

# ECA Quarterly Newsletter

MAY TO AUG



## 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 FFD4 Conference, HLPF, SADC Summit, among others, showcase ECA's contributions to regional and global discussions ahead of the Summit of the Future.*

Nine years after the historic agreement on financing for development, the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* was adopted, United Nations Member States once again convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 26 July 2024 to renew the push for sustainable development financing and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the **First Preparatory Committee meeting of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development**. Held in Addis Ababa, finance and foreign ministers called for remaking

the international financial system in the interest of developing countries. The meeting **concluded with a renewed focus on bridging gaps in SDG financing and delivering international financial architecture reform**. The finance and foreign ministers called for radical action to reform the international financial architecture, empower developing countries in international institutions and channel trillions of dollars towards sustainable development in Africa and other developing countries. Held ahead of the Summit of the Future, the first session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) reviewed progress and gaps in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and identified actions to accelerate reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. More: <https://financing.desa.un.org/preparatory-process-ffd4/first-prepcom>

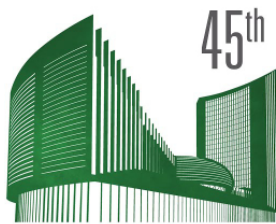


At the 44<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Harare, Zimbabwe, ECA Executive Secretary, Mr. Claver Gatete, called on SADC to scale up its potential and lead Africa in homegrown innovative solutions for sustainable development. Held on the theme: “Promoting Innovation to unlock opportunities for sustained economic growth and development towards an industrialized SADC”, Mr. Gatete said SADC can lead Africa in homegrown solutions in domestic resource mobilization and innovative financing to fight climate impacts and sustain development. Remarks: <https://www.uneca.org/stories/statement-by-claver-gatete-at-the-44th-sadc-summit-of-heads-of-state-and-government>

*“There is no reason why Africa should import food to the tune of USD 120 billion per year when SADC can be Africa’s breadbasket”*

**– Claver Gatete,  
ECA Executive Secretary**

SADC is home to most of the world’s gold, copper, cobalt, lithium, chromium, graphite, and platinum and possesses significant livestock and agricultural endowments. If it scaled up regional value chains in energy, agriculture and critical minerals, the region could reap the benefits of sustainable industrialization, achieve food security, and increase jobs and skills to reduce poverty and inequalities.



45<sup>th</sup>

**ORDINARY  
SESSION OF  
THE EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL**

**OPENING CEREMONY  
18 JUILLET 2024**

At the 45<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council on the theme: **Educate an African fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa**, Mr. Gatete elaborated on key actions needed in terms of deliberate investments in Africa’s research and development, which currently stands at 0.45 per cent of GDP. He argued that STEM courses are fundamental to reap the benefits of smart technologies and artificial intelligence. Remarks here: <https://www.uneca.org/stories/statement-by-claver-gatete-at-the-45th-ordinary-session-of-the-executive-council>

**North Africa Takes on Global Financial Architecture Reform:** The Moroccan Ministry of Economy and Finance hosted, in collaboration with the United Nations System in Morocco and the support of the ECA, a panel discussion on the reform of the global financial architecture on 12 July 2024, in Rabat. Discussions focused on the UNSG Policy Brief No. 6 which outlines the creation of a more inclusive global financial system that can facilitate SDG implementation. This debate contributed to preparations for the Summit of the Future, scheduled to take place in New York on 22-23 September 2024.



## Remarks by Ms. Hanan Morsy, UNECA

**Expert Meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> AU STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration:** At this meeting, ECA's Deputy Executive Secretary (Programmes) Ms. Hanan Morsy stressed the need to bolster macroeconomic and sector-specific policy alignment and harness coordinated assistance from regional bodies and allies in development to realize a future marked by comprehensive growth and enduring sustainability across the continent. She also stressed the need to capitalize on the opportunities in the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation to combat IFFs, the FFD4 and South Africa's G20 presidency in 2025. More: <https://www.uneca.org/stories/opening-remarks-by-ms.-hanan-morsy-at-the-expert-meeting-of-the-7th-stc-on-finance%2C-monetary> and <https://www.uneca.org/stories/opening-remarks-by-ms.-hanan-morsy-at-the-ministerial-meeting-of-the-7th-stc-on-finance%2C>

During a Consultative Webinar for African Stakeholders on the work of the **Secretary General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals and the UN Global Framework on Just Energy Transitions**, Antonio Pedro, ECA Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme Support) stressed that transparency and fair-trade practices are key for a just energy transition in Africa and that the race to "net zero" should not exacerbate poverty, perpetuate injustice, undermine human rights, generate unsustainable jobs, and fail to provide equitable returns to both owners of the resource and investors. More: <https://www.uneca.org/stories/opening-remarks-by-mr.-antonio-pedro-at-the-consultative-webinar-for-african-stakeholders-on>

## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM - HLPF SNAPSHOT

At the July [2024 High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#) in New York, The Executive Secretary, on behalf of the Regional Commissions, [called on member states, partners, the UN system and all stakeholders](#) to strengthen partnerships for building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to accelerate the achievement of Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). He also underscored the need for policy coherence across governance frameworks and regular, data-driven reviews. Mr. Gatete also made a strong push for accountability and inclusivity to achieve Goal 16 of the SDGs, stressing that [a new level of urgency is needed to reverse lagging SDGs progress and regression](#).

During a joint press briefing on the margins of the HLPF, Mr. Gatete, [called upon countries to explore reforms to the common debt relief framework to better address rising high indebtedness in Africa](#). He also highlighted the challenges of accessing financing for the continent's priorities, especially the concessional funds that are long-term and cheaper. The reform of the global financing system is urgent, as it can mitigate access to critical resources needed for the implementation of the SDGs.

African member states attending the HLPF presented their Voluntary National Reviews showcasing efforts made to implement the SDGs and Agenda 2063, amidst pressing challenges, such as high indebtedness, climate impacts, conflict and instability in some countries. [A milestone for the continent was South Sudan, which presented the results of its first voluntary national review on 16 July at a VNR Lab session themed: "Against all odds: Meaningful VNRs in fragile and conflict-affected situations"](#), held on the margins of HLPF. The presentation by South Sudan marked Africa's achievement of universal coverage of **Voluntary National Reviews** amidst calls to strengthen statistical systems in Africa. <https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/eca-at-hlpf2024>



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS ECA'S KEY ACTIVITIES

### *Regional Value Chains*

- **Progress on the BEV Initiative:** During the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Katanga Business Meeting (KBM) held in Kolwezi (May 3-4, 2024), Buenassa company announced the receipt of a US\$3.5 million from the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This grant from DRC's Industry Promotion Funds represents the first instalment for the financing of the development of Buenassa's copper and cobalt refinery project (hydro-metallurgical plant) which will play a key role in the development of an integrated value chain around the processing of batteries and electric vehicles, in line with the Government's commitment to promote responsible industrialization and green regional economic development with a lasting positive impact on local communities, with the support of its partners including ECA.
- **Industrialization will drive national and regional economic growth and development:** At the 7<sup>th</sup> SADC Industrialization Week & Exhibition, which kicked off in Harare, Zimbabwe on July 28, 2024, ECA highlighted that SEZs are an important policy tool to support private sector development, including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Meanwhile, in Central Africa, **ECCAS and ECA are working to strengthen partnership** around the development of regional value chains to facilitate and accelerate the set-up of industries such as the New Generation Special Economic Zones (NGSEZ) in the DRC and Zambia to establish sufficient cross-border SEZs to attract more investments. Cameroon, Chad and Congo are well in the maturation of national scale SEZs.

## Box: Enhancing Regional Value Chains – A trip to Ethiopia’s Leather Manufacturing



## Technology and Innovation

- **Global Digital Compact (GDC) - ECA and Research ICT Africa (RIA) host Regional Open Consultation on Africa's Zero-Draft Policy declaration:** ECA in collaboration with Research ICT Africa (RIA), organized an online open consultation on Africa's zero-draft policy as part of continued efforts to align and identify Africa's key priorities within the Global Digital Compact (GDC). Discussions centered on bridging digital divides, nurturing inclusion in the digital economy, advocating for an open, safe, and secure digital environment.

Additional consultations were held with the **Pan-African Internet Governance Youth Ambassadors**, centered around the [GDC Rev2](#) and its alignment with the needs and priorities of the African continent from a youth perspective.

In the same vein, a review session was held with **Africa's Private Sector** in collaboration with the Africa Information and Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA) for Africa's Private Sector, aimed at soliciting input and feedback on the GDC [Rev.1.](#), published on May 15, 2024.

- In efforts to move the Digital ID agenda, a two-day validation workshop for The Gambia's National Digital ID and Digital Transformation Strategy (2023 – 2028) took place on 16-17 May 2024.

**Google, ECA, Camden Education Trust and partners are teaming up to upskill youths and educators from 14 African countries in preparation for the World Robot Olympiad national and global competitions.**

Over 9000 young Africans aged 8 to 18 from 14 African countries are preparing to participate in national championships, leading to the [World Robot Olympiad \(WRO\)](#) by the end of the year in efforts to foster innovation, policy support and cooperation in Computer Science and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) education across the continent. This initiative was announced during the [African Business Forum \(ABF\)](#).



## Climate Change

- **ECA's support to the African Group of Negotiators:** The African Climate Policy Center held a regional workshop on the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The workshop was held on the theme, "Regulating carbon markets: building capacity for the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement" and aimed to provide a platform to discuss and exchange views on issues relating to the status of African participation in the global carbon market, its readiness and opportunities to develop regional markets.
- **Island States commit to improve coordination at High-Level Dialogue co-organized by ECA at 4<sup>th</sup> International SIDS Conference:** The President of the Republic of Seychelles and the Prime Minister of Cabo Verde co-hosted the High-Level Dialogue on *Leveraging Partnerships for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Finance*, co-organized by Seychelles as chair of the African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC), alongside the other African Island States, ECA, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and various partners. This event took place during the 4th International Conference of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from May 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. The SIDS4 concluded with the release of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – *a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity*. ECA is charged with supporting AIS member states in its implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. More: <https://www.uneca.org/stories/island-states-commit-to-improve-coordination-at-high-level-dialogue-co-organized-by-eca-at>



- **Inspired by Ethiopia’s Green Legacy Initiative, Experts Conclude 46<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Meeting for Least Developed Countries with Calls to Accelerate Adaptation and Resilience:** A group of experts attending the 46<sup>th</sup> UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting for Least Developed Countries concluded with a call to accelerate efforts on adaptation and resilience. Held from 19-22 August in Addis Ababa, The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) lauded the host country, Ethiopia, for its Green Legacy Initiative, which has embedded reforestation and landscape restoration in its climate change and ecosystems protection plan. <https://www.uneca.org/stories/inspired-by-ethiopia’s-green-legacy-initiative%2C-experts-conclude-46th-un-climate-change>

## AfCFTA

- **Progress on An African Pooled Procurement Mechanism to enhance quality and safe medical supplies for a resilient continent.** The APPM is the result of a decision of the African Union Summit, where the Heads of State and Government recognized the need to establish the pooled procurement mechanism under the leadership of Africa CDC and endorsed the AMSP as the platform for the mechanism. Consequently, the AfCFTA-anchored Pharma Initiative is now being implemented in the APPM as agreed in the *Roadmap to operationalize the Pharma Initiative into a start-up Phase of the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism.*

- **Mutual capitalization workshop:** To advance the operationalization of national strategies of the AfCFTA, the ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa in collaboration with the Enhanced Integrated Framework - World Trade Organization (EIF-WTO) and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation of the Islamic Development Bank group (ITFC-IDB), held a “mutual capitalization workshop on regional experiences in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in West and North Africa.
- **Stakeholders Join Forces to advance Ethiopia’s AfCFTA Implementation Strategy:** The Ethiopian Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) in collaboration with the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) with support from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organized a National Forum for the development of National African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation Strategy. The event gathered over 70 participants from various sectors, including private industries, government representatives, academia, youth, women, and developmental partners.
- **Mauritius Private Sector, Together with ECA Consult on Pressing Needs of MSMEs, Informed by Joint Country Report:** The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) supported the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry to convene a workshop to present and discuss the country report titled “Impact of Covid-19 and Russia-Ukraine crisis on MSMEs in Mauritius”. The report was produced by ECA jointly with the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), the Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM) and the SADC Business Council, based on a survey that was implemented among MSMEs in Mauritius.
- **Progress on the LAPSSET Corridor Program.** The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the government of Kenya, recently hosted the fourth Ministerial Council meeting of the LAPSSET Corridor program. ECA Facilitates Significant Step Forward for the LAPSSET Corridor Development Programme

## Macroeconomics, Governance and Finance

- **Strengthening financial systems for sustainable development in Africa:** In a significant step toward bolstering public finance systems, experts and stakeholders from across Africa gathered for a workshop on Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) in May. The two-day event was aimed at strategizing on mobilizing and utilizing financial resources to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Africa.
- **Central Banks in Africa to Convene for Pioneering Workshop on Local Currency and Capital Market Development:** In a landmark initiative to bolster financial stability and economic growth, central banks across Africa gathered for a technical workshop focused on the development of local currency financing and capital market development. This pivotal event was jointly organized by ECA in collaboration with TDB, TCX, FSD Africa and with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation..
- **Enhancing transparency in credit rating methodologies:** ECA and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) hosted a workshop in Accra with stakeholders from Ghana, Zambia, and major credit rating agencies, including S&P Global and Moody's, to discuss credit rating methodologies.
- **Addressing debt challenges in State-Owned Enterprises:** In a concerted effort to tackle the growing challenges of State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) debt in Africa, ECA hosted a high-level workshop with finance policymakers, industry experts, and international organizations to share best practices and develop strategic solutions for effective SOE debt management across the continent.

## Eye on Africa's Demographic Dividend

- **Burkina Faso committed to operationalize the budgeting sensitive to demographic dividend approach into its 2025 budget:** As part of the implementation of the African Union's Roadmap on the demographic dividend through investment in the youth, the ECA Sub-Regional Office for West Africa organised a National Policy Dialogue with parliamentarians and policy decision makers on Budgeting Sensitive to Demographic Dividend (BSDD) in Burkina Faso.
- In the same vein, technical support is being provided to **Togo** as it makes strides in integrating demographic dividend and gender-sensitive budgeting into its 2025 budget.
- **In addition, Niger**, against a backdrop of rapid demographic growth, is also on course to include demographic dividend in its financial planning processes.

## Statistics and Data

- **Sixth Africa Gender Statistics Forum:** Women, Girls played centre-stage as AU, and SADC focused on financing gender data for development. The Forum also called on countries and the region to invest and collaborate more to finance the production and use of gender data to improve the lives of women and girls.
- **Monthly STATsTalks** have continued to provide the space for demystifying statistics with more webinars held on among other topics, National Reporting Platforms for the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa

## Governance and Enhancing Efficiency

- **ECA and Kaduna State Government** conducted training on a Pensioner Verification App for KADRIMA and Pension Bureau Staff. This initiative is part of the state government's broader strategy to digitalize and enhance the efficiency of government services, ensuring that pensioners receive timely and hassle-free verification



## Urbanization:

- **Strengthening fiscal space capacity in African cities.** This DA account project aims to strengthen the capacities of city governments in Africa to develop and implement policy reforms and strategies to expand and build resilient urban fiscal space as part of national building forward priorities.

**Partnerships:** ECA convened its 2<sup>nd</sup> Partners Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event brought together over 45 global partners to discuss the implementation of ECA's multi-year integrated programs aimed at fostering robust partnerships and mobilizing essential resources. The meeting addressed significant challenges highlighted at the 56<sup>th</sup> Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economy Development and the 10<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

## TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Equipping Leaders to Resolve Land Challenges in Africa through a Political Economy Approach:** The Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), at the University of the Western Cape, in collaboration with the ECA's African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) held a five-day short course on the Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa to equip leaders with the skills needed to resolve land challenges facing the continent in the area of land rights in both law and practice.
- **ECA, GEIDCO, APUA join hands to promote the electric vehicles and energy storage technologies sector:** A training, held on the theme: **Sharing Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Energy Storage Technologies (EST) for Africa's Sustainable Development** from 4-14 June 2024 attracted more than 140 participants from 25 African countries, who hailed from transport and energy ministries, energy commissions, power companies, and academia, as well as ECA and AfDB.
- ECA and partners also conducted training on **electricity market design in Nairobi** which highlighted the importance of de-risking investments, especially in an environment where the continent attracts a fraction of global energy investments. This calls for a serious look at the policy and regulatory system.
- The Commonwealth Secretariat, ECA and GIZ, in collaboration with Zambia's Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry organised a training workshop for trade officials of the MCTI and other government officials, private sector, and civil society organisations. The workshop aimed to strengthen the knowledge, skills and capacities of Zambian trade officials in the areas of **international trade theory and evidence, trade policy analysis, trade negotiations, and utilization of trade preferences** under multiple trade agreements.
- **Capacity Building Workshop for Libyan Tax officials:** The ECA in partnership with the Egyptian Tax Authority provided training on international accounting standards, financial reporting, and tax documentation, and focused on improving compliance and revenue collection in the industrial sector.

## KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

**Free movement of persons for trade:** *towards an accelerated ratification of the African Union Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment, in support of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area*". This Joint report by the ECA and the AUC has warned that the slow progress of ratifying the Africa Union (AU)'s Free Movement of Persons Protocol will impact negatively on the development of human capacity and the skills mobility required to achieve inclusive growth and development in Africa. Download: <https://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/50018>

**Africa Sustainable Development Report (ASDR):** Presented on the margins of the UN High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in New York, the 2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report by ECA, AfDB and AUC highlights the critical importance of scaled-up development financing. The report is titled: "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises: The Effective Delivery of Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative Solutions" <https://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/50186>

**2024 Cohort of ECA Fellows End Tenure:** Twenty young African professionals from 17 countries of the 2024 cohort of the "ECA Fellowships for Young African Professionals" have completed their programme. The program, which is supervised by the Strategic Planning, Oversight, and Results Division (SPORD), is designed to improve the skills and capacity of the fellows to address development issues affecting Africa, including Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.



## OUR KEY EVENTS:

[Upcoming Events](#) for the period September to December 2024.

After close to 7 years of renovations, ECA's Africa Hall will be re-opened with upgraded technological features, a new visitors centre and a permanent exhibition on 21 October 2024 ahead of UN Day. [Africa Hall](#), is a historic and iconic symbol of African unity More: <https://www.uneca.org/africa-hall> for the programme, **click here:** [https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/sites/default/files/resources/documents/africa-hall/reopening-of-africa-hall/inauguration\\_of\\_africa\\_hall\\_programme\\_copy\\_cb\\_comment.pdf](https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/sites/default/files/resources/documents/africa-hall/reopening-of-africa-hall/inauguration_of_africa_hall_programme_copy_cb_comment.pdf)

