

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED N

calls for monitoring social development, including the follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue.¹

The reform resulted in placing greater emphasis on international migration as an important area for harnessing human and financial resources in support of the countries in the region. International migration has been included in the strategic framework and budget for sub-programme 10 on Social Development for 2008-2009 and 2010-2011. The Commission will continue to produce biennial reports, convene expert group meetings, establish data and information banks and conduct research on international migration and development in Africa.

As a follow-up to the High-level Dialogue, ECA and its subregional offices have partnered with various governments, the African Union Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Eastern Africa (IGAD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in South Africa on the following activities in the region:

1. A four-day conference on Population and Development in Africa: Research and Policy Dialogue for Action in Mafikeng, South Africa, from 5 to 8 March 2007. This conference called for dialogue on research in migration, urbanization and development, with emphasis on the opportunities offered by migration, whilst recognizing the importance of the human rights of migrants. Also, it called for collection, analyses and sharing of migration data;
2. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Development-Fortieth Session of the Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 March to 1 April 2007. This Conference especially addressed the importance of remittances for development in Africa;
3. The first joint annual meeting of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 March to 2 April 2008. This meeting called for reducing the costs of transferring remittances so as to increase mobilization of financial resources for development;
4. The workshop on Migration and Economic Development in Africa, jointly organized by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), IOM and TRUSTAFRICA, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 17 to 19 March 2008. The workshop focused on support for African countries in the formulation of their national migration

IGAD region. ECA made a presentation on International Migration and Development: Implications for Regional Cooperation and Integration;

6. The ECA Office for North Africa (SRO-NA) organized an Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in North Africa in Rabat, Morocco, from 19 to 20 March 2007. The meeting adopted recommendations on how to improve the integration of migration issues in the North African development process. Special attention was paid to migrants' financial transfers and competencies with the aim to strengthen the positive contribution of North African migrants. The plan of action was

5. Coherence and harmonization of policies. There is need to improve the governance of international migration through harmonization of the policies and procedures of government ministries and departments;
6. Capacity-building is needed for maximizing the potential human and financial gains of international migration for development.

D. EMERGING ISSUES

As a result of the High-level Dialogue, human rights and regional integration have emerged as important topics directly related to migration. The High-level Dialogue has triggered demand for constructive engagement

3. Build institutions and human capacity to manage migration through development of migration data and statistics, proper keeping of migration records, harnessing research activities and feeding research results into decision-making processes, and monitoring and upholding the rights of migrants and their families;
4. Develop mechanisms to build synergies between migration policies and national development planning.

NOTES

¹ See United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ECA Business Plan 2007-2009.

² Among the organizations represented at the meeting were: the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), the Centre de Recherches pour le Développement International (CRDI), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD), the Institut fondamental d'Afrique noire (IFAN), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

³ See Protocol A/P.1/5/79 relating to the free movement of persons, residence and establishment available at <http://www.ecowas.int> (accessed 13 January 2009).

REFERENCES

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (2004). *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa*. (ARIA 1).