

# ECA Quarterly Newsletter

JAN TO APRIL



## CORPORATE OVERVIEW

This edition of the ECA Bulletin provides highlights of key accomplishments in selected areas focused on consensus building and advocacy, as well as support to member states and knowledge generation. Additionally, a snapshot of the [2024 Conference of Ministers](#), the Seventh [Africa Business Forum](#) and the [African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development](#) showcase ECA's contributions to regional and global debates ahead of the Summit of the Future.

ECA also convened the [Seventh Africa Business Forum \(ABF\)](#) in Addis Ababa on 19 February 2024 on the margins of the thirty-seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on the theme “Boosting Africa’s transformation through education, science, technology, and innovation.” The Forum called for closing critical gaps in digital skills, data generation and utilisation as well as requisite infrastructure.

The 2024 Conference of Ministers took place in Livingstone, Zimbabwe on ***Financing the transition to inclusive green economies in Africa*** from 28 February to 5 March 2024 with side events and panel sessions aimed at unpacking lessons from member states and building consensus on: reform of the global financial architecture to be fit for purpose; the instruments and institutions that Africa needs to bridge the technology gap; and the innovative financing mechanisms that can work for Africa with the right governance frameworks. A highlight of COM2024 was [the 2024 Adebayo Adedeji Memorial Lecture](#), delivered by James Manyika, Senior Vice-President for Research, Technology and Society at Google. More: [Videos](#), [Remarks](#), [Stories and the Conference Bulletin and images](#) from the ECA Knowledge Fair.

During the first quarter, the Executive Secretary also briefed the Addis Ababa-based group of African ambassadors on the outcomes of COM2024, ARFSD2024, the Africa Business Forum and ongoing advocacy on the reform of the Global Financial Architecture.



# 10<sup>th</sup> ARFSD

Tenth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

## Africa has the resources to create its own success story

The 10th Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development ended on a hopeful note, with speakers highlighting the continent's potential as well as gains made.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development took place in Addis Ababa on the theme, *“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”*. The Forum was held from 23 April to 25 April 2024 with Side Events and [Pre-Events](#), such as the Africa Science, Technology and Innovation Forum from 17 – 22 April 2024. The Africa Science, Technology and Innovation Forum called on countries to scale-up investment in education, research and development, and in technology and innovation in order to achieve the goals and aspirations of 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063, respectively. ARFSD-10 concluded with strong calls for innovative financing and reform of the international financial system to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa: Browse the [session videos, stories and documents](#) and the 10<sup>th</sup> [ARFSD roundup Bulletin](#) which contains images from the ARFSD Knowledge Fair and highlights of the High-Level Dialogue on Carbon Markets, organized by the Regional Collaborative Platform.

### Consensus building and advocacy:

A side event on Inclusive and Effective International Tax Cooperation in the United Nations rallied experts from the African Union, national tax authorities and civil society during the 2024 ECA Conference of Ministers, raising awareness of the recent General Assembly resolution on inclusive and effective international tax cooperation. More in the [COM2024 Bulletin 2](#).

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY THEMATIC WORK

### Regional integration and trade:

Several events pushed the implementation of the AfCFTA agenda, including raising the critical role of regional value chains, during the 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MaC 13).

The AfCFTA Pharma Initiative Stakeholder Engagement Meetings held between February and March in Nairobi, Kigali and Addis Ababa reviewed the Centralised Pooled Procurement (CPPM) Framework and its legal instrument. [More on the transition to the Africa CDC-Led Africa Pooled Procurement Mechanism.](#)

More activities: [Regional integration and trade events](#)

### Private sector-oriented activities:

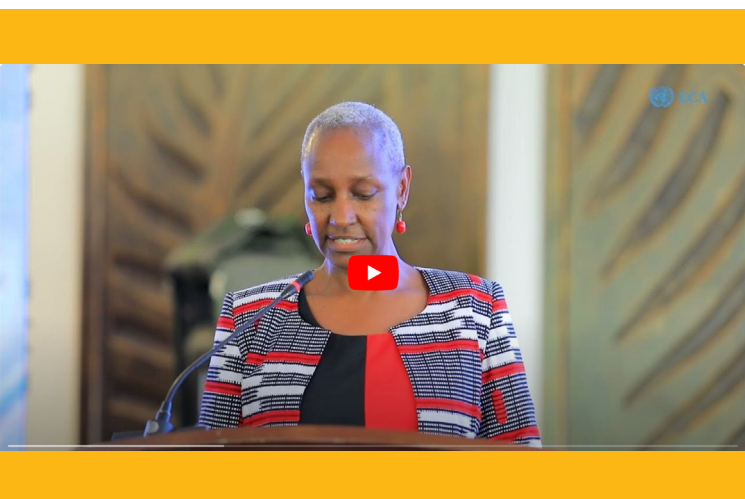
The ECA engaged the African Civil Aviation Industry on resilience for effective implementation of the (AfCFTA) in collaboration with the African Union Commission, African Airlines Association (AFRAA), and African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC). In addition, ECA and the Africa Peer Review Mechanism held a 3-day meeting with finance ministries and central banks, regulators, the private sector, civil society and financial institutions, including banks and insurance companies to advance [Africa's domestic rating industry credit ratings](#) in March. Additionally, two validation workshops were held on [strengthening maize and dairy value chains in Zambia and Zimbabwe](#) and the Industrialisation and export strategy for maize and dairy products in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

More activities: [Private sector development and finance events](#)

### Technology, climate change and natural resources:

Additionally, the Sixth [Africa Climate Resilience Investment Summit](#) (ACRIS VI) held in Kigali, Rwanda from 12-13 March 2024 on the theme, Advancing Adaptation in Africa to enhance exchange of knowledge, and collaboration for collective climate resilience in Africa. ECA also engaged with partners on the [African Island States, which continue to remain at the centre of a new partnership between ECA and the Green Climate Fund.](#)

More activities: [African Climate Policy Centre \(ACPC\) events](#) and [DITE Africa](#)



**Remarks at the Pharma Initiative meeting by Dorcas Noerto, UNICEF**

## Poverty inequality and social policy activities:

ECA contributed to the Cities and Regions Summit in February on strengthening multi-level governance for achieving the SDGs and financing local climate and environmental actions at the UN Environment Assembly. Additionally, a masterclass on building resilient cities and protecting frontline communities from climate-induced losses and damages took place in February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

More activities: [Poverty, inequality and social policy event](#)

## Enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment:

ECA supported Africa's participation at the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2024 coupled with an ECA side event on Unpaid Care Work in Africa: Who Bears the Burden? And, on International Women's Day, ECA joined hands with the Commonwealth Businesswomen Africa (CBW-Africa) and the ECA's Digital Centre of Excellence on a webinar titled 'Accelerating Progress for Women in Africa through Education, Technology, and Business'.

More activities: [Gender equality and the empowerment of women events](#)

## Building capacity in statistics and data:

[Regular virtual sessions](#) have continued to support the need for building the capacity of staff across National Statistics Offices around the Continent, who have gained substantive knowledge on key census preparatory activities such as digital data capture and building dashboards for fieldwork monitoring. In addition, StatsTalk, a monthly webinar with member states continues to serve as a hub of knowledge exchange, peer-learning and awareness raising within the NSO community around Africa.

More activities: [Data and statistics events](#)

## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS:

- [2024 Economic Report on Africa: Investing in a Just and Sustainable Transition in Africa](#)
- [Economic Governance Report \(EGR\) II: A framework for assessing and reporting tax expenditures in Africa](#)
- [Socioeconomic impact of conflict in Africa](#).
- The [African Sovereign Ratings Review 2023/24](#), a joint bi-annual report by the APRM and ECA
- As part of efforts to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness of four megatrends, ECA published a blog: [Peace and Development – Do megatrends matter?](#)

## ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS:

- ECA and South Africa's Department for Planning Monitoring and Evaluation to support the country's development planning process using ECA's Integrated Planning and Reporting Tool.
- ECA and Google Sign Agreement to Foster and Accelerate Digital Transformation in Africa- [Partnership with Google on cybersecurity, Capacity building](#)
- ECA and GIZ on supporting data participation program, building African countries' data governance frameworks, and leveraging the AU data governance framework.
- Global System for Mobile Association (GSMA) on enhancing insights on fortifying Africa's mobile ecosystem, data access & governance, innovation, cybersecurity, capacity building.
- ECA, GCF on support to the RES Islands project.
- ECA AFRISTAT and INSEE to support Cameroon to renovate the methodology for producing the Turnover index in Cameroon, moving from survey approach to the use of administrative data.





## Enhancing regional value chains

### – Botswana Beef

ECA Executive Secretary undertook a Joint ECA-BADEA mission in April 2024:

Engaged in multi-stakeholder consultation on expanding the Beef Value Chain in Botswana to include the SADC region for increasing exports across Africa and the UAE.

Agreed on the need to support robust **quality assurance** scheme; Use **technology** for data collection and monitoring; Develop cold supply-chain and **logistics**; Improve quality through **research** on breeding; Ensure inclusion of **smallholders and small stock**; Explore **export** opportunities in the southern corridor, among other areas and products.

# ECA SUBREGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Southern Africa

At the SADC Industrialisation Forum, in South Africa, 26 and 27 February 2024, ECA presented the main findings and policy recommendations of a regional report, commissioned on the impacts of Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine crisis on micro, small and medium sized enterprises in Southern Africa.

More activities: [Southern Africa Subregional Office events](#).

## West Africa

Joint ECA/EIF-WTO/ITFC-IsDB project in support of the implementation of national AfCFTA in 5 West African countries i.e., Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Senegal, Togo, building synergies with similar processes in 2 North African countries, Mauritania and Tunisia. The outcome and findings of the joint project were disseminated at the Africa AfCFTA peer learning Conference, held in January 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya, and the AfCFTA capacity building workshop for North Africa Journalists organized in Casablanca, Morocco.

More activities: [West Africa Subregional Office events](#).

## Eastern Africa

Maximising the benefits of the AfCFTA for Businesses in Rwanda, 27 -28 March 2024, in collaboration with UNDP and the Rwanda Ministry of Trade and Industry A second one for Burundi, 6-8 March 2024 was organized to help Burundian companies take advantage of the AfCFTA, SRO-EA organized a 3-days training for businesses in Bujumbura.

More activities: [Eastern Africa Subregional Office events](#).

## North Africa

High-Level Ministerial Conference on Middle Income Countries - "Solutions to Development Challenges of Middle-Income Countries in a Changing World" in Rabat, February 5-6, 2024, [Watch the podcast](#) on the event.

More activities: [North Africa Subregional Office events](#).

## Central Africa

Webinar on "Natural capital accounting, greenhouse gas inventory, nature-based solutions, sustainable finance mobilization: Concepts, tools, methodologies at your fingertips", Friday, 2 February 2024 held as part of a planned series of workshops on natural capital accounting and value addition for economic diversification in Central Africa.

More activities: [Central Africa Subregional Office events](#).

## OVERALL KEY ECA EVENTS:

Selected [Upcoming Events](#) for the period May – June 2024.

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