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| **ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF ECA Office in North Africa 2016 (covering the period April 2016 to March 2017)** |

**Production of Country Profiles**

The SRO-NA produced the CP for three countries (Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia) in addition to the other four produced from June 2015 to March 2016. The production of CPs involved many activities such as (i) conducting missions to countries to strengthen partnerships with national institutions such as the Economic Affairs, Finance and Development Departments and the National Statistics Institute, (ii) data collection from primary sources and (iii) identification of existing needs for capacity development to improve the availability, quality and analysis of statistical data.

**Capacity development activities and technical & advisory services**

In line with ECA’s mandate, the SRO-NA contributed to the organization of the [**3rd African Think Tank Conference**](http://www.ocppc.ma/events/conferences/africa-think-tank-conference-2016) in Marrakesh, in May 2016 in partnership with the [OCP Policy Center](http://www.ocppc.ma/) and the University of Pennsylvania [TTCSP Programme](http://www.gotothinktank.com/) under the theme: “Building a Sustainable and Secure Future for the People and Institutions of Africa”. More than 120 experts from 85 African and global think tanks and institutions took part. ECA Country Profiles disseminated at this event. The main idea proposed during the conference is to set financing mechanism to assist African Governments in making the most informed decisions possible, by providing decision-makers with robust, reliable and independent research evidence coming from African think tanks.

ACS and SRO-NA assisted the Tunisian National Statistics to introduce the Use of **mobile technologies** for data collection and dissemination in the framework of a development account in collaboration with ACS. The national Institute has started collecting data using Android tablets to facilitate the monthly calculation of the price index. With ECA support, it has also launched a mobile application for the data dissemination from the 2014 census. This project allowed Tunisia to significantly improve its global open data ranking (14th out of 125 countries on the 2015 index). Technical measures were also taken in preparation for the launch of the first employment survey using mobile technologies in Tunisia.

SRO-NA provided support to UME in organizing national (Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco) and regional round tables to increase private sector awareness on climate change challenges and opportunities as well as on trends in climate finance opportunities, particularly in the context of implementing the National Determined Contributions (NDCs). The recommendations of the national round tables were discussed during the regional meeting that resulted in the adoption of the UME Declaration. This Declaration was presented and officially signed by the four national business organizations at COP 22 during a press conference held on 16 December.

**Knowledge generation and information sharing**

SRO-NA developed in-depth research on several areas such as : (i) Access to funding for rural women’s empowerment, which was a comparative analysis of good practices and lessons learned on microfinance, covering Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia; (ii) Migrants remittances in many North African countries and their impact on development, (iii) Territorial approach of industrial policy and inclusive growth within the context of structural transformation.

These research areas were requested by member States, in particular during the ICE meetings; The main findings were also shared and discussed during Expert Group Meetings attended by high level experts coming from international and national institutions.

SRO-NA has presented the report on ERA 2016 to the “Conseil economique social et environnemental” of Morocco (juin 2016)

ECA-NA has participated as well in several national and regional events, where the knowledge generation products prepared by our office, were shared with participants:

* Tangiers, 20 April: ECA presentation on **“Regional Integration and Industrial Policy Tools”** at a conference organized by the National Trade and Management School of Tangiers (ENCG) under the theme “Africa should trust Africa”.
* Beni Mellal (Morocco), 27-28 May: ECA participation in the Sultan Moulay Slimane’s University colloquium on “Innovation for Sustainable Development in Africa” and the International Business Forum Africa 2016. The ECA presentation focused on **“Industrialization through trade in a sustainable development context”**. ECA Country profiles and ERA 2016 report were disseminated at the event.
* Casablanca 30 May-June 1st : ECA participation in an international [ICDT](http://icdt-oic.org/fr/) seminar on the post-Nairobi WTO Trade facilitation agreement and the OIC Single WindowInitiative for Arab and African Countries. ECA presentation focused on the issue **« A proposed action plan for trade facilitation in North Africa ».**
* Cairo, 17 May: North Africa and continental CP Dissemination at **the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD)** organised by the ECA in partnership with UNDP, AfDB, UN DESA, UNDFPA and the Egyptian government under the theme : “Ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063”.
* Rabat, 24 May: Research Seminar on **“External equilibriums, competitiveness and the structural transformation process of the Moroccan economy**” organized by the OCP Policy Center, in partnership with the ECA and the Mohamed V University. As part of the event’s scientific committee, ECA-NA took part in the paper selection process and made a presentation. ECA-NA also supervised research on the impact of FDI and institutions on growth.
* Oran (Algeria), 1st June: **Launch of the ERA 2016 Report** at the Ahmed Ben Ahmed University (Oran2). The ECA’s ERA reports 2010 to 2016 and the country profiles were widely disseminated at this event.
* Rabat, June 2016 : Knowledge management structure finalised, with the set up of an exchange platform for communities of practice (125 members) ; an IT management system for ECA-NA publications (1000 references from 2004 to 2016) ; an IT management system for the office’s working documents (600 references from 2004 to 2016), a collaborative work platform and the set up of a library at the ECA-NA office (800 references).
* Tunis (Tunisia), 24-26 October: ECA presentation on **“Promoting regional value chains in North Africa”** at the workshop on “Post-Nairobi WTO Agenda” and the implications of its results on regional trade integration efforts in the Arab countries, organized by Islamic Development Bank.
* Rabat (Morocco)-10 May 2016: Presentation on SDGs and climate change at an event organized by IRES on the theme: SDGs: Quelle concrétisation à l’aune des défis du changement climatique?
* Algiers (Algeria), 3-5 December 2016: participation to the African Forum organized in Algiers in a panel discussing exports diversification.
* **Tunis, November 24-25, Expert Group Meeting « territorialisation de la politique industrielle et croissance inclusive » : the opening of the EGM was done by the Minister of Industry of Tunisia, and the UN resident coordinator.** A study has been produced by ECA-NA and presented at the EGM for discussion. The objective of the study was to make an assessment of industrial policy territorialization in North Africa, with a focus on Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. Recommendations have been proposed and discussed during the meeting, and approved by the experts of member states.

**Consensus building activities**

* **Africa’s participation to the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22), Marrakech, 7-18 November:**

SRO-NA supported the preparatory activities to ensure an effective participation of the African member States to the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22), which took place in Marrakech, from 7 to 18 November 2016 by organizing, in partnership with AfDB-Morocco and the COP22 Steering committee, several meetings with African Ambassadors based in Rabat, Morocco to inform and build consensus for the continent. African countries, high-level members of the COP22 steering committee, the local UN system and the main local business association took part in the meeting. Participants called for African NGOs and Business associations to have strong presence at COP22, and to coordinate their participation.

SRO-NA supported as well the host country for the organisation of the African pavilion, within the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22), which gathered about 15,000 participants and 1,000 journalists.

* **Annual meeting of the Sub regional coordination mechanism**

SRCM annual meeting held in Rabat contribute to identify the priority fields of cooperation for the period 2017-2018, within the comprehension of the sociopolitical mutations occurred in North Africa and in the context of the SDG implementation at the sub-regional level.