



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

**Remarks by**

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At the

**Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Integrated Assessment Tools and  
Methodologies for an Inclusive Green Economy in Africa**

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**Distinguished experts,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of Carlos Lopes, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa(ECA), it is my great honour to welcome you to ECA, and to this Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting on “Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for an Inclusive Green Economy in Africa”. The meeting is being organized by the Special Initiatives Division of the Commission through its Green Economy and Natural Resources Section (GENRS).

The work of the Commission on inclusive green economy is currently being undertaken in the context of fostering structural transformation in the region. The main objective is to contribute to the body of knowledge and enhance understanding on the implications of the green economy paradigm for Africa’s transformation. The intent is to inform and promote the formulation and implementation of policies to achieve an inclusive green transformation and realize optimal benefits from Africa’s key natural resources and related sectors.

This draft report on “Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for an Inclusive Green Economy in Africa” that you will be deliberating on in this meeting is aimed at enhancing understanding on the application, strengths and weaknesses of various tools and methodologies on integrated assessment at various stages of the policy cycle. The report is intended to identify the most suitable methodologies and tools for integrated assessment of IGE policies in Africa; and provide recommendations on tools and methodologies for in depth study, capacity development and advocacy activities.

This study report on integrated assessment tools and methodologies is complemented by two other studies on:

- 1. *Inclusive Green Economy Policies and Structural Transformation in selected African Countries.*** The study is aimed at exploring the linkages and contribution of inclusive green economy policies and strategies to the structural transformation of African countries. Study reports have been commissioned in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique and Tunisia, and survey questionnaires are being administered in ten other countries, namely: Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa; and
- 2. *Enabling measures for an inclusive green economy in Africa.*** This study, which is being undertaken in collaboration with UNEP, explores enabling measures that would facilitate the transition to an inclusive green economy in Africa.

So far, the enabling measures study report, and four of the country reports on inclusive green economy and structural transformation have been subjected to validation meetings- the most recent was held in Gabon last week.

This meeting has been organised to provide a platform for experts to deliberate on, and enrich the draft report on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for an Inclusive Green Economy in Africa. The task before you is

to systematically examine the report, identify gaps, provide inputs, propose revisions and make recommendations towards finalizing the report. We are delighted to have experts in diverse fields in the meeting. I am confident that you will effectively bring to bear your multidisciplinary expertise towards ensuring that the objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting are met in the most efficient manner.

At this juncture, I would like to extend my warm welcome to the representatives of the African Union Commission (AUC), Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for their productive partnership in supporting Africa's green economy agenda. I also wish to express my profound gratitude to you distinguished experts for taking time off your busy schedules to come and share your knowledge on this very important subject matter.

### **Distinguished Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Inclusive green economy is considered as one of the means for operationalizing sustainable development, which is generally viewed through the balanced integration of its mutually reinforcing dimensions: social, economic and environmental. In the context of Africa, governance and institutions, which are fundamental and overarching aspects of sustainable development, deserve an equally important emphasis. Thus, the inclusive green economy paradigm, as supported by its conceptual framework, also requires an integrated analysis. It also lends itself to integrated institutional and policy frameworks that take into account and reflect the sectoral win-win and examine "trade-off" issues within various policy scenarios.

Key to promoting an inclusive green economy in the context of Africa's structural transformation is the design and deployment of appropriate frameworks and policies. And sound policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation are required to ensure that green economy policies promote an informed and smooth transition. In this regard, integrated assessment tools and methodologies should support a normative policymaking approach embodying environmental, social and economic implications and associated policy issues and their potential solutions.

### **Distinguished Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Research on tools and methodologies for inclusive green economy policy and planning responds to the needs expressed in various fora, to ECA and partners by African countries that would like to embark on, or are at different stages of formulating and implementing inclusive green economy policies and strategies. These are contained in the Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20, the Outcome Document of the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting for the Post-Rio+20 follow-up processes, and the Outcome Document of the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals, among others.

Furthermore, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, invited organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and donors to assist countries in their green economy transition, including by methodologies, toolboxes and models for evaluating or applying green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Exactly two months ago, in this same Conference Centre, the State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia, Dr. Abraham Tekeste, called upon ECA to enhance support to the country in strengthening the capacity of key government institutions, particularly on the application and use of analytical tools for integrated assessment of inclusive green economy and structural transformation.

**Distinguished Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the course of this meeting, you will hear presentations, and will engage in preliminary discussions on various aspects of the report. Subsequently, you will go into breakout groups for an in-depth examination of the report. I hope that through your interactions with the presenters and with one another, you will be able to among other things, distil the most appropriate tools and methodologies for integrated assessment of inclusive green economy in Africa; and areas where focussed capacity development is needed to enhance application of the tools and methodologies. The breakout session will be crucial for deepening your interactions to effectively respond to the specific tasks assigned, and other issues that you may deem important towards producing a good quality report, and informing in-depth work and capacity development in this area.

**Finally,**

**Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to assure you that ECA remains committed to strengthening its collaboration with all partners, including African regional and sub-regional organizations, and sister UN agencies to support countries in the formulation and implementation of green economy policies and strategies that will support an inclusive green transformation of the region.

I wish you a successful meeting, and pleasant stay in Addis Ababa.

**I thank you all for your kind attention.**