enrich the debate on the post-2015development agenda;
6. To strengthen the human rights approach so that development policies would be people centered with special emphasis on youth and women;

***To ECA***

1. To support member states in setting priorities for the post-2015 development agenda.

**Diversification and sophistication of the Economies**

***To Member States***

1. To endorse the outcome and the recommendations of the expert group meeting and forward them to the relevant national departments.

**To ECA**

1. To forward the outcome and the recommendations of the expert group meeting to the Conference of Ministers for final approval.

**Regional Integration**

***To Member States***

1. To adopt and implement a comprehensive program for the promotion of intra-regional trade, including the rapid operationalization of a free-trade area, trade facilitation and free movement of people and the improvement of the business environment. The tools of this FTA, however, must be determined in order to transcend the objective limits of existing bilateral and regional agreements;
2. To promote greater trade openness - a community approach, with the rest of Africa sub regions, given the growth momentum observed on the Continent for the last decade and the steady rise in the indices of complementarily with the rest of Africa;
3. To Strengthen the capacity of national administrations and the UMA Secretariat in view to improve the performance of the Member States in term of trade facilitation;
4. To create a directory of North African private companies and to provide the economic operators with documents and information on procedures and rules in force in the Member States;
5. To ratify and implement international conventions relating to transit transport and other areas of trade facilitation, including the TIR Convention.

***To ECA***

1. To continue the implementation of the MYP with AMU and other special initiatives taken in order to facilitate trade;
2. To Support AMU for the revival of regional integration process for the effective implementation of the free trade area.

**International and regional agendas**

***To Member States***

1. To continue to work for the implementation of various regional and international agenda, taking into account the specificities and priorities of the sub region;
2. To strengthen dialogue between Member States for the formulation of sub regional position to feed discussions at continental level;
3. To strengthen institutional coordination and cooperation for balanced consideration of the three pillars of sustainable development;
4. To contribute at national, sub-regional and regional level to the analysis of implementation of WSIS as well as to the development of post 2015 perspectives and to produce the necessary statistical data on ICT;
5. To prepare national assessments as part of the review process for ICPD +20 and Beijing +20.

**Programme of work 2014-2015**

***To ECA***

1. To forward the 2014-2015 draft Work Programme to the Conference of Ministers for final approval.