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Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda*

Statutory issues: proposed programme plan and budget for 2026

Proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024: summary, and proposed programme budget for 2026**

I. Proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024: summary

A. Introduction

1. Africa has continued to suffer from recurring geopolitical and socioeconomic challenges, which have amplified its vulnerability to global and regional shocks and curbed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. The proposed programme for 2026 is intended to provide members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), regional economic communities and other stakeholders with tailor-made support to enable them to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063 through adequate policies, frameworks, training and capacity development. Principles of joint planning and delivery among and between subprogrammes will continue to guide the interventions of ECA with a view to maximizing human and financial resources in the context of its spending review and emphasizing impact and positive change at all levels.

B. Overall orientation

1. Mandate

2. ECA is responsible for promoting the economic and social development of its members, fostering intraregional integration and promoting international cooperation for the development of Africa. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions and Economic and Social Council resolution 671 A (XXV). ECA works to build the capacity of its members to formulate and implement policies for sustainable

* E/ECA/COE/43/1.

** The present document is a summary of the proposed programme plan for 2026, the programme performance for 2024 and the proposed programme budget for 2026 of the Economic Commission for Africa, the full texts of which are under review by the Programme Planning and Budget Division.



development, including through the implementation of the regular programme of technical cooperation and Development Account projects.

2. Strategy and external factors for 2026

3. In January 2025, ECA embarked on the implementation of its realigned programme of work with a view to making the support provided by ECA to its members more streamlined in response to emerging priorities and challenges related to the timely and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063. Within its existing mandate, and in line with the actions called for in the Pact for the Future,¹ including the Global Digital Compact, ECA decided to focus its interventions more closely on the promotion and development of technology, artificial intelligence and digital cooperation, sustainable regional value chains for enhanced economic diversification, and the continued mainstreaming of social dimensions.

4. In 2026, ECA will concentrate on the following five strategic directions:

(a) Deploying knowledge to support policymaking in order to drive the development agenda of Africa and foster infrastructure development, including in the areas of energy; technology, innovation and connectivity; and climate action and food security;

(b) Formulating policy options, including macroeconomic policies, to accelerate sustainable industrialization and economic diversification;

(c) Enhancing the mainstreaming of data and statistics and designing and implementing financing models and leveraging them for the development of human, physical and social infrastructure assets;

(d) Supporting deeper regional integration and the development of regional public goods, with a focus on social inclusion and taking into consideration synergies among the economic and social development programmes of Africa;

(e) Advocating a common position for Africa at the global level and developing regional responses as a contribution to global governance issues.

5. In pursuing the strategic directions, ECA will endeavour to meet targets set under the action plan for the United Nations 2.0,² advocating institutional transformation through renewed skills, processes and culture change for stronger impacts and adapting to new challenges and opportunities. ECA will promote its convening function through the provision of multilateral and multi-stakeholder platforms; its think tank function, by conducting interdisciplinary research on and analysis of fundamental challenges facing its members and Africa as a whole, while promoting peer learning and development; and its operational function, through the provision of tailor-made policy and technical advice to its members, including in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, following the established standard operating procedure of ECA for collaboration with the resident coordinator system.

6. ECA will continue to integrate a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate, by promoting further alignment and coherence among global, regional and national frameworks on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In addition, ECA will continue to implement the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.

¹ General Assembly resolution 79/1.

² United Nations, "UN 2.0 action plan" (New York, 2024).

3. Performance in 2024: a snapshot by subprogramme

7. In the light of continental socioeconomic challenges, and guided by its medium-term programme framework (2022–2025),³ ECA was focused on the following areas: (a) macroeconomic policies and development financing; (b) regional integration, economic diversification and industrialization; (c) infrastructure development, including energy; (d) technology, innovation and connectivity; and (e) climate action and food security. Furthermore, the cross-cutting themes of data and statistics and social dimensions were relevant to its work. ECA has promoted digital transformation, supported the modernization of statistical systems and the use of innovative statistical tools and enhanced the capacity of Governments in such areas as public sector management, development planning and risk management. In addition, it played a pivotal role in preparations across Africa for the Summit of the Future, which was held in New York in September 2024, and facilitated the deliberations on the African Youth Declaration on the Summit of the Future.

8. In 2024, subprogramme 1, on macroeconomic policy and governance, contributed to the formulation of a common African position on financing for development, focusing on the reform of the global financial architecture, including sustainable debt management, in preparation for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, which is scheduled to be held in June and July 2025. Subprogramme 2, on regional integration and trade, supported, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the production of green supplements as annexes to 14 national strategies for the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, aiming to develop green value chains for exports to African markets, fostering climate change adaptation and green growth transitions.

9. Subprogramme 3, on private sector development and finance, maintained efforts to promote a common African position on digital transformation through the elaboration and adoption at the African World Summit on the Information Society annual review workshop, held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in October 2024, of a declaration outlining the strategic priorities of the continent concerning digital public infrastructure, harmonization of cross-border data policies and inclusive artificial intelligence. Subprogramme 4, on data and statistics, continued to support countries in developing platforms that were compliant with Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange and in configuring their national platforms developed on the basis of the Open Sustainable Development Goal Data Hub for monitoring and reporting at all levels.

10. Subprogramme 5, on technology, climate change and natural resources management, raised awareness among and provided capacity-building to the African Group of Negotiators on climate change in relation to the decision related to article 6 of the Paris Agreement on international carbon markets, including policies and regulatory frameworks, made at the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Subprogramme 6, on gender equality and women's empowerment, undertook a regional review of 30 years of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through comprehensive national reviews, leading to a report on progress made in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

11. Subprogramme 7, component 1, on subregional activities in North Africa, provided support to middle-income countries aspiring to become upper-middle-income countries on addressing relevant development challenges. Component 2, on subregional activities in West Africa, strengthened capacities of several members of ECA for budgeting with the demographic dividend in

³ E/ECA/COE/40/INF/1.

mind, resulting in three countries integrating issues related to the demographic dividend into their 2025 budget programming documents. Component 3, on subregional activities in Central Africa, supported the design of a community of practice for sharing experience in relation to the development and implementation of national industrialization and economic diversification master plans and worked with the Commission of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community to advance economic diversification in the subregion. Component 4, on subregional activities in East Africa, enabled the development and launch of the sustainable tourism master plan (2024–2034) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which is aimed at strengthening the position of the Authority in the global tourism market and at regional integration. Component 5, on subregional activities in Southern Africa, provided technical support and advisory services to members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in relation to the design and deployment of the online portal for SADC national planning entities, which is intended to foster stakeholder cooperation on integrated development planning and enhance peer-to-peer collaboration, learning, knowledge-sharing and networking.

12. Subprogramme 8, on economic development and planning, supported several members of ECA in developing national capacity-building policies to enhance trade within the framework of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and focusing on the creation of enabling environments for small and medium-sized enterprises. Subprogramme 9, on poverty, inequality and social policy, conducted the second regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

C. Programme of work

1. Subprogramme 1: Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance⁴

13. To achieve structural transformation and inclusive growth in Africa through strengthened and effective development planning, macroeconomic policy analysis, enhanced economic governance and management, and innovative public and private sector financing, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Support members of ECA on matters related to macroeconomic policy, economic governance and development planning;

(b) Help members of ECA to track progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and to develop and implement national development plans and monitor their fulfilment;

(c) Provide technical assistance, capacity-building and policy advice to members of ECA with a view to developing their domestic capital markets and innovative and sustainable financing solutions for resource mobilization and enhancing financial resilience;

(d) Build the capacity to design and implement policy frameworks that promote transparency and accountability in public financial management, including debt management, and optimize resource mobilization;

(e) Publish relevant knowledge products underpinned by research and innovative ECA macroeconomic modelling tools to support evidence-based policymaking and the production of forecasts.

⁴ Subprogramme 1 was renamed, with effect from 1 January 2025, following the adoption of the programme plan and budget for 2025 by the General Assembly.

14. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on enhancing evidence-based policy through flagship knowledge products.

2. Subprogramme 2: Regional integration and trade

15. To strengthen regional cooperation and integration among members of ECA through increased trade flows, improved industrialization and increased investment, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Provide advisory services and technical support on market access and business opportunities arising from the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;

(b) Develop and disseminate policy tools, instruments and guidelines and provide technical support to identify opportunities for economic diversification, value addition and the development of manufacturing in support of the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa;

(c) Provide training related to the implementation of regional cooperation frameworks, with a particular focus on landlocked developing countries and regional economic communities;

(d) Provide advisory services and technical assistance to members of ECA and regional economic communities on: regional integration; national, regional and continental competition policies; intellectual property policies; and measures for investment facilitation.

16. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on strengthening resilience by de-risking investments in regional value chains and special economic zones, with an emphasis on priority areas and enablers.

3. Subprogramme 3: Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development⁵

17. To advance inclusive growth, sustainable development and economic transformation in Africa through science, technology and innovation, improved connectivity, logistics, and infrastructure development, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Conduct policy research and analysis on digital trends on the continent, including advancements in science, technology and innovation, including artificial intelligence; the state of energy, transport and information and communications technology infrastructure at the national and regional levels; and the impact of logistics and connectivity on economic development;

(b) Provide technical assistance and advisory services to members of ECA, the African Union and its bodies, and subregional organizations on: the design and implementation of regulatory frameworks that promote digital public infrastructure, digital systems and policies on science, technology and innovation; the construction of an academic and entrepreneurial environment for science, technology and innovation through partnerships and capacity-building initiatives; the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the design of regulatory frameworks to enhance private sector investment; the development of transport infrastructure and services, with a particular focus on the liberalization of intra-African air transport in the context of the Single African Air Transport Market and the digitalization of transport infrastructure; and the development of infrastructure to improve energy access, advance market development and foster the transition to renewable sources of energy.

⁵ Subprogramme 3 was renamed, with effect from 1 January 2025, following the adoption of the programme plan and budget for 2025 by the General Assembly.

18. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on leveraging technology and innovation to facilitate a just energy transition and improve the efficiency of transport in Africa.

4. Subprogramme 4: Data and statistics

19. To strengthen the production, dissemination and use of credible data, statistics and geospatial information at the national, regional and global levels for evidence-based policymaking and decision-making, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Support African national statistical systems in transforming their data governance and management methods and provide technical assistance and training in the design and implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics and national spatial data infrastructure with related integrated geospatial information frameworks;

(b) Maintain and regularly update publicly accessible databases with harmonized data, statistics and geospatial information;

(c) Provide training on and make platforms available for the exchange of information and best practices;

(d) Provide policy advice and capacity-building activities on data, statistics and geospatial information to support members of ECA in their efforts to monitor and report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

20. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in members of ECA.

5. Subprogramme 5: Climate change, food security and natural resources⁶

21. To enhance climate resilience, achieve food security and advance inclusive and sustainable development by harnessing land, natural resources and the green and blue economies, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Conduct policy research and analysis and provide technical assistance and advisory services to members of ECA on: mineral policies, strategies and plans; the circular economy and the green and blue economies, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; regional integrated carbon markets; climate resilience and disaster vulnerability; the modelling of economic impacts of climate change and private sector investments for the implementation of nationally determined contributions; land governance; and agriculture and food systems transformation;

(b) Convene peer-learning policy dialogues and regional consensus-building platforms and support African universities and research institutions in knowledge generation in the above-mentioned areas.

22. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on providing support to members of ECA in developing and implementing policies for resilient and inclusive agrifood systems.

6. Subprogramme 6: Gender equality and women's empowerment

23. To achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa, by accelerating the pace of implementation by members of ECA and their reporting on their global and regional commitments related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and to enhance their implementation of policies and programmes for the empowerment of women and girls, the subprogramme will essentially:

⁶ Subprogramme 5 was renamed, with effect from 1 January 2025, following the adoption of the programme plan and budget for 2025 by the General Assembly.

(a) Undertake policy research and technical advisory services and increase knowledge and develop capacity on issues relating to gender equality and women's empowerment;

(b) Promote women's economic empowerment, placing an emphasis on financial inclusion;

(c) Provide technical support to members of ECA on integrating a gender perspective into their sectoral development policies and programmes and provide support across the ECA subprogrammes;

(d) Roll out the African Gender and Development Index and the Africa Gender Index in the remaining countries that have not yet implemented them;

(e) Provide technical support to measure progress and report on the status of implementation of global and regional commitments, including the regional review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

24. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on members of ECA incorporating a gender perspective into financial regulatory frameworks.

7. Subprogramme 7: Subregional activities for development

(a) Component 1: Subregional activities in North Africa

25. To advance inclusive growth and sustainable development in North Africa through strengthened economic diversification, fiscal management, regional integration and a better recognition of migrant workers' economic contributions, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Develop evidence-based policies, strategies and reforms and provide technical assistance in relation to economic diversification, fiscal management and resilient economies;

(b) Provide advisory services and hold subregional consultations on the mobilization of domestic resources and the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;

(c) Provide technical assistance and training for selected African countries on migration data collection and analysis and evidence-based policy formulation to raise awareness of and leverage migrants' economic contributions;

(d) Conduct research on challenges facing middle-income countries in North Africa, in particular those relating to development and climate finance, human capital and job creation.

26. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on members of ECA developing policies to accelerate inclusive and sustainable growth through increased productivity.

(b) Component 2: Subregional activities in West Africa

27. To advance inclusive development in West Africa by strengthening countries' capacity to integrate challenges related to demographic dynamics into their policies and planning processes and achieve regional integration, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Step up its analytical work and provide knowledge, tools and policies on the acceleration of a demographic transition and the related implications for sustainable development;

(b) Engage in high-level policy dialogues and provide technical support and capacity-building to members of ECA on regional integration issues, including the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African

Continental Free Trade Area, development planning and the formulation of budgeting frameworks with the demographic dividend in mind.

28. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on accelerating the implementation of the priority initiatives and projects identified in validated national strategies for the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

(c) Component 3: Subregional activities in Central Africa

29. To expand the manufacturing and high-value service sectors and increase the share of tradeable and manufactured goods in total exports, deepen regional value chains and improve the competitiveness and productivity of local economies in order to accelerate economic diversification and structural transformation in Central Africa, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Provide technical assistance and advisory services to members of ECA on: formulating and implementing national and subregional development plans and economic diversification strategies; translating national strategies for the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area into specific and bankable projects; transforming transport corridors into development corridors, in line with the Central Africa consensual transport plan; designing tools and strategies to benefit sustainably from natural capital assets; developing information and communications technology infrastructure and regulatory frameworks required for the digital transition; and harmonizing trade instruments of the Economic Community of Central African States and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community;

(b) Collaborate with the private sector, subregional think tanks and regional economic communities in the above-mentioned areas and train members of ECA and United Nations country teams to use the ECA integrated planning and reporting toolkit.

30. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on members of ECA undertaking assessments and making sustainable use of their natural capital assets.

(d) Component 4: Subregional activities in East Africa

31. To achieve deeper regional integration in East Africa by advancing the operationalization of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, increasing intraregional investments, harnessing the blue economy and enhancing tourism, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Provide support to countries and regional economic communities through knowledge production, technical assistance, capacity-building and policy dialogues on the development and effective implementation of their national and regional strategies for the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;

(b) Foster the development of regional value chains in food and agriculture through value chain analyses and the dissemination of information to public and private sector stakeholders about investment opportunities;

(c) Build capacity in the private sector to participate in the operationalization of the Agreement;

(d) Engage in policy dialogue and provide training to promote transboundary investments and cost-effective trade logistics;

(e) Convene a subregional forum on issues related to the blue economy, including its potential to diversify goods and services and its relevance to the operationalization of the Agreement, assess the socioeconomic potential of the blue economy and conduct market analyses for small and medium-sized enterprises;

(f) Support members of ECA in the development of national tourism strategies and provide training on the production of high-quality tourism statistics in the subregion.

32. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on spearheading actions to advance tourism and blue economy frameworks and policies in Africa.

(e) Component 5: Subregional activities in Southern Africa

33. To deepen regional integration and strengthen capacities to achieve inclusive industrialization for the reduction of poverty and inequality in Southern Africa, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Undertake policy research and analysis on inclusive industrialization, regional integration and trade, private sector development and poverty and inequality;

(b) Develop and disseminate policy tools and guidelines to promote sustainable industrialization, including manufacturing and the development of value chains;

(c) Support members of ECA in the implementation of Vision 2050 of SADC and its regional indicative strategic development plan for 2020–2030;

(d) Collaborate with partners, including the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office, SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Export-Import Bank, private sector associations and business councils, and universities and research institutions, to strengthen national capacities to advance the implementation of the SADC industrialization strategy and road map (2015–2063) and the industrial policy (2015–2030) of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa;

(e) Support the integration of climate change considerations into national and subregional industrialization and trade policies;

(f) Build the capacities of members of ECA and private sector bodies to address the challenges and opportunities of the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, increase productive capacities and leverage digitalization, science, technology and innovation for business development and enhanced competitiveness.

34. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on deepening inclusive industrialization through the development of value chains.

8. Subprogramme 8: Economic development and planning

35. To strengthen the development planning of African countries and to improve their capacity to formulate and manage effective public sector policies for structural transformation and sustainable development, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Deliver training on sectoral, national and regional development and medium-to-long-term development planning to deal with the socioeconomic impact of emerging crises;

(b) Promote peer learning and collaboration among African development planners through communities of practice and broaden access to the digitized knowledge repository of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning;

(c) Enhance countries' capacity to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and national agendas;

(d) Foster knowledge generation, cross-fertilization and knowledge-sharing through research products, fellowship programmes, development seminars and high-level policy dialogues;

(e) Support the integration of gender and youth-related issues in all relevant public policies through capacity-building programmes.

36. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on strengthening development planning and innovative financing.

9. Subprogramme 9: Poverty, inequality and social policy

37. To eradicate extreme poverty and reduce inequality by ensuring that members of ECA have improved policies and strategies for social investment and productive urban job creation, the subprogramme will essentially:

(a) Develop analytical knowledge, provide technical assistance and promote regional dialogue and learning on the design of national social policies and strategies to eradicate extreme poverty and to provide social protection to the most vulnerable populations;

(b) Develop analytical knowledge and provide technical assistance in relation to the regional implementation and appraisal of global agreements, including the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014 and the New Urban Agenda;

(c) Enhance the knowledge and skills of members of ECA by providing technical assistance and facilitating regional policy learning and dialogue to promote sustainable urbanization that enhances job creation, revenues and economic growth.

38. Its main planned result for 2026 will be focused on strengthening national and subregional reviews of population-related frameworks to promote socioeconomic development.

II. Proposed programme budget for 2026

A. Part IV International cooperation for development

Section 11

United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

Programme 9

United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation

Subprogramme 2

Regional coordination of United Nations support for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063

Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2026

- 11.1 The proposed regular budget resources for 2026 amount to \$1,133,200, reflecting no change in the resource level compared with the 2025 appropriation. Additional details are reflected in table 11.1.

Table 11.1

Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2024 expenditure	2025 appropriation	Changes				Total	Percentage	2026 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other)			
Financial resources by main category of expenditure									
Post	676	900	–	–	–	–	–	900	
Non-post	200	233	–	–	–	–	–	233	
Total	876	1 133	–	–	–	–	–	1 133	
(Number of posts)									
Post resources by category									
Professional and higher	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	4	
General Service and related	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	
Total	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	5	

B. Part V
Regional cooperation for development

Section 18
Economic and social development in Africa

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Africa

Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2026

- 18.1 The proposed regular budget resources for 2026 are reflected in tables 18.1 and 18.2.
- 18.2 Overall regular budget, non-post resources proposed for 2026 amount to \$93,549,000 before recosting, reflecting no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2025. The proposed level of resources will provide for the full, efficient and effective implementation of ECA mandates.

Table 18.1
Overall: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	2024 expenditure	2025 approved	Changes				2026 estimate (before recosting)	
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		Percentage
Posts	57 111	60 965	–	–	2 499	2 499	4	63 463
Other staff costs	4 084	5 965	–	–	(2 541)	(2 541)	(43)	3 424
Hospitality	23	25	–	–	3	3	13	28
Consultants	2 142	1 283	–	–	321	321	25	1 604
Experts	1 537	2 760	–	–	(199)	(199)	(7)	2 561
Travel of staff	1 585	1 465	–	–	208	208	14	1 673
Contractual services	7 870	9 195	–	–	(460)	(460)	(5)	8 735
General operating expenses	6 951	6 783	–	–	168	168	3	6 951
Supplies and materials	291	908	–	–	(73)	(73)	(8)	835
Furniture and equipment	2 323	3 202	–	–	(158)	(158)	(5)	3 045
Improvement of premises	389	72	–	–	135	135	188	207
Grants and contributions	1 683	926	–	–	97	97	11	1 023
Other	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	86 004	93 549	–	–	–	–	–	93 549

Table 18.2
Overall: proposed posts by category and grade
 (Number of posts)

Category and grade	2025 approved	2026 proposed
Professional and higher		
USG	1	1
D-2	2	2
D-1	15	16
P-5	43	43
P-4	69	72
P-3	76	78
P-2/1	27	27
Subtotal	233	239
General Service and related		
National Professional Officer	17	23
Local level	284	285
Subtotal	301	308
Total	534	547

18.3 The evolution of non-post resources (regular budget and extrabudgetary) by component and subprogramme is reflected in table 18.3.

Table 18.3

Overall: evolution of financial resources by source of funding, component, and subprogramme
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	2024 <i>expenditure</i>	2025 <i>appropriation</i>	<i>Changes</i>				<i>Percentage</i>	2026 <i>estimate</i> (before <i>recosting</i>)
			<i>Technical adjustments</i>	<i>New/expanded mandates</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>		
A. Policymaking organs	253	565	–	–	–	–	–	565
B. Executive direction and management	9 511	10 023	–	–	–	–	–	10 023
C. Programme of work								
1. Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance	3 854	4 702	–	–	–	–	–	4 702
2. Regional integration and trade	3 485	3 586	–	–	–	–	–	3 586
3. Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development	3 043	2 617	–	–	–	–	–	2 617
4. Data and statistics	5 674	5 352	–	–	–	–	–	5 352
5. Climate change, food security and natural resources	3 257	3 424	–	–	–	–	–	3 424
6. Gender equality and women's empowerment	1 070	1 164	–	–	–	–	–	1 164
7. Subregional activities for development								
(a) Subregional activities in North Africa	3 394	3 542						3 542
(b) Subregional activities in West Africa	2 879	3 532						3 532
(c) Subregional activities in Central Africa	3 586	4 504						4 504
(d) Subregional activities in East Africa	2 874	3 667						3 667
(e) Subregional activities in Southern Africa	3 256	3 661						3 661
Subtotal, subprogramme 7	15 989	18 906	–	–	–	–	–	18 906
8. Economic development and planning	1 990	2 896	–	–	–	–	–	2 896
9. Poverty, inequality and social policy	3 516	3 864	–	–	–	–	–	3 864
Subtotal, C	41 878	46 511	–	–	–	–	–	46 511
D. Programme support	34 362	36 450	–	–	–	–	–	36 450
Subtotal, 1	86 004	93 549	–	–	–	–	–	93 549

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>2024 expenditure</i>	<i>2025 estimate</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>2026 estimate</i>
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	1 509	835	(213)	(26)	622
C. Programme of work					
1. Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance	546	1 509	(762)	(51)	746
2. Regional integration and trade	4 637	3 387	(2 419)	(71)	968
3. Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development	926	491	(281)	(57)	210
4. Data and statistics	2 642	2 766	(1 810)	(66)	956
5. Climate change, food security and natural resources	3 447	5 567	(1 487)	(27)	4 080
6. Gender equality and women's empowerment	–	–	–	–	–
7. Subregional activities for development	–	–	–	–	–
(a) Subregional activities in North Africa	21	867	(867)	(100)	–
(b) Subregional activities in West Africa	130	47	(47)	(100)	–
(c) Subregional activities in Central Africa	–	–	–	–	–
(d) Subregional activities in East Africa	454	413	(413)	(100)	–
(e) Subregional activities in Southern Africa	4	207	(207)	(100)	–
Subtotal, subprogramme 7	609	1 534	(1 534)	(100)	–
8. Economic development and planning	1 511	2 603	(126)	(5)	2 477
9. Poverty, inequality and social policy	578	1 076	(1 076)	(100)	–
Subtotal, C	14 896	18 933	(9 492)	(50)	9 437
D. Programme support	7 169	6 713	416	6	7,129
Subtotal, 2	23 574	26 481	(9 289)	(35)	17 188
Total	109 578	120 030	(9 289)	(8)	110 737

Note: Three subprogrammes were renamed with effect from 1 January 2025 following the adoption of the programme plan and budget for 2025 by the General Assembly, as follows: Macroeconomic policy and governance became Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance; Private sector development and finance became Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development; and Technology, climate change and natural resources management became Climate change, food security and natural resources.

18.4 Proposed post resources (regular budget and extrabudgetary) by component and subprogramme are reflected in table 18.4.

Table 18.4

Overall: proposed post resources by source of funding, component and subprogramme

(Number of posts)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	2025 approved	Changes			Total	2026 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other		
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	53	–	–	–	–	53
C. Programme of work						
1. Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance	28	–	–	–	–	28
2. Regional integration and trade	22	–	–	–	–	22
3. Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development	17	–	–	1	1	18
4. Data and statistics	36	–	–	–	–	36
5. Climate change, food security and natural resources	18	–	–	–	–	18
6. Gender equality and women's empowerment	6	–	–	–	–	6
7. Subregional activities for development						
(a) Subregional activities in North Africa	19	–	–	–	–	19
(b) Subregional activities in West Africa	18	–	–	–	–	18
(c) Subregional activities in Central Africa	23	–	–	–	–	23
(d) Subregional activities in East Africa	20	–	–	–	–	20
(e) Subregional activities in Southern Africa	20	–	–	–	–	20
Subtotal, subprogramme 7	100	–	–	–	–	100
8. Economic development and planning	–	–	–	6	6	6
9. Poverty, inequality and social policy	21	–	–	–	–	21
Subtotal, C	248	–	–	7	7	255
D. Programme support	233	–	–	6	6	239
Subtotal, 1	534	–	–	13	13	547

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>2025 estimate</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>2026 estimate</i>
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	–	4	4
C. Programme of work			
1. Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance	–	–	–
2. Regional integration and trade	4	–	4
3. Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development	–	–	–
4. Data and statistics	4	–	4
5. Climate change, food security and natural resources	6	(2)	4
6. Gender equality and women's empowerment	–	–	–
7. Subregional activities for development	–	–	–
(a) Subregional activities in North Africa	–	–	–
(b) Subregional activities in West Africa	–	–	–
(c) Subregional activities in Central Africa	–	–	–
(d) Subregional activities in East Africa	–	–	–
(e) Subregional activities in Southern Africa	–	–	–
8. Economic development and planning	20	–	20
9. Poverty, inequality and social policy	1	(1)	–
Subtotal, C	35	(3)	32
D. Programme support	33	6	39
Subtotal, 2	68	7	75
Total	602	20	622

Extrabudgetary resources

18.5 As reflected in tables 18.3 (2) and 18.4 (2), extrabudgetary resources total \$17,187,600, which will be used primarily to finance technical cooperation activities and enhance the capacities of members of ECA in several priority areas, such as: promoting regional cooperation and integration through increased trade flows, greater diversification, improved industrialization and enhanced investments, with a focus on trade diversification; strengthening capacities in measuring and analysing services trade value chains to support the development and implementation of national strategies for the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area; advancing energy and electricity market regulatory reforms in Africa; reinforcing civil registration and vital statistics systems; expanding fiscal space in members of ECA; supporting African contributions to addressing climate challenges; building the capacities of the institutions of members of ECA to enhance climate resilience and manage climate risks; and implementing climate-resilient development policies across Africa. The anticipated reduction of \$9,289,100 is primarily the consequence of the expiration of 19 of 27 active grants in 2025. Efforts are under way to mobilize additional extrabudgetary resources in 2025, including through targeted roadshows and engagements with partners, such as foundations, and a series of programme-based round-table discussions with major

stakeholders. Considerable challenges, remain, however, including economic downturns, budgetary constraints and heightened competition for limited resources in the current global financial environment. Government budget cuts, amounting to billions of dollars, in particular in the United States of America, will intensify competition for funding among organizations, including United Nations entities. In response, ECA has adopted a strategic, programme-driven and holistic approach to extrabudgetary resource mobilization, which includes the development and strengthening of up to eight multi-year integrated programmes designed to attract additional funding. Furthermore, ECA has initiated integrated resource planning and utilization measures to ensure and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of extrabudgetary projects and grants.

- 18.6 The extrabudgetary resources under this section are subject to the oversight of the Executive Secretary of ECA, who has delegated authority from the Secretary-General.

C. Part V Regional cooperation for development

Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation

Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2026

- 23.1 The ECA regular programme of technical cooperation is used to support African countries in their capacity-building initiatives, with a view to fostering inclusive and sustainable economic and social development by accelerating the structural transformation of Africa, in line with the priorities and vision articulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other internationally agreed development agendas.
- 23.2 Activities under the regular programme of technical cooperation will be implemented to complement those under programme 15 (Economic and social development in Africa). ECA will deliver its capacity-building services by promoting system-wide synergies, strategic initiatives, policy dialogue, policy advisory services, skills development and knowledge facilitation and management.
- 23.3 In that context, the ECA programme of work, as reflected in its nine subprogrammes, is organized into the following five thematic areas: macroeconomic policy, finance, governance, and economic development and planning; regional integration, trade, technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development; data and statistics; climate change, food security and natural resources; and gender equality, women's empowerment, poverty, inequality and social policy.
- 23.4 The proposed regular budget resources for 2026 amount to \$11,658,800, reflecting an increase of \$675,200 in the resource level compared with the 2025 appropriation. Additional details are reflected in table 23.1

Table 23.1
Overall: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

	2024 expenditure	2025 appropriation	Changes		2026 estimate
			Amount	Percentage	
Other staff costs	2 714.7	4 119.3	–	–	4 119.3
Consultants and experts	2 274.0	1 868.7	–	–	1 868.7
Travel – representatives		–	–	–	–
Travel on official business	950.9	477.8	–	–	477.8
Contractual services	645.9	499.5	–	–	499.5
General operating expenses	518.1	–	–	–	–
Supplies and materials	4.6	–	–	–	–
Furniture and equipment	385.0	–	–	–	–
Fellowships, grants and contributions	1 725.9	4 018.3	675.2	16.8	4 693.5
Total	9 219.1	10 983.6	675.2	6.1	11 658.8