



Regional Perspectives on existing follow-up mechanisms to make the Third Decade effective in support of internationally agreed development goals related to poverty, including the SDGs



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Third Decade and Regional Commissions

Regional Commissions have the mandate for coherent and coordinated support to member States that

- maximize synergies,
- harness the potential of partnerships and
- optimize the efficient use of financial and non-financial resources.

ECA, like all Regional Commissions, has the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the core of its work in its geographical area.

In addition, ECA works within the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union which has at its core the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.



KEY QUESTIONS

1. How the Third Decade can be made more effective and ensure that no one is left behind?
2. How can the UN system's ability to assist countries address poverty in all its forms be enhanced?





Q1: How the Third Decade can be made more effective?



Strengthen institutional effectiveness

- Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 requires integrated systems for tracking and reporting at national and regional levels.
- Support in the articulation of one voice for the African continent (e.g. the African Common position on the post-2015 development agenda).
- An integrated financing mechanism that leverages economies of scale



Strengthen the RCM

The Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) between the AU and ECA is effective in:

- Providing voice to the UN as one at the regional level, providing a platform for improved coordination between UN regional bodies and member state teams.
- Harmonized and integrated approach to minimize duplication, optimize resource use and mobilize support on African priorities.

The new UN- AU MoU revitalizes the RCM and provides focus on 2030 Agenda and Africa 2063



Improve Policy Coherence

- ECA work programmes are aligned to Africa's priorities
- High Level Policy Dialogues organized on Africa's priorities provide a platform for policy analyses, sharing of lessons and exchange of ideas (e.g. High Level Policy Dialogue on Urbanization, Industrialization and economic growth).
- Specifically, poverty analysis and its drivers and policy options presented and endorsed at the Conference of Ministers of Finance for implementation.





Harmonise the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063

- Alignment of 17 goals and 174 targets of the SDGs with the 63 core indicators of the First 10-year implementation plan of Africa 2063 to develop a single monitoring and reporting system for member States

Mainstream SDGs in national planning frameworks

- Mainstreaming the SDGs and core indicators in national plans and national visions ensuring coherence, alignment and integration of goals



Q2: How can the UN system's ability to assist countries address poverty in all its forms be enhanced?





Improved quality of policy research and knowledge products

- ECA produces analytical work that is empirically grounded and policy oriented and underpins technical assistance and capacity building.
- ECA has developed analytical tools for mainstreaming demographic dynamics in planning frameworks for member states
- The African Gender Development Index (AGDI) links economic, social and political pillars to deepen the relationship between gender and development outcomes
- ECA has together with AUC developed a Gender Scorecard to link all dimensions of women's empowerment including poverty



Improved quality of policy research and knowledge products...

- ECA's work on the African Continental Free Trade Area (endorsed by 44 countries).
- ECA is leading the current study on the Sahel that places a renewed emphasis on a shift from security concerns to development approach (together with UNDP, UNESCO, ILO, FAO etc).
- ECA undertook socio-economic impact analysis of the Ebola crisis that was highly appreciated by countries and contributed to strengthening inter-agency coordination.
- ECA technically backstopped the AUC in developing a continental position on climate change at COP 21.



Improve quality of technical assistance

- ECA's assistance to member States in the analysis of gender and its relation to demographic dynamics and improved socio-economic outcomes has led to an improved understanding of the key role of gender in reducing poverty.
- ECA has mainstreamed the SDGs and the core indicators of Agenda 2063 in national plans to align international and national targets
- Request for TA from Seychelles to provide technical assistance to inform policy on youth employment and skills.



Strengthen national capacities

- ECA has capacitated policy makers in a number of countries (e.g. in Tanzania and Cote d'Ivoire) on the design of pro-equity public policies based on both monetary and non-monetary expressions of inequality.
- ECA has capacitated member states on the measurement of human exclusion in 34 African countries and how nationally and sub-nationally collected data informs more inclusive policies (through the ASDI).



Further means of implementation

- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development provides a resource direction and framework for UN bodies, member states



Improve access to data

- Data availability across the SDGs in Africa is only 38 percent with variation across goals and indicators
- ECA will set up a portal ECAstats containing goals and indicator with the metadata
- ECA supports member states in statistical development, monitoring the SDGs in particular



ECA's reform agenda and Third Decade on Poverty Eradication

- ECA's reform agenda reiterates the Regional Commission as a Think Tank and a convenor of an African voice on SDGs.
- The new Poverty, Gender and Social Development Division fits the purpose for an integrated approach to eradicating extreme poverty and inequality on the continent and leaving no one behind.
- ECA's reform will allow SDGs and Agenda 2063 to inform the divisional programme and align the sub-programmes to Africa's priority areas.

