

United Nations

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**Economic and  
Social Council**

E/ECA/ARFSD/L  
E/ECA/CSD/9/L

Distr.: General  
18 June 2015  
Original: English

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**Economic Commission for Africa**

Ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development and  
the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Addis Ababa, 16–18 June 2015

**Report**

## **I. Introduction**

1. The ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development and the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development were held back to back, on 16 June 2015 and 17 and 18 June 2015 respectively, at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in Addis Ababa. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development was organized by ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme.

2. The objectives of the ninth session were to review and provide guidance on the ECA subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa's natural resources, to oversee the implementation of its 2014–2015 work programme, and to review the priorities of the subprogramme for the 2016–2017 work programme in the context of the ECA strategic framework and proposed programme budget for the 2016–2017 biennium.

3. The main objective of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development was to discuss and agree on Africa's collective input and key messages to be transmitted to the 2015 meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. These messages focused on: integration, implementation and review, including shaping the High-level Political Forum beyond 2015; new and emerging issues and the science-policy interface; sustainable consumption and production; and small island developing States and other countries in special situations.

4. The present report sets out the proceedings of both the session of the Committee and the Africa Regional Forum.

## **II. Attendance**

5. The ninth Session of the Committee and the regional Forum were attended by representatives of all 54 member States, namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the African Development Bank also participated in the deliberations. Three regional economic communities also took part in the deliberations, namely, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Economic Community of West African States. Representatives of all of the nine major groups recognized at the United

Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, were also present, namely, women; children and youth; farmers; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations; trade unions; local authorities; science and technology; and business and industry.

7. Observers from the following funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system were present: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), , the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNWomen

8. A representative of the European Union also attended the meetings.

9. The complete list of participants is attached and can also be accessed from <http://uneca.org/csd-9-and-arfsd>.

### **III. Proceedings of the ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development**

#### **A. Opening of the session**

10. Opening statements were made by Ms. Fatima Denton, Director of the Special Initiatives Division of ECA and Mr. Blaise Edouard Ngouende, Minister-Counsellor at the Embassy of the Congo in Ethiopia, and representing the Congo as Chair of the outgoing Bureau. Mr. Thierry Amoussougbo, Senior Programme Management Officer, African Climate Policy Centre of the Special Initiatives Division, moderated the opening of the session.

11. Mr. Thierry Amoussougbo welcomed the delegates to the ninth session and introduced the outgoing Bureau of the eighth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development. That Bureau had comprised the Congo (Chair), Egypt (First Vice-Chair), Liberia (Second Vice-Chair), Uganda (Third Vice-Chair) and Malawi (Rapporteur).

12.

13. Mr. Ngouende, speaking on behalf of the President of the Congo, His Excellency, Denis Sassou Nguesso, explained that the ninth session would serve as a platform for the upcoming Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. He thanked the member States for having elected the Congo as Chair of the eighth session and commended the members of the outgoing Bureau for their work during the eighth session.

14. He said that while the recent steady growth of African economies – of more than 5 per cent per year–was commendable, behind those economic gains was a different reality. Africa’s economic growth was based on the exploitation of non-renewable resources, which did not create enough jobs. The continent’s population was growing, while production models, which had shaped the mainstream thinking of development strategies, had resulted in heavy pollution and socioeconomic discrepancies. Africa was affected by hunger, poverty and many social ills, which contrasted sharply with the economic growth figures reported. He

therefore called for changes to the African vision and for the need to foster sustainable development in the region.

15. Without changing the vision on the continent's development, there was a risk of disillusionment, as it was estimated that the continent's youth population would increase by 29 per cent by 2050, with more than two thirds of young people jobless. In addition, to avoid disastrous consequences as a result of misuse of natural resources, Africa needed to embark on enhanced protection of the environment and inclusive sustainable development. The Committee had, therefore, enormous responsibilities and challenges to address.

16. Noting that 2015 was a critical year with regard to addressing climate-related development challenges and that the Committee had a great opportunity to contribute to the debate by defining a clear work programme, on behalf of the outgoing Bureau he called upon the delegates to come up with innovative solutions and strategies to address Africa's priorities on climate change and sustainable development in general.

17. Speaking on behalf of Mr. Carlos Lopes, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, Ms. Fatima Denton said that the objectives of the meeting were threefold: first, to review and provide guidance for the ECA subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa's natural resources; second, to oversee the implementation of the 2014–2015 work programme and the priorities of the subprogramme for 2016–2017 in the context of the Commission's strategic work and proposed programme budget for the two bienniums; and third, to provide a platform for the 2015 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the upcoming meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

18. She said that following the eighth session, ECA had reviewed its strategic orientation to align its programmatic activities and organizational framework to Africa's transformation agenda. The review had been carried out following a comprehensive internal review of the Commission's mandate and broad consultations with member States and other stakeholders. The Special Initiatives Division had been created to focus on four thematic areas of the subprogramme, with a view to supporting member States in the areas of (i) social, economic and environmental innovation and technological systems as engines of economic growth; (ii) mineral resources and development in the context of the Africa Mining Vision; (iii) inclusive green transformation and development and (iv) addressing climate change in key sectors, and plans and mechanisms to reflect national development priorities, policies, strategies and programmes.

19. She explained that the ninth session of the Committee had been convened to review the implementation of the subprogramme since its inception in 2013. In addition to statutory and programmatic matters related to the work of the ECA subprogramme, the Committee was also meeting to provide a clear understanding of Africa's priorities and key messages for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. She concluded by thanking the members of the outgoing Bureau and the whole Committee for their guidance and unwavering support to ECA.

## **B. Organizational matters**

### **1. Election of the Bureau for the ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development**

20. Mr. Ngouende, presiding over the election of the Bureau for the ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development, explained the procedure for electing the Bureau, emphasizing the rationale of geographic representation and the principle of rotation.

21. Following deliberations, the Committee elected the following countries to constitute its Bureau, on the basis of rotational subregional representation:

Chair:	Senegal
First Vice-Chair:	Sudan
Second Vice-Chair:	Gabon
Third Vice-Chair:	Kenya
Rapporteur:	Malawi

### **2. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work**

The Chair invited the Committee to consider the agenda and programme of work for the session. The agenda and programme of work were adopted without amendments.

## **C. Introduction and objectives of the session**

22. Thierry Amoussougbo, Senior Programme Management Officer, African Climate Policy Centre of the Special Initiatives Division presented the background and objectives of the session, as outlined in section I above. The representative also explained the rationale for changing the name of the Committee from the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development to the Committee on Sustainable Development. The Committee had been known as the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development from 1999 until 2013, when ECA was restructured, and was the statutory committee for the subprogramme. The name change had not affected its composition and focus, as the Committee remained both a technical and legislative organ that brought together high-level experts and policymakers representing the three constituents of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) and that met every two years to provide guidance on how ECA could improve its support to member States.

23. The Committee would continue to serve as a platform to assess progress made by the subprogramme in implementing the sustainable development commitments. The change to the Committee on Sustainable Development was in line with the Commission's repositioning, which sought to respond to Africa's evolving needs and demands for structural transformation. Africa was a continent that was rising in terms of population, growth and urbanization, and was facing the effects of climate change and depletion of natural resources. ECA had therefore aligned its subprogrammes and intergovernmental machinery to Africa's structural transformation agenda, with a view to making the Commission a think tank and knowledge-based institution of reference providing high-quality, up-to-date data and knowledge products on science-based policy processes. The Special Initiatives Division had

been established to implement the subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa's natural resources.

24. The objective of the Committee on Sustainable Development was to review and provide guidance on the subprogramme; to provide guidance in the areas of food security, agriculture, land, climate change, the green economy, natural resource development and management; to assess the implementation of the subprogramme; and to serve as a platform for the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. During the ninth session of the Committee, presentations would be given on the implementation of the programme of work of the subprogramme for 2014 and 2015 and comments and guidance elicited on how ECA could improve the implementation of the programme of work. The secretariat would present the strategic programme for 2016 and 2017 and would elicit comments from the delegates with a view to reaching consensus on how the subprogramme could be aligned with Africa's priorities, in support of the region's transformation agenda.

25. Mr. Amoussougbo concluded by calling on the delegates to provide such comments and guidance in the form of recommendations to ECA, member States and ECA partners.

**D. Presentation and discussion of the parliamentary report entitled "Harnessing innovation, technology and the management of Africa's natural resources for Africa's transformation: challenges and opportunities"**

**1. Presentation**

26. Ms Fatima Denton, the Director of the Special Initiatives Division presented the overview of the parliamentary report on "Harnessing innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources for Africa's transformation: challenges and opportunities". She said that Africa was growing but not succeeding in reducing poverty, as growth was not inclusive; there had not been shared benefits; and there was increasing youth unemployment. Africa's wealth lay in natural resources but these natural resources were finite, the ecosystems were fragile, and that there was need to embrace new sectors, service industries as Africa had not fully benefited from the value chain. Africa was a major producer of primary products but that the majority was exported to developed countries. She gave the example of coffee whereby 90 per cent of revenue from Africa's coffee goes to developed countries. She then underscored the paradox of Africa with its abundant natural resources and the poverty of its people.

27. Natural resources had their own limits and therefore the questions were how to: harness these resources for growth in other areas; move from polluting to cleaner economy; and enhance smart innovations and cleaner technologies. Additionally the critical problem was that the food production system was dysfunctional; and mineral resources operated as an enclave industry not translated into the shared growth that could lift the continent out of poverty. The key issues that the Division would focus on were: using climate change as a business opportunity by looking at agriculture as a booming enterprise; building human and institutions to support knowledge generation; adopting green economy to improve development outcomes through technology and innovation that enables to leapfrog; and moving to less polluting consumption patterns. Innovation could play a role to moving to low carbon development. There were parallels: they all required transformational thinking and a

paradigm shift. There was also the issue of sustainable management of natural resources, which could lead to accelerated growth. She noted that many of African institutions were not able to support the level of changes that are required to transition to green economy, climate change resilience, harnessing science, technology and innovation for sustainable development and using mineral resources for broad based sustainable development.

28. The following presentations focused on the four work areas of the subprogramme were made after Ms. Fatima's overview:

(a) Mr. Kasirim Nwuke, Chief of New Technology and Innovation Section (NTIS) gave a presentation on NTIS. He indicated that the main objective focused on research, policy development and analytical work to support member States to adopt new technologies and innovation policies and strategies needed to build the technical competencies and entrepreneurial capacity. The Section sought to innovate as well as to put in place efficient mechanisms to acquire appropriate technologies. The research undertaken would also help countries to assess the impact of new technologies on economic and social development as engines of economic growth. In terms of strategic approach, the presenter indicated that NTIS contributed to creating an integrated science, technology and innovation policy and system in development planning. The Section supported member States in their efforts to build a knowledge-based economy. The priorities areas of policy research and knowledge generation of the Section included innovation systems and policy research, country profiles, technology development and transfer, new and emerging technologies and industries, youth and innovation, improving access to broadband towards building the knowledge economy, ICT and economic growth among others. With regards to challenges, he stressed the lack of financial resources,

(b) Ms. Isatou Gaye, Chief of Green Economy and Natural Resources Section (GENRS) made a presentation on the work of the section. She indicated that the objective of this section was to contribute to the body of knowledge and enhance understanding on the implications of the inclusive green economy paradigm for Africa's transformational agenda. The work of the section derived from the outcome document of Rio +20 and the outcomes cover all three dimensions of sustainable development. The approach was promoting green economy in key sector at first as well as integrating policy approach to mainstream the three dimension of sustainable development. The priorities work areas of the Section were: examining the implications of the transition for Africa's transformation; leveraging opportunities for inclusive green growth – in key sectors; analysing enablers of the transition in the context of Africa; promoting planning tools and methodologies to support integrated policy making and assessments, and statistical capacities in Africa; and fostering natural resource use efficiency. The presenter underscored also that GENRS was faced with many challenges including inadequate understanding of the concept as well as capacity issues. The concept is relatively new and many did not know what it meant for Africa and for national priorities. Green economy was not only a technical issue of design and implementation but also a political choice..

(c) Mr. Kojo Busia, Officer in charge of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), gave a presentation on the centre, which had been launched in December 2013. He started by providing an overview of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), a new social contract, which strived to 'create a transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development'. He

underscored AMV's tenets for sustainable development including diversification, social and economic linkages; transparency and accountability; good governance in which communities and citizens participate equitably; a viable artisanal and small scale mining; environmental and social responsibility based on sustainable development principles; and building human and institutional capacities to create knowledge at all levels of the mining value chain. Mr. Busia then highlighted AMDC's mission and objective, as the vehicle for the implementation of the AMV. He indicated AMDC's strategic approach; priority areas of work; expected outcomes; key achievements; and challenges and opportunities. Concerning challenges and opportunities, he stressed the lack of awareness about the AMV and lack of ownership by countries; the multiplicity of partners and lack of coordination in countries as well as the transition of the AMDC to an AU Specialised Agency.

(d) Mr. Johnson Nkem, Senior Adaptation Officer, African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) gave a presentation on the work of this Centre. He highlighted the link between climate change and development. He provided an overview on the Centre, which he said, served as the secretariat of ClimDev-Africa initiative, a joint programme set up at high-political level by ECA, AfDB and AUC to address the impacts of climate change on Africa's development. The vision of ClimDev-Africa was to promote a sustainable attainment of poverty reduction and other MDGs in Africa through policies and decisions that take full account of the risks and opportunities related to climate change at all levels (regional, sub-regional, national, local, community and individual). ClimDev-Africa vision was operationalized through implementing activities that: (i) enhance the scientific basis/operational infrastructures, (ii) improve frameworks for decision-making, awareness and advocacy and (iii) strengthen partnerships between government institutions, private sector, civil society and vulnerable communities. The programme combined the efforts and leadership of the three major African wide institutions, ECA, AUC and AfDB, to tackle the issue of climate change in Africa. Through ACPC, ECA generated knowledge and analytical inputs to inform policy with regard to climate change. AfDB demonstrated return on investments in climate information in order to optimize new investments in climate information and services in Africa, while AUC enabled policy formulation and uptake regarding climate change at the highest level. Since its launch in 2010, ClimDev-Africa had provided various analytical work and operational support to several African countries including small island countries, and some RECs including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the East African Community (EAC). It had also provided platforms for dialogue, awareness raising, ideas and knowledge sharing at national, regional, continental and international levels. ACPC was also building and strengthening the capacities of national hydrological and meteorological agencies in order to enhance climate information and services supply in Africa. It had also carried out capacity enhancement for African youths and young lawyers in the area of climate change. Through ClimDev Special Fund (CDSF), located within AfDB, 56 out of 93 climate-related projects submitted from across the continent had been selected as bankable. The programme was being supported by USAID, DFID, NORDIC Development Fund, EU and Sweden.

## **2. Discussion**

29. During the ensuing discussions, the committee raised the following issues.

(a) All parties to the UNFCCC were required to prepare Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). In this regard, ECA through ACPC was providing

specific support to Africa countries in order to put them at the same level. The support was on methodology used as there was no uniformity and countries were not at the same level. There were analyses made on the distinctions between adaptation and mitigation to inform how to associate development priorities with INDCs. African countries should submit their INDCs or the progress made in the preparation of INDCs as there is need to have an overall evaluation before Paris.

(b) Issues related to marginalized groups appeared not to be adequately included in the work of the subprogramme. Specifically issues such as gender and gender equality needed to be integrated into and addressed in policies promoted by the subprogramme. Following the response by the Secretariat, the Committee noted that the Division worked closely with the African Centre for Gender on gender issues. Noteworthy was the work of the African Minerals Development Centre, which had a programme on women in artisanal and small-scale mining.

(c) Coordination and synergies between different processes and initiatives, such as AMCEN to avoid duplication and enhance exchange of experiences was highlighted. It was also important to ensure coordination of the activities of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), AMCEN, the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) – to avoid duplication and possible neglect of certain important areas. On this issue, the Committee noted that the Division was working with AMCEN and worked collaboratively with AGN and had a number of ongoing collaborative initiatives in this regard.

(d) The Committee welcomed the establishment of the AMDC and suggested that the centre should look critically at the link between conflict and minerals, as there was no sustainable development without peace.

(e) On regional integration, ECA was working closely with RECs. The Committee noted the work of AMDC which was able to translate the regional Africa Mining Vision at the country level through the Country Mining Visions (CMVs), as well as the work of ACPC which was setting up observation systems as countries could not adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change without good observation systems.

(f) It was important to strengthen capacity for negotiating mining contracts.

(g) Establishing partnership with other African initiatives, including parliamentary networks was emphasized.

(h) There was lack of information with regard to mineral resources in terms of quantity, which was crucial in increasing their bargaining power during contract negotiations.

(i) There was need for value addition, beneficiation and linking minerals to the industrialization agenda of the continent and link to regional integration.

(j) Energy was important as the basis for development on the continent and that it should come out more prominently. There was a need for ECA to take into account the importance of the energy in development of the mineral sector. In this connection, it was important to take into account priority areas for NEPAD's energy programme including bio-

energy development for energy and food security, energy accessibility through renewable energy solutions, development of the continent's nuclear power resources and energy efficiency.

(k) There was concern that Africa was being called upon to support/contribute to the fight against climate change even though it was not part of its origin. It was pointed out that Annex 1 countries were supposed to support African countries for climate change initiatives, but the region had not benefitted much from that support.

(l) There was need to use appropriate technology and innovation to address environmental issues and industrialization as well as climate change adaptation and resilience. New and green technologies needed to be rolled out in a manner to support sustainable development. There was therefore a need to link the work of NTIS to the future of technology development as agreed at Rio+20. The building and strengthening of STI systems was needed in order to succeed in advancing science and technology. The digital revolution as an optimization of environmental and social transformation was also important.

(m) There was need to protect natural resource noting that restrictions are necessary for example to track the use/exploitation of these resources. Emphasis was also made on the crucial importance of sustainable management of land and therefore embarking on appropriate support programmes for member States faced with land degradation.

(n) Health was central to sustainable development citing the example of the impact of Ebola of the three West African countries. As such issues of health needed to be taken into account in the work of the subprogramme

(o) There was need to document good practices in the main work areas of the subprogramme.

### **3. Recommendations**

30. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- (i) Countries should be assisted to establish mineral policies, legal and regulatory frameworks to accompany mining codes.
- (ii) In order to maximize support to developing countries and for Africa to benefit from its accelerated growth and facilitate the conservation of resources, there should be more regional projects.
- (iii) African countries should be supported to develop and contribute to the establishment indicators for the post-2015 development agenda, which had SDGs at its centre. In this connection, the indicators to be developed needed to be appropriate to the region and measurable.
- (iv) The subprogramme should undertake research to provide concrete examples where ICT/STI and innovation technologies had contributed to sustainable development.

- (v) The subprogramme should develop and implement programmes to support and bring on board the private sector to promote green economy as an integral part of private sector initiatives and investments.
- (vi) Countries should be supported with technologies to ensure successful implementation programmes to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals.
- (vii) The digital age agenda should be integrated in the promotion green economy and natural resources development.
- (viii) Regional health systems should be established to respond to future disease outbreaks.

**E. Presentation and discussion of the report on progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 programme of work of the ECA subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa’s natural resources**

**1. Presentation**

31. Under this agenda item, Ms. Fatima presented the progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 programme of work of the ECA subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa’s natural resources. She highlighted the objective subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa’s natural resources, which was led by the Special Initiatives Division (SID). The subprogramme was implemented through four the four entities of the Division, namely, the New Technologies and Innovation Section, the Green Economy and Natural Resources Section, , the African Minerals Development Centre and the African Climate policy Centre.

32. The Director highlighted the expected accomplishments and outputs of the subprogramme, including the indicators and metrics for assessing success. Among the key accomplishments for each of the four entities of the Division were the following:

(a) *New Technologies and Innovation Section:* The work of the section included promoting uptake of technology and greater innovation in member States. To support that, a number of policy briefs had been prepared around issues such as e-commerce and cyber security. Other work entailed supporting countries and citizen engagement in science and technology as well as open data.. There had been a review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and there had also been visiting fellows and interns supporting the wider work of the Section. The incorporation of research and development and information and communications technology in national development plans was something that the Section was eager to realize.

(b) *Green Economy and Natural Resources Section:* The Green Economy and Natural Resources Section was a new section working to help countries to achieve green transformation. Policy reforms for achieving green growth were important and it was necessary to re-configure economies to achieve a green economy. Ten reports had been prepared, including the third edition of the *Sustainable Development Report on Africa*. Work had been carried out on: inclusive green economy policies for structural transformation in selected countries; tools and methodologies for a green transition; and disaster risk reduction.

The monitoring of sustainable development was an important area of ongoing work of the Section.

(c) *African Minerals Development Centre*: The Centre sought to enhance the capacities of member States to undertake minerals sector reform. The Africa Mining Vision provided direction to the work of the Centre on policies, governance, linkages, geology, artisanal and small-scale mining, and gender. The work of the Centre was demand-driven, so requests from countries opened the doors to deeper engagement. An assessment had been made of mining in Eritrea. Furthermore, there had been work on deep-sea mining and marine resources. There had also been work towards engaging the private sector in the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision.

(d) *African Climate Policy Centre*: The Centre was focused on increasing the number of member States that could factor climate change into their development plans. The fourth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa had brought together development imperatives such as food security and economic development. A total of 11 papers and reports had been prepared on topics such as climate change and development issues for Small Island Developing States in Africa, and the relationship between the so-called BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and Africa. Another initiative was to take key development sectors and set out the opportunities under climate change, specifically related to water, food and income security. A six-point strategy had been prepared for climate-resilient economies. Climate information services had been supported in terms of infrastructure in three countries, including Ethiopia. There had also been work around intended nationally determined contributions and engaging young people, specifically lawyers, in such issues.

33. Going forward, the Division would provide enhanced support to African Small Island Developing States; promote the transition to a green economy and low-carbon climate-resilient development pathways; and encourage countries to engage and develop country-mining visions.

## **2. Discussion**

34. During the ensuing discussion, the Committee raised the following issues:

(a) The African Union had a policy on space technology in the context of assessing mineral and other resources, and there was a partnership with the European Union in that regard. There was a need to know more about such technology as a tool for sustainable development.

(b) Although ECA had supported countries in the use of technology, there was a lack of property rights to protect innovators.

(c) Africa was not starting from scratch and there was a need to build on previous initiatives such as the flagship programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and country studies, including green economy scoping studies.

(d) The green economy was very important. The development of the blue economy was crucial for Small Island Developing States, African countries with coastlines and those with large lakes.

(e) Poverty was an underlying factor that fomented insecurity in many parts of the world. Young people were particularly vulnerable to radicalization in areas where economic, environmental and social conditions were poor. Research had showed that environmental grievances had led to radicalization, for instance among some young people living in poverty in coastal areas.

(f) It was important for the African Climate Policy Centre to act as a steering body, collaborating with research institutions throughout Africa and help to ensure that there was a stronger response on climate change in the region.

(g) African countries tended to use the terms “green economy” and “green growth” interchangeably, but it was important to be explicit about what constituted green economy. Green economy was a developmental trajectory anchored on the management and conservation of natural resources with a view to addressing ecological scarcities, premised on the pursuance of resource efficiency programmes and cleaner production initiatives. Western countries tended to focus on green growth, underpinned by market access and the creation of new markets, in an attempt to recover economically following the global economic crisis, while developing countries were viewed as markets for their products and technologies as they leapfrogged their development focus towards transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

### **3. Recommendations**

35. The Committee made the following specific recommendations:

#### **(a) Small island developing States**

While the attention paid by ECA to African Small Island Developing States was very much appreciated, the Commission should support the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in order to realize benefits for Small Island Developing States.

#### **(b) New technology and innovation**

- (i) To ensure that new and green technology was rolled out in a manner that supported sustainable development, there was a need to revisit the discussion of technology management mechanisms. It seemed that the call for such mechanisms had not been followed up properly since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. There was also a need to clarify the concept to ensure that the process could facilitate meaningful and substantial capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries with regard to technology transfer and deployment. ECA should therefore put together a team to revisit the issue and to develop terms of reference for a study, and to report to the Committee in due course. The matter should also be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

**(c) Green economy and natural resources**

- (i) A study should be carried out on the linkages between environmental degradation and insecurity. Some member States offered to provide evidence and information in that regard.
- (ii) The blue economy should be raised to the same level as the green economy in the post-2015 development framework.
- (iii) The ECA subprogramme should support African countries to pursue a green economy development pathway as one of the key tools towards transitioning to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and sustainable economy, with the potential to create jobs across many sectors of the economy, based on promoting national visions of an environmentally sustainable, climate-change resilient, low-carbon economy and just society.
- (iv) The following eight pillars for intervention could serve as a good basis for work on the green economy; namely, green building and the built environment; sustainable transport and infrastructure; clean energy and energy efficiency; natural resource conservation and management; sustainable waste management and practices; agriculture, food production and forestry; water management; and sustainable consumption and production.
- (v) Africa should take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the African Green Economy Partnership and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy to leverage support, capacity and other resource mobilization mechanisms to assist with the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of green economy programmes.
- (vi) Africa should ensure that the definition of green economy is that of inclusive development with an integrated focus on the three pillars of sustainable development, with poverty eradication being the overarching objective and the indispensable tool for achieving sustainable development.
- (vii) The ECA subprogramme should also refer to and integrate relevant programmes of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, such as Decision 15/1 on sustainably harnessing Africa's natural capital in the context of Agenda 2063, adopted in Cairo in March 2015.
- (viii) The High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa should make recommendations on how to reverse the illicit flow of financial resources arising from natural resources and how to industrialize and add value by harnessing natural capital.

**(d) Mineral resources development**

- (i) Assistance should be provided to the minerals sector in Africa to demonstrate commitment to social development, environmental management and economic development, with a view to enabling a globally competitive, sustainable and meaningfully transformed minerals sector on the continent.
- (ii) Sustainable development in the mining sector should embrace initiatives and policies emanating from the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Global Compact and other relevant international and regional instruments.
- (iii) In order to ensure sustainable growth and the meaningful transformation of the mining industry, the sector should acknowledge and commit to mitigate various constraints such as infrastructure inadequacies, the scarcity of requisite skills, gaps in regulatory frameworks, environmental degradation as well as a lack of exploration and related research and development.
- (iv) The sector (in particular multinational corporations) should recognize the transformation backlog in the industry and the unsatisfactory pace of socioeconomic development in many communities where mineral exploitation takes place. The sector should be encouraged and assisted to integrate transformation priorities with measures to promote the globally competitive growth of the sector.
- (v) It was important for the subprogramme to take into account the importance of the energy sector in the context of the development of the mineral sector taking into consideration the priority areas energy programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). These priorities included bio-energy development for energy and food security, energy accessibility through renewable energy solutions, development of the continent's nuclear power resources and energy efficiency. The programme also supported the development of power generation from natural gas, coal-bed methane and geothermal power in the Rift Valley.

**(e) Climate change and development**

- (i) Means of implementation to support developing countries (public sector finance, technology transfer and capacity-building) were important and should be a central outcome of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, due to be held in Paris in November and December 2015. Owing to its legally distinct nature, climate finance should not be confused with voluntary support for broader sustainable development efforts in developing countries, such as those discussed in the context of the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the establishment of the sustainable development goals. Moreover, the responsibility for providing public sector financing could not be shifted to the private sector, as public finance was the essential vehicle for unlocking potentially much larger sums of investment and financing from the private

sector (for instance for adaptation, which seldom attracts spontaneous private funding).

- (ii) Since it had been agreed that any agreement reached in Paris had to be in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it must be anchored on the Convention's core principles and provisions, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, based on science (an increase in global temperatures of 2 degrees Celsius or less), and also address all of the pillars of the Convention in a balanced manner, including adaptation and means of implementation support for developing countries. That was especially important given that the Paris agreement might shape the collective response to climate change for decades to come.
- (iii) The new legal agreement could not be about mitigation action only. It must accord adaptation the same level of priority as mitigation, expressly confirm that adaptation was a global responsibility, and agree on a global goal on adaptation. Parity between mitigation and adaptation needed go beyond mere normative affirmation ("political parity") and must include both qualitative and quantitative aspects.
- (iv) The work of subprogramme should include the following priority areas for climate research to serve development needs:
- Co-designed multidisciplinary research for improving climate forecast skills and reliability, across temporal and spatial scales (towards operational, user-relevant, seamless forecast products);
  - Filling the data gap and tailoring for sector decision-making;
  - Capacity-building at all levels;
  - Mainstreaming climate services into decision-making;
  - Linking knowledge with action; and
  - Improved and more effective communication between climate science and policy to identify end user needs.

**(f) The Bureau of the Committee.**

The Bureau should work with the secretariat to ensure that all relevant reports and new biennium programmes are made available to member States well ahead of the session so that they can be properly considered in their capitals before the delegates attend and engage in the next session of the Committee. Moreover, presentations at the session should be limited to summaries of the reports and information circulated to member States before the session.

36. The secretariat thanked the Committee for its extensive and clear interventions. The secretariat also thanked the member States for volunteering to share reports and other knowledge products related to the work of the subprogramme. The subprogramme was focused on African Small Island Developing States, as it was not possible to address all of the issues for all countries. That explained the support for issues surrounding the blue economy, as the benefits of research on the subject could be extended to other States. For example, Guinea-Bissau was being looked at as an African small island developing State and there had been a reconnaissance visit in that regard. On the issue of engagement and partnerships, there was a need to ensure that partnerships focused on core areas of interest and that expertise not otherwise available was brought in, as stressed by the Committee.

#### **F. Theme, dates and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development**

37. The theme and dates of the tenth session of the Committee would be linked to that of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

#### **G. Other matters**

38. There were no other matters to be deliberated on by the Committee.

#### **H. Concluding session**

39. Ms. Fatima Denton started her concluding remarks by thanking the interpreters and translators for the job very well done, which she said led to high quality and productive deliberations during the Committee meeting. She expressed deep appreciation to the Chair and the entire Bureau, noting the high quality of moderation and leadership displayed by the chair and support provided by the Bureau to the chair to arrive at a common outcome.

40. Ms Fatima also extended a word of thanks to the Chair of CFSSD-8 for setting off the meeting on a right footing and ensuring a smooth transition to the CSD-9 Bureau. She also thanked all the major groups for giving the meeting a good start with a very productive pre-event and active participation in the Committee deliberations. She said that the major groups had demonstrated themselves as strong actors and thanked them for bringing the multi-stakeholder voices.

41. She expressed great appreciation to SID colleagues for all the hard work and high quality reports and presentations that facilitated productive deliberation by the committee.

42. Ms Fatima ended her remarks by pointing out that such a meeting was long overdue, SID being a newly configured division. She stressed that member states were the main constituency of the Division. She therefore thanked the Committee for the great insights given on the subprogramme, in order to foster structural transformation in the region. She pointed out that the Secretariat's core business was first to listen to the Committee. The Division would explore ways to reflect the various insights and recommendations in the Division's programming. Some of the recommendations would also be taken up during the deliberations of the upcoming Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

43. The Chair of the Bureau thanked the members of the Bureau, member States, major groups and other stakeholders and representatives of regional organizations and United Nations agencies. He recognized and expressed sincere gratitude for the high quality of the presentations given and the contributions made by the participants. He confirmed that the recommendations made would be captured by the secretariat for consideration and adoption on the last day of the meeting. The recommendations agreed upon would be taken forward and implemented taking into consideration resource constraints.

44. The Chair adjourned the session of the Committee at 7.10 p.m.

#### **IV. Proceedings of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

##### **A. Opening of the meeting**

45. His Excellency Ato Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Federal Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia opened the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Mayacine Camara, General Director of Planning and Economic Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Senegal and Chair of the ninth Session of the Committee on Sustainable Development; Ms. Federica Pietracci, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Mr. Samba Harouna Thiam, Head of UNEP Liaison Office to AUC, ECA and Ethiopia; Mr. Michael Clark, Senior Coordinator (Governance and Policy), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Ms. Josephine Ngure, AfDB Resident Representative, Ethiopia Field Office; Ambassador Antonio Tete, African Union Permanent Observer to the United Nations, Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA. The opening session was moderated by Ms. Fatima Denton, Director Special Initiatives Division, ECA.

46. Ms. Fatima introduced the dignitaries and welcomed all the delegates to the meeting. She underlined the importance of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in shaping the deliberation at the 2015 HLPF and UN Summit that will be adopt the post-20115 development agenda in September 2015. Ms Denton outlined the objectives of the meeting, which included deliberations on: integration, implementation and review of the post-post 2015 development agenda including SDGs; and New and emerging issues, strengthening the science-policy interface, sustainable consumption and production and countries in special situations. She invited the Forum to weigh in on these important issues, building on the momentum provided by the Rio+20 and the last two days of CSD-9.

47. Mr. Mayacine Camara thanked the host country, the AUC, and ECA for organising the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. He also thanked the outgoing Bureau of CFSSD-8 for the outstanding work accomplished over the past two years.

48. Mr. Camara stressed the relevance of the regional Forum which he said would help channel Africa's views to HLPF to be held in New York from 26 June to 8 July 2015. He recalled the fruitful discussions of the Committee on the previous day, on the ECA subprogramme on innovations, technology and management of Africa's natural resources

including the role of green economy for sustainable development of Africa. He also indicated that persisting poverty and high unemployment among the youth would escalate over-exploitation of natural resources and degradation of the environment. This in turn would exacerbate the negative impact of climate change on the society and environment. It was therefore urgent more than ever before for African countries to embark on the green economy pathway – which would result in leveraging the economic opportunities associated with climate change.

49. He said that nowhere more than in Africa, had the issue of climate change had such a high resonance and development implications. Indeed, Africa contributed little to the current level of greenhouse (GHG) emission in the atmosphere and yet it was among the most affected because of being the most vulnerable continent – due low adaptive capacity, high and persisting poverty, and strong dependency to rain fed agriculture. Meanwhile, the increase frequency of weather and climate extremes was likely to be aggravated by the lack of binding agreement to limit GHG in the atmosphere. In this context, Africa should aim to strike a binding multilateral and international agreement during the 21<sup>st</sup>Conference of the Parties COP21 in Paris, which would limit the rise of mean global surface temperature to below 2 degrees Centigrade.

50. In order to shift paradigm from climate change negative impact to climate-related development opportunities, discussions on technology transfer must be conducted jointly with discussions on climate financing. This implied establishing an innovative investment framework which promoted a transparent management and use of both public and private sector resources.

51. Ms. Federica Pietracci thanked ECA for inviting UNDESA to the meeting. She said that the world community was in the final stretch of elaborating the development agenda to chart the way to 2030; and that there was an incredible enthusiasm in the negotiations in the UN in New York. The agenda would be adopted at a UN Summit in September 2015.

52. She recalled the Rio+20 outcome; the process of defining the format of HLPF and its establishment by the General Assembly in 2013 in its resolution 67/290; and the wide-ranging mandate of HLPF. The General Assembly acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited regional commissions to contribute to the work of the Forum, and thus the importance of the regional Forum. She outlined the theme and format of the 2015 HLPF.

53. She gave a detailed account of the national implementation reviews and said that the zero draft outcome document suggested a three-tier architecture similar to what the Secretary-General proposed in his Synthesis Report. In other words, reviews will take place at the national, regional and global levels.

54. She said that Africa would not be starting from scratch in reviewing implementation of sustainable development agreements, given the well-established Africa peer review mechanism (APRM). APRM had been often referred as a possible example for replication in other regions. She therefore called on the Forum to reflect on how the APRM could be used or built upon to review country progress in implementing the SDGs.

55. She informed the Forum that the discussions would continue in next week's negotiations on the post 2015 development agenda, and then in 10 days at the third meeting of the HLPF which was to focus on strengthening integration, implementation and review: the role of the HLPF after 2015. The outcome of the Africa regional Forum would be presented by its Chair to the HLPF on June 26, during the session titled "Shaping the world for 2030: from vision to transformative action."

56. Mr. Samba Harouna Thiam began by highlighting the significant increase of Africa's ecological footprint by about 240 percent between 1961 and 2008. The rise, he said, was attributable to both population growth and increase in consumption rate. Looking ahead this footprint was expected to double by 2040 under the business as usual scenario.

57. Evidence showed that investing in natural resource management had the potential to free substantial resources which could be used for green investment. This potential was increasingly being recognised by African countries and UNEP was working closely with UN agencies and AfDB in providing support to about 20 African countries on different aspects of green economy transition. Some countries such as Ethiopia and Rwanda had adopted compressive green economy strategies. He expressed hope that many countries would seize the opportunities offered the green economy pathway to achieve sustainable development,

58. Mr. Michael Clark delivered the statement on behalf of Mr Patrick Kormawa FAO Representative to the African Union and ECA. He thanked the organizers for the invitation and appreciated the work done by ECA in organizing the meeting. He noted that ending hunger and fostering transition to sustainable use of natural resources were vital and linked developmental challenges. Natural resources were key to eradicating poverty and accelerating inclusive sustainable development on the continent. Ending hunger in a short time period was both feasible and affordable, even for very poor countries he said. He underlined special measures to provide social protection for the poor and vulnerable populations and noted that such measures were capable of breaking the cycle of poverty.

59. He pointed at the large share of population in Africa engaged in agriculture and insisted that they should not be seen as burden but opportunity and needed support in agriculture development to escape out of poverty. Agriculture development should be approached as a business. He called on countries to provide social assistance agricultural programme combined with measures to secure tenure and access to productive resources. Agriculture was key to structural transformation, even as, overtime its share in national GDP should shrink. He called on countries to turn the challenges facing the sector into opportunities to transform agriculture for Africa's prosperity

60. Mr. Taffere Tesfachew thanked ECA for the invitation. He began by noting the role of UNCTAD in conducting policy-relevant research and analysis on Africa with special focus on trade and development, including finance, investment, technology and sustainable development. He underlined the heavy African focus of UNCTAD work including addressing challenges faced by countries in the context of globalization and international cooperation. He expressed UNCTAD's readiness to share some of the perspectives with the participants in context of the post-2015 Development Agenda and implementation of the SDGs.

61. He said that 2015 marked a turning point in the development discourse, with the transition from MDGs to SDGs. The watershed moment, represented a step change in

ambition and a paradigm shift in the development agenda. The SDGs embodied the shared basic aspirations of mankind including good health, decent job, sanitation, electricity and self-sufficiency, which were taken for granted in advanced societies but remained an aspiration for millions of people in Africa. He argued that the central issue is how low-income and structurally weak economies, such as those found in Africa, also fulfil these basic needs for their citizens. In addition, to do so in a way that was economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

62. He emphasized that SDGs represented a high level of ambition and achieving them would require a response that is collective, universal and ambitious as the goals themselves with a clear vision, adequate resource transfer to developing countries and determined leadership to galvanize a fragmented international community. And to UNCTAD, this should be the key message that African countries should take along with them to New York and ensure that development partners understand. SDGs would be achieved only if poverty is eradicated everywhere. He cited the challenges facing Africa where 34 out of the 54 countries are LDCs, with none expected to achieve all the MDGs by 2015. In fact, according to him, Africa may be the battleground on which post-2015 Development Agenda would be won or lost.

63. Ms. Josephine Ngunjiri began by extending apology for the unavoidable absence of the President of the African Development Bank, at the meeting. She expressed optimism about the context in which the post-2015 development agenda was occurring, noting that African countries had witnessed record level economic growth. Africa was at the cusp of structural transformation. She highlighted the unfinished business of eradicating poverty and ensuring that growth was more inclusive and people centred. At the bank, this remained the overriding focus she said. The Bank believed strongly that if the new opportunities were seized, the continent would not only be able to ensure that development is sustained but would also be able to eradicate the scourge of poverty.

64. Looking forward to the Post-2015 agenda, she underscored that the prospect of Africa were significantly brighter than they were at the turn of the millennium when the MDGs were agreed. Yet, the performance on individual wellbeing as measured by the MDGs remained a mixed one, with continent being off track in achieving five out of the eight goals by 2015. The post-2015 Development Agenda therefore presented a unique opportunity for Africa to articulate its common priorities, opportunities and challenges she argued. African governments would need to develop a strong vision for monitoring and accountability, with clear plans for financing and implementation of the strategies.

65. She highlighted priority areas of the Bank's interventions including, infrastructure, regional integration, private sector work and inclusive growth. She further noted the vision of AfDB to harness the potential of a billion Africans by building skills, creating jobs and promoting equal opportunities. The focus was to promote inclusive sustainable development, so that Africa would become self-reliant and significant global player in shaping the sustainable development agenda..

66. H.E Ambassador Tete speaking on behalf of H.E Mrs Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, African Union Commissioner for Rural economy and Agriculture, and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, chairperson of the African union Commission recalled the key decisions of the 2012 United nations Conference on Sustainable development (Rio+20), on strengthening

institutional framework for sustainable development. He observed that the Forum should provide a platform for African region to prepare for the upcoming HLPF and the United Nations summit to adopt the post-2015 agenda, to be held in New York.

67. He highlighted the interest of African heads of State and Government on sustainable development – expressed through the endorsement of the Common African position (CAP) on post-2015 development agenda. He also indicated that the CAP urged developed countries parties to the United Nations Framework convention on Climate change (UNFCCC) to fully implement their commitment under the Kyoto protocol and limit rise of mean global surface temperature to 2 degrees Centigrade.

68. Ambassador Tete reiterated the important role of the agriculture sector in Africa and high potential of the continent’s uncultivated and arable land. On the mining front, Africa had vast deposits of unexploited mineral resources and the financial capacity to embark on capital-intensive mining projects. However, structural transformations in Africa required a shift of the economic paradigm that would include implementing Blue and Green economy policies.

69. Ambassador Tete called on the regional Forum to be a catalyst for constructive discussions on the ways to address Africa’s contemporary challenges on sustainable development.

70. Mr. Abdalla Hamdok welcomed all participants to ECA and the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. This was the inaugural session of the Forum since its establishment by the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in March 2015. He expressed appreciation to AUC, AfDB, UNDESA, UNEP and UNDP for the partnership in organizing the Forum. The Forum was timely and would also be important in preparing the region for the third International Conference on Financing for Development here in Addis Ababa, in July 2015; the Seventieth regular session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 70) which was expected to adopt the post-2015 development agenda and the accompanying SDGs and targets; and the 21st session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) scheduled to meet in Paris, France in November and December 2015 to adopt a new climate change agreement.

71. Mr. Hamdok noted the impetus provided by Rio+20 to accelerating the implementation of sustainable development commitments and strengthening institutional framework for sustainable development at all levels, including the establishment of HLPF. Africa through various processes and inputs including the Common African Position (CAP) had contributed to the formulation of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. Agenda 2063 provided an integrated framework that promoted coherence and synergies among the various continental development frameworks and strategies. He called on African countries to continue to be meaningfully engaged in the intergovernmental process on the elaboration of an indicator framework for the SDGs and the African negotiators to ensure that this work took into account regional and national contexts, as well as initial conditions. National statistical capacities must be strengthened for data gathering, analysis and reporting to support timely reviews.

72. Mr. Hamdok said that the Forum was a momentous opportunity that the region must seize to pave the way for its meaningful participation in the global institutional architecture

for sustainable development, which would guide the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.

73. His Excellency Ato Ahmed Shide welcomed participants to Ethiopia and the Forum and congratulated the organizing partners. He also underlined the importance of the forum in preparing Africa for the three important upcoming meetings on financing for the development, the post-2015 development agenda and UNFCCC COP 21. He called on the member States to actively participate in these meetings. He noted that the regional Forum would convene regularly within the framework of the HLPF to discuss sustainable development, with a focus on action and implementation. He called on the Forum to seize the opportunity to explore means of ensuring that the HLPF responded to Africa's needs. He said the key issue for the region was accountability of the partners in the process in tracking progress of the implementation of the yet to be agreed goals; and mutual learning and sharing of experiences and best practices. There were great expectations that Africa's priorities would be incorporated in all the major decisions to emanate from the HLPF and all the international meetings highlighted above.

74. HE Ahmed Shide informed the Forum that Ethiopia had taken a bold and ambitious decision to set its vision to achieve middle-income status by 2025 while developing a green economy. Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) vision and strategy was a choice that the country consciously made to be among the leading African nations implementing a low-emission rather than carbon-intensive development path that is responsive to our economic priorities including poverty eradication and environmental sustainability. The strategy was linked to the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and consisted of two-pronged goals namely achieving high income; and sustainability in empowering the country to graduate to a middle-income country by 2025.

75. The State Minister concluded by affirming that in moving forward there was need for the region to proceed with a strong sense of unity of purpose and determination, with a clear focus on delivering tangible results to eradicate poverty, create jobs and transform Africa. He called for the further strengthening of multi-stakeholder engagement and consensus building that would allow the region to speak with one strong voice on issues of sustainable development.

76. He ended his statement by declaring open, the inaugural session of the regional Forum.

#### **B. Keynote address on the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda**

77. Mr. Evans Simiyu Maturu, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations delivered the keynote address on the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

78. In his keynote address, delivered on behalf of Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN and Co- o-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, Mr. Evans Maturu said that the meeting

was taking place at the tail end of the negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda. The agenda would be adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015.

79. Mr. Maturu revealed that most of Africa's development-related priorities had been captured in the draft-zero of the post-2015 development agenda –, which was guided by the Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 development agenda. The Sustainable development goals (SDGs) would be a key part of this agenda to be supported by a robust global partnership.

80. The agenda emphasized ending all forms of poverty and hunger in the world as the overriding priority. Achieving the ambitious transformative agenda built on SDGs required huge investments to meet the needs and aspirations of people especially in developing countries. There were ongoing negotiations in the context of financing for development, which was supposed to define the means of implementation for the agenda. He underlined that a successful financing for development outcome is key for the post-2015 development agenda.

81. Mr. Maturu concluded his keynote address by stressing that time was of essence because there was only a 15-year window before 2030 when the agenda would also expire. If no decisive actions were taken to achieve the goals by then it would be already too late given the high pace of climate change and population growth.

#### **C. Organizational matters and adoption of the agenda and programme of work**

82. The Chair of the ninth session of CSD-9 presided over the deliberations of the Forum. The Forum adopted the agenda and programme of work without amendments.

#### **D. Parallel session**

##### **(a) *Parallel session 1: Presentations and discussions on strengthening integration, implementation and review: the role of sustainable development bodies after 2015***

##### **1. Presentations**

##### ***Background and role of global level bodies***

83. Ms. Isatou Gaye, Chief, Green Economy and Natural Resources Section of ECA Special initiatives Division presented the background to the theme of the presentation and the significance of integration, implementation and review in furthering the sustainable development agenda; and the role of sustainable development bodies at the global level in strengthening integration, implementation and review after 2015. The background highlighted the Rio+20 decision to establish a universal intergovernmental High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development; and the call to promote the review and stocktaking of progress in the implementation of all sustainable development commitments. She also recalled Rio+20 follow-up actions in Africa including: the Africa RIM recommendation to upgrade Africa-RIM to the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD); the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on

the SDGs October 2013; the work of the Africa HLC feeding into the Common African Position (CAP) and the Open Working Group on the SDGs.

84. On the significance of integration, implementation and review in furthering the sustainable development agenda, the presentation noted the acknowledgement by Rio+20 of the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, recognizing their inter-linkages and the need to adopt an interlinkage approach in policy formulation and programme development. Implementation called for carefully crafted policies and strategies thus a rationale for National Sustainable Development Strategies. The presentation noted that implementation depended among others on: high-level political commitment; well-functioning institutions; requires involvement of broad range of stakeholder; and access to adequate means of implementation. There was the need to review through regular monitoring and reporting on progress towards sustainability. The process of review should embody mechanism for monitoring, follow-up, evaluation and feedback, including setting realistic and flexible targets. Reviews could also serve as a learning process and function to enhance integration and implementation. The presentation stressed the need for accurate, reliable and timely data as an imperative for effective reviews.

85. The UN General Assembly (GA) was the Chief, deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN and the critical role of ECOSOC as the principal body for policy review, dialogue and recommendations and follow-up. The GA established the HLPF in 2013 as the main UN platform dealing with SD. The HLPF is mandated to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for SD; follow up and review progress in the implementation of SD commitments and ultimately SDGs; enhance the integration of the three dimensions of SD in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels; and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging SD challenges. In line with these mandates, the HLPF plays the key roles in: providing a forum for focused and unified message to all UN organizations on SD and thus become a champion for support in mainstreaming SD in UN system; providing a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance SD; and follow up and review of progress in the implementation of SD commitments including their means of implementation.

86. The presenter concluded by posing questions for further thoughts and deliberations. These included: the mandates of the ECOSOC and HLPF - how could the roles and responsibilities of the two bodies be delineated in order to avoid duplication and overlaps?; how could HLPF ensure effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in terms of its operational modalities, including balanced representation of member States and other stakeholders in its meetings, taking into account different developmental contexts?; how could HLPF strengthen sustainable development implementation through its agenda and follow-up mechanism; as well as in the manner it tackles new and emerging issues, and fosters inclusive and broad based participation?; how could the review mechanism (monitoring, evaluation and reporting) be operationalized taking into account different developmental contexts?; how could HLPF promote integrated and synergistic implementation of the goals within a post-2015 review framework?; should the means of implementation be part of the review framework and how could progress on means of implementation be monitored?; should thematic reviews be conducted in addition to the sustainable development goals-based reviews? If yes, how could such reviews be conducted?

***Role of regional and subregional bodies***

87. Ms. Mama Keita, Economic Affairs Officer, Macroeconomic Policy Division delivered the presentation on the role of regional and sub-regional sustainable development bodies in strengthening integration, implementation and review after 2015. She recalled the mandates given by WSSD, Rio+20, and UNGA to promote SD at regional and sub-regional levels and UN-Regional Commissions to promote balanced integration of 3 dimensions of SD / Organize annual meetings. Institutional arrangements adopted to fulfil mandates. Integrating the 3 dimensions of SD required adequate participation of all stakeholders; lead institutions for co-ordination. Implementation of requires specific means for countries, sub-regional and regional bodies; enhanced role of ECA and others to provide support in implementation. Review requires an M&E regional framework, reliable and comparable data, clear links between M&E processes at regional and lower levels.

88. The presenter further noted that review at the regional and sub-regional levels could build on some existing review frameworks like the APRM, RCM, MRDE. The ARFSD review could deliberate on issues to be submitted to attention of HLPF; provide modalities of assessing and reporting progress in SD. Such assessments and reports of be envisaged by Goal or by theme or by dimension of the SD; based on national and sub-regional reports

89. The presentation concluded with key questions including: how could Africa ensure effective integration, implementation and review of SD at the regional and sub-regional level; what is the role of the ARFSD as a platform/framework? how can the ARFSD be strengthened to ensure delivery on its functions/mandate?, what are the best modalities for ensuring an efficient convening of the ARFSD; how to build on existing frameworks like the APRM, MRDE, RCM for thematic reviews; how to foster linkages/synergies among national, sub-regional, regional and global levels for the integration, implementation and review.

***Role of national and local level bodies***

90. Mr. Xiaoning Gong, Chief, National Accounts Section, African Centre for Statistics delivered the presentation on the role of national and local sustainable development bodies in strengthening integration, implementation and review after 2015. He identified national and local bodies to include government, CSOs/NGOs, business and service associations, women and youth groups, community groups. He stressed the need for national-level reports as the most significant in the overall review progress and such national reports should draw on broad, multi-stakeholder participation, including the representation from national and local governments, parliaments, civil society, science, academia and business. The presenter further discussed the development of goals and targets in the context of national priorities and actions. He noted that development aspirations and processes are context specific. Therefore, to be meaningful, global goals and targets must be tailored and adapted to regional and national contexts and initial conditions. The proposed SDGs were not meant to set or replace national priorities, and could be implemented with varying degrees of selection, adaptation or modification to national circumstances. The global post-2015 agenda is a useful benchmark but not necessarily a prescription.

91. National statistical systems (NSS), especially national statistical offices, should take the lead role at the country level and local levels in the review process. He added that for

issues of national ownership, political commitment and accountability, it is fundamental, that the monitoring of global development was based, to the extent possible, on official statistics produced by national statistical services. However, most NSSs are severely under-resourced in terms of financial, human, technical, and institutional capacities of the units responsible for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics. In addition, new and emerging issues in the post 2015 development agenda could place additional stress on already weak and under-resourced national monitoring and reporting systems. This calls for enhancing national capacities (technical, human, and financial) for collecting, compiling, analyzing and reporting on targets and indicators for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.

92. He concluded by noting that national coordinating bodies translated global and regional frameworks into national and local actions and provided the mechanism for coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at national level and ensured effective linkages from local to global, and guided the development and implementation of policies, strategies and plans for sustainable development. National institutions in charge of monitoring, evaluating and reporting at all levels, therefore need to be clearly identified, appropriately mandated and resourced. This called for enhanced support from the international community and the operationalization of a sustainable development data revolution, which the Secretary General's report considers an important enabler for a review system.

### **Global partnerships for development**

93. Ms. Mama Keita, Economic Affairs Officer, Macroeconomic Policy Division delivered the presentation on global partnerships for development. The presentation started with the imperative of means of implementation and global partnerships for achieving SD in Africa. Achieving SD in requires the mobilization of adequate means of implementation from both domestically and externally. She recalled that Agenda 2063 and CAP-Post 2015 call for: enhanced productive capacities through industrialization and transformation; strong social and human capital development; and environmental sustainability for prosperity of all generations. She noted that the imperative of means of implementation and global partnerships come with a lot of expectation as we International Financing for Development conference draws near.

94. The desired means of implementation framework should seek to enhance, among other: commitments and predictability of development financing; increased domestic resources; curb Illicit financial outflows; more predictable ODA; reduced cost of remittances; technology transfer and capacity development; fairer global trade; greater regional integration; quality FDI (not only in extractive sectors); and enhanced role of the private sector.

95. The presentation concluded by asking: how can African stakeholders and entities enhance global partnership for the achieving SD in Africa - what is the role of the ARFSD, Governments, and other stakeholders; what type of capacity development strategies?; what global, regional and national accountability mechanisms could improve compliance of stakeholders to enhance the means of implementation?; what other specific means of implementation could be envisaged in Africa?

## **2. Discussions**

96. In the ensuing discussions, the Forum raised pertinent issues and made recommendations as follows.

**(a) General**

- (i) The Forum stressed the importance of indicators in measuring progress and the need to link global, regional and national indicators to ensure coherence and consistency particularly between continental, sub regional and national levels.
- (ii) There was the need for coordination between regional and national levels in implementing and reviewing of the development agenda.
- (iii) Gender, in particular the role of women in post-conflict situations must be mainstreamed into implementation and review.
- (iv) The SDGs, CAP, sub-regional plans, and national development plans should be harmonized to ensure effective reviews/M&E.
- (v) The post-2015 development agenda was ambitious as to eradicate poverty as such concrete actions were needed. The third conference on financing for development would deliberate on how to finance the Agenda.
- (vi) ECA, the African Union Commission and AfDB in collaboration with other UN agencies and development partners should help build the capacity of RECs and member States to integrate SDGs in subregional development and national development plans. Some countries gave examples of some existing tools for implementing sustainable development as part of national policies and ensuring that the three dimensions are mainstreamed.
- (vii) The vast majority of the populations in Africa were mostly rural and in hard to reach areas. In this context, it was observed that in September 2015 the SDGs would be ratified / endorsed by member States, yet, a majority of Africans were still not aware of the SDGs - the process had not ensured adequate space for citizen participation. In this regard:
  - There was need to recognize the role of, engage and support decentralized structures including regional/provincial, district, city and other local authorities in the integration, implementation and review of the post-2015 development agenda. UN agencies should popularize the SDGs at local level to promote understanding and appreciation.
  - Governments need to open up or expand the space for participation of CSOs in the post-2015 process.

The promotion of peace was crucial to the post 2015 development. Structural causes of radicalism such as exclusion should be addressed. Peace, justice, equality and inclusion should be at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.-. Human security incorporated health poverty and environment

- (viii) Effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda required strong capacities thus there is a need to invest on capacity building of all key players and institutions at national, regional and global levels.
- (ix) Partnership, cooperation, integration should be strengthened in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.
- (x) The close relationship between the Financing for Development (FfD) framework and the Post 2015 Development Agenda raises the question about how the outcome of the FfD would feed into the Post 2015 Development Agenda in bringing complementary and synergy in implementing the SDGs.
- (xi) In response to the urgent task of continued discourse with the Open Working Group on Indicators for SDGs and to sustain its contribution to the process, Africa hosted a series of sessions subsequent to the 46th Session of the United Nations Statistics Commission held in March 2015. The first meeting was in South Africa 22-25 April 2015. This was followed by a consultative meeting was in Algiers 5-8 May 2015, to discuss the proposed list of SDGs indicators.
- (xii) A critical outcome of the Algiers meeting was the decision to cost the SDG indicators. This led to a further meeting of African statisticians in South Africa 25-30 May 2015. The costing of the SDG indicators for Africa is based on the Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), Africa's Agenda 2063 and the CAP. A further outcome was that a work programme in this regard will be reviewed annually at the African Symposia for Statistics Development (ASSD) and ECA Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom Africa).

**(b) Global level**

- (i) UNGA Resolution 67/290 sets out the format and organizational aspects of the HLPF and the HLPF is therefore the appropriate global, inter-governmental platform to provide political leadership and guidance for follow-up and review of sustainable development implementation.
- (ii) The HLPF should ensure that poverty eradication, and addressing income inequalities and unemployment remain the overarching objectives of the UN post-2015 development agenda. This agenda must continue to be underpinned by the fundamental principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). The HLPF should address new and emerging sustainable development challenges; and should strengthen policy coherence and synergy to promote an integrated focus on the three dimensions of sustainable development at all levels.
- (iii) The follow-up and review framework should not impose conditionalities on the global partnership for development as this may deter countries from participating. Rather the framework should integrate incentives for participation. The follow-up and review process should therefore be conducted in a constructive spirit and be based on mutual learning and achievement.

- (iv) The HLPF should view development as a continuum – in the sense that the post-2015 development agenda builds on existing commitments (outcomes of UN conferences and summits) as well as the unfinished business of the MDGs. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of 2002 and Agenda 21 of 1992 contain many targeted sustainable development goals that have not yet been implemented. Africa needed a post-2015 development agenda that built on the successes and failures of the MDGs and allows for the creation of jobs in order to eradicate poverty and address income inequalities. In order to do so, an enabling global governance system that made this possible was required. This could probably be discussed productively at the upcoming 2015 session of the HLPF.
- (v) The work of the HLPF should take into account that the post-2015 and FfD3 processes were two separate tracks, while recognizing their complementarities, convergences and synergies. The HLPF already has the mandate to follow-up and review progress on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, including its means of implementation (MoI) commitments. There was thus the need for a dedicated intergovernmental mechanism and process on follow-up and review of FfD commitments, and the HLPF should not preclude the establishment of such an inter-governmental mechanism. The African Group maintains that the two processes (FfD and SDGs) should be retained as two separate tracks.
- (vi) There should be sufficient technological support for the follow-up and review of the entire post-2015 agenda, not only of the environmental targets. The African Group had called for the expeditious operationalization of the proposed technology bank and the creation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which is an integral component of the Means of Implementation for the post-2015 development agenda, and which, which will be dedicated to developing countries. The High Level Political Forum should deliberate on the nature and the form of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and report back on the proposals for consideration. This work could draw lessons from other forums and UN Agencies with a view to make sure that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism was not only unique but complements other similar initiatives on technology development and transfer elsewhere.
- (vii) The HLPF should maintain a clear focus on the Global Partnership envisaged under the post-2015 development agenda, being negotiated in New York at present, on the one hand; and other global partnerships on the other, to achieve the implementation of sustainable development.
- (viii) The scale and ambition of the post-2015 development agenda calls for a renewed and strengthened Global Partnership to implement it. This Partnership between Governments will work in a spirit of global solidarity, in particular solidarity with the poorest and the vulnerable. It will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of the sustainable development goals and targets, bringing together Governments, with appropriate support from the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders and mobilizing all available resources.

- (ix) The HLPF should also facilitate and support a multi stakeholder approach towards the implementation of sustainable development. Therefore, in the execution of its mandate, the HLPF should provide an appropriate mechanism and platform for relevant multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders; also building on best practice and lessons learned in this context.
- (x) It is not only important that Africa positions itself strategically throughout the current SDG and FfD negotiations, but also in the work of the HLPF and its regional bodies, so that it seizes the unique opportunity presented to increase the realisation of its development aspirations and acquire the required means of implementation for the successful implementation of sustainable development and the Post 2015 Development Agenda across the Continent.
- (xi) The HLPF should issue a Ministerial Declaration, despite the ongoing negotiations on the post 2015 development agenda / SDGs. This Declaration will be a crucial political input to the outcomes of the historic UN post 2015 summit in September 2015.

**(c) Regional level**

- (i) Africa should speak with one voice under the Common African Position (CAP) – as the African framework for the post 2015 agenda, endorsed by Heads of States and Governments.
- (ii) Follow up and review at a regional level should be guided by globally-agreed principles for follow-up and review; and provide adequate space for regional organizations, while avoiding duplication. On the other hand, the UN post-2015 development agenda should also be closely aligned with regional priorities. With regard to Africa, for example, it is important that it should enhance existing continent-wide initiatives, such as NEPAD, whose programmes are aligned to the MDGs and existing sustainable development goals, and remain relevant in many sectors.
- (iii) The regional ECOSOC subsidiary bodies such as the ECA Committee on Sustainable Development and African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development are central and crucial to a stronger and more effective global partnership for sustainable development at a regional and sub-regional level.
- (iv) The practice of integrating Major Groups and other stakeholders into the work of the United Nations and the African Union should be institutionalized at the regional level in order to ensure effective collaboration in reviewing and implementing the sustainable development agenda.
- (v) The attainment of the MDGs by end 2015 remains a key development priority. States on the Continent have made significant progress in reaching these goals, but much work remains to be done until end 2015. Therefore, the acceleration of the flow of resources to ensure the attainment of the MDGs requires urgent

attention in the period leading to the target date of end 2015. Developed countries should continue to be called upon to honour their historic obligations and responsibilities in this regard.

- (vi) Developing countries have clarified that good governance in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda should be understood to be at the global level, rather than at the individual country level, calling, for example, for the reform of the international financial institutions in this context.
- (vii) African countries should design or strengthen National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDS) and adopt the minimum statistical programme in order to produce the basic data required to inform sustainable development and enable the use of statistics for transparency, accountability, results and transformation. The HLPF and its regional bodies should ensure the necessary support to these continental processes and mechanisms to ensure all African countries have the necessary capacity to do proper follow-up and review at a national and local level, starting with adequate national statistics.
- (viii) The review, monitoring and implementation of the universal sustainable development agenda must be linked with Africa's Agenda 2063, and build on existing monitoring and reporting frameworks such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

**(d) National Level**

- (i) National ownership was crucial for SDGs – to avoid the mistakes of the MDGs. After September, it is important to have a clear defined roadmap for the countries to know the action that have to be taken and the implementation steps needed. Capacity building on sustainable development should be carried out.
- (ii) The role and challenges of national statistics systems was highlighted. It was noted that there were 17 goals and 169 targets that would need to be backed up by smart indicators. As a starting point, Africa countries could build on the systems in place.
- (iii) Developing indicators and monitoring should not have a huge financial implications as most countries have statistics agencies, not reinventing the wheel; these agencies collect data; at regional and sub-regional level, Good national data and statistical systems could feed into sub-regional and regional reviews and monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). ECA should build capacity of these institutions and assure quality data and reporting.
- (iv) Data disaggregated by age and gender must be a key priority for African countries - in addition to existing commitments to the data revolution - to ensure effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

- (v) The post-2015 agenda would have impacts on greening national economies in some countries. As such, it was necessary to develop environmental database with indicators linked to environment in all activities and not some, all sectors should integrate environmental concerns. Sustainability should be ensured in all national projects and programmes including in those financed by ODA and the private sector. Indeed the private sector had a major role in greening the economy and achieving the SDGs.
- (vi) Focal points should be designated at national levels to enhance follow-up/tracking and reporting. Focal points at sub-regional level were also called for.
- (vii) National platforms for sustainable development were non-functional due to resources. Even though national committees on sustainable development existed, they did not have adequate authority and resources. These institutions should be provided with additional resources. The challenges of domestic resource mobilization including lack of confidence in current systems needed to be addressed. External debt, fiscal constraints countries faced and sanctions constrained resource mobilisation and allocation to the successful implementation of the SDGs. South-South (SS) cooperation should be strengthened but should not replace north-south cooperation and the obligation of northern partners. There was need for access to information on the different means and funds to finance the transition to the green economy.
- (viii) At the national level, follow-up and review should be determined and led by national governments and be voluntary. Many developing countries still need more capacity to conduct follow-up and review, including monitoring and evaluation at national and local government level. This is of crucial importance to the process of determining relevant indicators for the proposed 17 SDGs.

(b) *Parallel session 2: Presentations and discussions on other topics to be considered by the 2015 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Emerging issues and the science policy interface, sustainable consumption and production, and small island developing States and other countries in special situations*

**1. Presentations**

**Presentation 1 - New and emerging issues and the science-policy interface by Mr. Mactar Seck, Economic Affairs Officer, New Technologies and Innovation Section, SID**

97. Mr. Seck explained that the new and emerging issues on science and policy interface included climate change and conserving natural resources; green economy; energy; new digital technologies and innovation; knowledge and technology transfer; smart cities; and focusing on people (youth and women). He pointed out that climate change was a major concern for Africa and was responsible estimated 1319 climate related disasters between 1970 and 2012, killing 698,380 people with an economic loss amounting \$26.6 billion.

98. He noted Africa's population consisted of predominantly youth who continue to face unemployment, underemployment, lack of skills and relevant education, and access to capital. He recalled that Rio+20 urged governments to develop and implement strategies and policies that provided youth access to decent and productive work. He explained that investing in science and technology was one way of promoting job creation. He highlighted several challenges which needed to be surmounted to achieve the goal of sustainable development through investment in science and technology. These included development and diffusion of new technologies at both national and regional scales; meteorological data and forecasting; capacity building (for technology absorption); IPRs and climate impact data; lack of policies to promote sustainable modern energy technologies; financial shortfalls for R&D; lack of conducive environment for resource mobilization from the private sector; lack of awareness about renewable energy technologies (RET); low dissemination of new technology and energy products; and inadequate knowledge and technology transfer.

99. He concluded with key questions including policy mechanisms that needed to be put in place to foster environmentally sound technology, research and development, and innovation, in line with sustainable development and poverty eradication; policies and strategies that needed to be in place for African countries to undertake appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures in order to reverse the impact of climate change; technologies and innovative measures that could be taken to enhance energy access and its efficient usage; and sources and mechanisms of innovative financing that could be used to achieve sustainable development goals.

**Presentation 2 - Sustainable consumption and production: Promoting sustainable consumption and production for inclusive green growth and transformation in Africa by Mr. Yacouba Gnegne, Economic Affairs Officer, Green Economy and Natural Resources Section, SID, ECA**

100. Mr. Gnegne explained that the importance of changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production had been highlighted by Governments and stakeholders in the consultations for the post-2015 development agenda. Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) was one of the three overarching objectives and essential requirement for sustainable development, which was reaffirmed by the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 development agenda.

101. He noted that for Africa, the overarching objective of poverty reduction would require improving the welfare and quality of life of people. This will definitely be accompanied by an inherent increase in consumption, in particular due to demand for food, shelter, energy and water. Therefore, there was no doubt that Africa needs to grow differently, meeting economic development objectives while at the same time focusing on the quality of growth. SCP offers opportunities to reverse trends in environmental degradation and pave the way towards sustainability, reducing emissions and accidental release of hazardous substances, consequently avoiding damage to ecosystems and reducing mankind's vulnerability to disasters in the long term.

102. He further explained that sustainable consumption and production entailed public and private decisions affecting production and spending for goods and services to satisfy basic needs for better quality of life, all while reducing the use of natural resources and the amount of waste and emissions over the life cycle of a service or product. Thus, the SCP approach

dovetailed with the green economy concept and had the potential to foster inclusive green growth in selected sectors of the economy, including the priority areas of the African 10-year framework. He clarified that applying an SCP approach would strengthen policy frameworks for inclusive green growth investments and structural transformation with the aim of ensuring efficient, equitable and sustainable use of Africa's natural resources, and reducing the adverse impacts of economic growth. These investments would determine what kinds of technologies, processes and practices are used to produce goods and services, and how various economic sectors structurally transform in a way that produces desirable outcomes in all three dimensions of sustainable development. Areas of relevance include: food production, consumption and security; ecosystem goods and services; energy; industry value addition and corporate social responsibility; water and sanitation; habitat and urban development; chemicals and hazardous waste management; cleaner production and eco-efficiency; trade; and sustainable tourism development.

## **2. Discussions**

103. In the ensuing discussions of the two presentations, the following were highlighted by delegates:

- (i) There was a need for training and creation of employment for African youth. However, these could not be met if the demographic dividend was ignored. Statistics were required to illustrate the opportunities that existed from the youth population in Africa.
- (ii) Science and knowledge on climate was well established but what was important for Africa was how scientists used this knowledge to produce new varieties resistant to drought, salinity and other impacts from climate change.
- (iii) There was need to increase investment in training, science and knowledge in Africa. There was need to mobilize domestic resources and enhance cooperation to stop brain drain through AU and its institutions such as the newly established Pan-African Universities.
- (iv) Technological innovation was one of the most important elements of sustainable consumption and production.
- (v) Research and development are at the core of context-based sustainable consumption and production innovation and development but are underdeveloped in Africa, where research institutions lack adequate human and financial resources.
- (vi) There is need to integrate science and technology with indigenous knowledge, and to find the best use of existing traditional knowledge to the benefit of society.
- (vii) Indigenous and local knowledge should form an integral part of sustainable consumption and production promotion in Africa.

- (viii) Capacity development is crucial to successfully deploy sustainable consumption and production that promotes inclusive green growth and structural transformation in Africa, such as energy efficiency, resource efficiency and industrial symbiosis.
- (ix) A shift from the current investment trends to more sustainable ones is essential to foster sustainable consumption and production in key strategic areas in Africa.
- (x) Mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production in education and training curricula at all levels will contribute to its successful application in Africa.
- (xi) Africa's political, business, civil society and technological leaders need to champion sustainable consumption and production technology development and transfer.
- (xii) There is need to share information and knowledge about countries that have successfully used science and technology in their economic development. There is also need for support to countries to develop and transfer technology, and this support should include institutional frameworks for technology transfer; and integrating indigenous knowledge into new technologies;
- (xiii) There is need to take tangible steps to address cyber security and cybercrime; ECA should assist our countries to draft appropriate plans for ICT and combating cybercrime.
- (xiv) Terrorism is an emerging issue in Africa. Drug trafficking in Atlantic is also a big issue that has not been addressed. There is need for concerted efforts to fight terrorism and organised crime within the framework of sustainable development. There is also need for recommendations on what Africa should do to address emerging issues of immigration and disease outbreaks (e.g., Ebola).
- (xv) There is a need to enhance the transition to sustainable production in all sectors including agriculture. This could address the issue of declining arable land and other land related pressures. Value addition to African commodities could raise the value of agricultural exports including cotton.
- (xvi) There is a need for coordination between different regional SCP programmes in Africa. SCP has been looked at the highest level in Africa, including at the AMCEN level. There are already SCP programmes in different sectors such as agriculture, water, and solid waste management.
- (xvii) A compromise is required to adopt SCP in Africa's development process. In the production process, technology mechanism for SCP is required. Capacity building is also crucial to for many developing countries. SCP could also be a vehicle for addressing low industrialization levels on the continent. There is also need to consider institutional framework that could address the low industrialisation.

### 3. Presentations (i)

#### **Presentation 3 - Small Island Developing States, by Mr. Frank Rutabingwa, Senior Natural Resources Expert, African Climate Policy Centre, SID**

104. Mr. Rutabingwa explained that African SIDS were small in landmass and are vulnerable to effects of climate change but have large ocean space. They could build their resilience by improving human and institutional capabilities to improve climate information services; formulate adequate climate policies and strategies and integrate them in development agendas; strengthen analytical research and policy frameworks to promote renewable energy; regional information and knowledge sharing mechanism; and develop their blue economies. However, there was need for support from regional and subregional bodies. In this regard, AUC was committed to work with partners to support SIDS and the UN General Assembly resolution on SIDS “Accelerated Modalities of Action” calling for an increase in all forms of partnership with SIDS.

105. He highlighted some of the challenges including natural disasters due to climate change (hurricanes, cyclones, earthquakes and sea level rise) which affected economic livelihoods; insularity and remoteness which increased transport costs; dependency on fossil fuels and imports; and geographic weaknesses; adaptation and resilience to climate change are important in the protection of the economy and livelihood of African SIDS. Management of exclusive economic zones (including their governance and institutional challenges); prevalent illegal and unreported and unregulated fishing; overexploitation of waters and terrorism (piracy) were also highlighted.

106. Mr. Rutabingwa also highlighted opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture; tourism; renewable energy; biodiversity of oceans; and seabed mining. He noted however that regional integration is required to capitalise on economies of scale; while the transition towards a blue economy was proposed to harness the opportunities. He also pointed out the need for sustainable governance structure for exclusive economic zones and ocean space; support to SIDS for renewable energy; technology innovation and transfer; mobilizing finance resources and human capital; enhancing partnership and regional integration; and joint learning and sharing best practices among the SIDS. He concluded with key questions for consideration of the plenary including how African SIDS could turn their large ocean space into sustainable opportunities; and how SIDS could take advantage of their rich renewable energy resource to overcome dependency on imported fossils. He also pointed out that ECA had recently revitalised its engagement with SIDS.

#### **Presentation 4 - Least Developed Countries (LDCs), by Presented by Deniz Kellecioglu, Economic Affairs Officer, Macroeconomic Policy Division, ECA.**

107. Mr. Kellecioglu explained that the Istanbul Programme of Action was the fourth global specific programme for LDCs running from 2011 to 2021. He highlighted several messages including that African LDCs had registered improvement in some of the priority areas of the IPoA such as health and education, but that sustaining the gains required strengthening the resilience of the countries to shocks, enhancing competitiveness through, for example, complementary investments in infrastructure, health and education. He also observed that the Ebola outbreak exposed the vulnerability of the health systems of African LDCs. He further said that data challenges must be addressed to facilitate proper monitoring

and reporting of progress, and advised that African LDCs should take advantage of the major global events in a way that facilitates their graduation aspirations.

108. The presenter also highlighted some challenges including deteriorating road infrastructure since 2009, stagnant rail infrastructure, a sharp decline in labour productivity, and stagnation of employment to population ratio since 2010. He also noted some positive improvements in food production index in 2012, and some progress in under five, infant and maternal mortality rates, but observed that levels are still very high from a global perspective. Other positives highlighted were improvements in domestic resource mobilization boosted by very high savings in natural resource rich countries; significant improvements in external debt stock levels; and growth in net FDI inflows to African LDCs in recent years concentrated in resource rich countries.

109. He further explained that Equatorial Guinea and Angola were eligible for graduation, and that Sao Tome and Principe would become eligible if it met the criteria on GNI, economic vulnerability index or human asset index. He concluded by pointing out the need for African LDCs to institutionalize the review on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to strategize better to overcome structural challenges. He also highlighted the need to focus on domestic resource as ODA flows were declining; investments in basic health to generate substantial improvements in human development; and harnessing Africa's youth and demographic dividend through investments in their productive capacities, including improving the quality of education.

**Presentation 5 - Land Locked Developing Countries, by Jane Karonga, Economic Affairs Officer, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA**

110. Ms. Karonga explained that Africa had half of the 32 LLDCs in the world. She noted that the LLDCs had special needs and are characterised by lack of direct access to the sea, remoteness, isolation from world markets, inadequate transit transport and infrastructure, and cumbersome border-crossing procedures. Further, she noted that LLDCs also had challenges to attract FDI, among others because of high transport costs that erode competitiveness. She observed that these challenges contributed to marginalisation of LLDCs in the global economy, low rates of economic growth, and their being among the poorest countries in the world.

111. Ms. Karonga highlighted the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) was adopted in 2003 to address the special needs of LLDCs. She also recalled that the Rio+20 invited member States and their partners to speed up implementation of APoA whose priorities include fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance; international trade and trade facilitation; international support measures; and implementation and review. She also explained that APoA was comprehensively reviewed at the Second UN Conference on LLDCs in Vienna in 2014, resulting in the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) being adopted as successor to APoA. The VPoA sought to address the same issues as APoA, the priority areas are therefore the same, except that VPoA had two additional priorities, namely regional integration and cooperation and structural economic transformation.

112. In terms of progress to date, Ms. Karonga highlighted Agenda 2063 adopted at AU Summit in 2015; commitment by RECs to trade facilitation programmes that dealt with transit

charges, customs declaration documents, regional customs guarantee schemes, one stop border posts (OSBPs), among others; and regional infrastructure framework that have been established including PIDA. She concluded by calling on the delegates to consider key questions including how Agenda 2063 can be harnessed to galvanise international, regional and national support to tackle the challenges facing the continent's LLDCs; and what it will take to modernise Africa's infrastructure and upscale its energy production and distribution network.

#### **4. Discussions (ii):**

113. In ensuing discussions of presentations 3-5 above, the Forum highlighted the following issues and recommendations.

- (i) Investment was needed particularly in the extractive industry. However, there was need to address the problem of exploitation among countries and balancing the relationship between the developing countries that have the technology and investment means; and the LDCs.
- (ii) Ecosystem management was critical to sustainable development if the SIDs were to create opportunities from their resource endowment.
- (iii) It is important to highlight that LDCs also have opportunities that could be used to mobilize resources. For instance, arrangements under the Green Fund can be explored by countries that have large forest reserves such as the Republic of Congo.
- (iv) While appreciating the special needs of LDCs, SIDs and LLDCs, there was the need to tease out cross-cutting issues that are of concern to all African countries.
- (v) SIDS have also registered positive progress in some specific sectors, for example Mauritius and the Seychelles have developed offshore financial sector. However, there was need for commitment to develop the human capital, through investment in education and health;
- (vi) There is need for assistance to LDCs through the VPoA to assist countries to graduate. The outcome of the UNCTAD/UNDP High-level meeting on Small Island Developing States and UN Conference on Small Island Developing States at Samoa could inform the key messages of the Africa Regional Forum. The outcome among others, calls for special recognition of SIDs, support in international trade, financial development and other areas; and also the need to prioritise economic vulnerability index instead of the GNI index;
- (vii) The negative impact of economic sanctions imposed on some African countries should also be reflected. "Politically locked countries" should also take advantage of the African market through the continent free trade area and south-south cooperation; and should continue lobbying within the AU framework;

- (viii) Most African countries have renewable energy potential. While appreciating the need to develop renewable energy for the SIDs, the main challenge is that of storage of energy and constraint posed by landmass.
- (ix) SIDS face other challenges such as non-communicable diseases including diabetes.
- (x) Given the importance of security, countries in special circumstances should include African countries that are fighting terrorism.
- (xi) Governance and ethics; financing; investment in education and energy are key for sustainable development. There is also need to change development paradigm if Africa is to develop.
- (xii) There is need to reconsider issues of resource utilization and allocation of the available public resources. There is need to allocate more resources to productive use rather than current consumption. Countries should utilize the opportunity to develop human capital through domestic resources.
- (xiii) There is also need to understand the cost imposed on Africa through imported technologies and foreign direct investment.

#### **E. Reports of the parallel sessions**

114. The main recommendations of the parallel sessions fed into the working document on the Forums key messages to HLPF.

#### **F. Statement by major groups**

115. A representative of the major groups and other stakeholders delivered the statement. The statement was the adopted outcome of the capacity-building workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in the Africa region held under the framework of the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development as a pre-event of the regional Forum.

116. In the statement, major groups among others:

- (i) Called on the members States to strengthen coordination mechanism on Sustainable Development at national levels by establishing national sustainable development commissions as proposed by the 1992 Rio Conference. This is crucial to facilitate the coordination of the three pillars of sustainable development and the implementation of the post 2015 Development Agenda at the national level.
- (ii) Called on Member States to adopt the initiative of Africa Data revolution and expanding data ecosystem with emphasis on data disaggregation to include age, gender, indigenous peoples and their communities, and persons with disabilities.

- (iii) Called on the UN and African Union to institutionalize the Major Groups structure at the regional level to ensure effective collaboration in reviewing and implementing the Sustainable Development agenda; and recognize civil society critical role in preparation of national reports.
- (iv) Recommended that coordination of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development be led by the existing tripartite secretariat composed of the African Union Commission, United national Economic Commission of Africa and the African Development Bank, and involve other Pan African institutions and development partners.
- (v) Called on member States to prioritize the shift towards sustainable consumption and production through finalizing and adopting the second Africa 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production as vehicle to promote inclusive green economies and sustainable development.
- (vi) Called on member States, subregional and regional bodies as well as development partners to develop policies and implementation strategies for science, technology and innovation that will ensure that scientific evidence and facts would be used in decision making and meeting sustainable development goals.
- (vii) Recommended that special attention and support should be given to Least Developed Countries in Africa in terms of Official Development Assistance, capacity building support and transfer of appropriate technologies to enable them to implement and realize the post-2015 development goals.

117. The Forum agreed that the major group's statement would inform Africa's collective input to HLPF.

**G. Consideration of messages from the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to the 2015 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

118. The Forum considered the draft key messages drawn from the presentations and discussions by the Forum. Delegations made comments, observations and proposed amendments to the key messages, which were adopted as amended.

**H. Consideration and adoption of the report of the ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development and the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

119. The Forum considered the draft report of its meeting. Delegates made comments, and proposed amendments to the report. The meeting adopted the draft report as amended.

**I. Theme, dates and venue of the next Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

120. The theme and dates of the next Forum would be linked to the theme and schedules of the HLPF.

**J. Other matters**

121. There were no other matters for deliberation by the Forum.

**K. Closing of the meeting**

122. Closing statements were delivered by Mr. Carlos Lopes, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA; Ambassador Antonio Tete, African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations; and Mr. Mayacine Camara, Chair of the ninth Session of the Committee on Sustainable Development.

123. Mr. Carlos Lopes started by noting that Africa had come along away since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro 23 years ago, and had been a formidable participants including through fielding common positions at the subsequent conferences on sustainable development. For more than a decade, Africa had recorded impressive sustained economic growth averaging about five per cent. However, while progress was being made on health, gender and women's empowerment indicators, it was not happening fast enough; and poverty, inequality and extreme hunger remained pervasive. He therefore noted the need for structural economic transformation and the pivotal role of sound management of natural capital in such a transformation.

124. Mr. Lopes echoed the views of the Forum on the crucial importance of strengthening integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and indeed the transformation of Africa, and the prerequisite for quality and reliable data in the context of a data Revolution in the region. He argued that beyond the adoption of SDGs at the global level, sound and dynamic national development policies and planning would be indispensable for the realisation of the continent's goals, and the needed to be underpinned by credible data. He therefore called on the region to generate own robust data and statistics to accurately measure, monitor and evaluate its progress. He also stressed the need to strengthen the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa saying that the support of UN to Africa, based on NEPAD and Agenda 2063, should ensure overall coherence and coordination towards the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.

125. The Executive Secretary pledged to ensure that inputs of the Forum were conveyed to the upcoming 2015 HLPF meeting to be held in July; and fed into the other interconnected milestones coming up in 2015 including the third International Financing for Development Conference, the UN summit on the post-2015 development agenda and negotiations for a new climate change agreement in December.

126. Ambassador Antonio Tete thanked ECA for the continued effective collaboration with AUC on issues pertinent to Africa and thus in the convening of the regional Forum. He thanked the Chair for the productive deliberation, which he lauded as being representative of all stakeholders in the region. He noted that the configuration of the forum was holistic, a set up that was not often witnessed. The meeting involved representatives of the ministries responsible for the three dimensions of sustainable development, other selected ministries, major groups and Africa's permanent missions to the UN in New York. The setting, he said ensured among others, coordination between Capitals and New York Representatives.

127. On behalf of AUC, he reassured the Forum that Africa's collective input adopted in the meeting would be conveyed to and defended at the upcoming session of the HLPF as well as the Financing for Development Conference in July 2015.

128. He congratulated the Forum on a successful outcome and called on the participants to continue to speak with one voice in the defence of Africa's priorities.

129. Mr. Mayacine Camara saluted the Forum organizers namely ECA, AUC, AfDB, UNEP and UNDP, and thanked the outgoing and incoming Bureaus of the Committee on Sustainable Development. He thanked and congratulated the delegates for the work well done and the fruitful contribution.

130. He said that CSD-9 had enabled the meeting to review implementation progress and provide concrete guidance of on priority areas of work of the ECA subprogramme on technologies and innovations and management of Africa's natural resources.

131. He highlighted the context in which the Africa Regional Forum was being held. The Forum had been able to identify, articulate and agree on Africa's collective input to the 2015 HLPF. He recounted some of the priorities agreed by the Forum.

132. He expressed great appreciation to the Secretariat for the good work and supporting the bureau to ensure a successful outcome from both CSD-9 and the regional Forum.

133. The Chair closed the meeting at 6.20pm.