



CHAPTER SIX

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)

Members of the Economic Commission for Africa

Algeria	Eritrea	Niger
Angola	Ethiopia	Nigeria
Benin	Gabon	Rwanda
Botswana	Gambia	Saudi Arabia
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Senegal
Burundi	Guinea	Seychelles
Cameroon	Guinea-Bissau	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Kenya	South Africa
Central African Republic	Lesotho	Sudan
Chad	Liberia	Swaziland
Comoros	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Togo
Congo	Madagascar	Tunisia
Cote d'Ivoire	Malawi	Uganda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mali	United Republic of Tanzania
Djibouti	Mauritania	Zambia
Egypt	Mauritius	Zimbabwe
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	
	Mozambique	
	Namibia	

This year's simulation will include one the Economic and Social Commission's regional commissions, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Participation in ECA includes one or two representatives for the countries that are currently represented on

the Commission (see list above). ECA will meet all four days of the Conference, and will report to a combined ECOSOC plenary session on Tuesday afternoon.

About the ECA

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is one of five regional ECOSOC commissions. The ECA, which is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, works to promote both economic and social development in the region. Much of the ECA's work is focused on the review and analysis of its member's development processes and progress that includes the formulation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and technical support as needed.

Purview of the Simulation

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is one of five regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. UNECA is responsible for promoting social and economic development in the region. The work programme has focused on meeting Africa's unique needs and emerging global challenges in development, as well as regional integration. UNECA considers issues of capacity building, technical assistance, and means of implementing the development agenda at a sub-regional level. UNECA reports to ECOSOC on Africa's economic challenges, progress, and proposals for the future.

Website: www.uneca.org/

AID FOR TRADE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICA

According to statistics from the World Trade Organization (WTO), world trade increased 61% between 2000 and 2005. During that same period, Africa increased its trade exports by 16% on average annually. However, when these statistics are broken down regionally, a high concentration of export growth is concentrated in oil-exporting countries such as Angola, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria and Sudan. Export performance in non-oil exporting countries is closer to an average annual growth rate of 11%. More troubling than the trade variance between oil and non-oil exporting countries is that Africa's share of global exports of goods in 2005 was only 2.85%, less than half its peak value in 1980 of 5.97%. This is particularly inconsistent with the fact that Africa accounts for 14% of world population. Despite the vast economic potential in the latent sectors of many of Africa's countries, much of the continent still lacks the basic infrastructure and training necessary to enter an increasingly open and integrated global economy.

These troubling numbers, coupled with the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration's mandate to make technical assistance and capacity building a key component of development, have prompted a new approach to the problem. In response to these concerns, the WTO

during its Sixth Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in 2005 included in its final Declaration a call for the creation of a Task Force on Aid for Trade (AFT). This task force would provide recommendations on how to implement an Aid for Trade initiative, and how such an approach could help achieve the goals of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). To this end, a broad spectrum of countries have pledged over \$50 billion by 2010 to aid in this initiative, although the pledges have largely remained unrealized. This money is made available to lesser developed countries (LDCs) through the WTO's Enhanced Integrated Framework Trust Fund.

The WTO has been working in conjunction with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as a monitoring and evaluating agency for the AFT initiatives. However, it still maintains its primary mission of setting trade rules that ensure countries can effectively participate and benefit from world trade. The WTO monitors overall Aid for Trade flow, the commitment of individual donors to provide additional funds, and the needs of developing countries for additional Aid for Trade funds. The ECA, along with the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, has been involved in the Aid for Trade initiative to strengthen the technical potential of trade infrastructure, help recipient nations become more active within the WTO, and open more areas of trade relations.

The AFT program aims to build the trade capacity and infrastructure required by any nation for achieving the benefits from the trade openings created by globalization. It is an integral part of the overall Official Development Assistance (ODA) grants and concessional loans revolving around tariff reductions and improving the capacity and extent of trade. Just as trade is a broad and complex concept, AFT is broad and not easily defined. AFT encompasses technical assistance, infrastructure improvements, supply-side production capacity building and adjustment assistance in an effort to aid countries in their efforts to liberalize trade, utilize their unique comparative advantage, and take advantage of global trade opportunities.

In October 2007 the ECA, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the WTO jointly organized a regional review meeting on “Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focus Africa” in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with the intentions of bringing together trade and finance ministries, donor agencies, international finance institutions, multilateral and regional organizations, and the private sector. The primary goal of the conference was to move from policy debate to implementation and from needs assessments to deliverable plans. A paper on “Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focus Africa” was subsequently prepared and presented by the ECA, the AfDB, and the WTO which summarized the meeting as well as made several recommendations for future actions. These recommendations included increasing awareness and understanding of AFT, identifying trade priorities, encouraging countries to develop AFT action plans as well as tasking the ECA with creating an African AFT network, and gathering and publishing data for regular progress reports.

While AFT has been lauded as one of the most successful outcomes of the DDA, major hurdles still exist if Africa is to successfully and forcibly enter the global economic market. The lack of a cohesive modern infrastructure remains one of the largest of these challenges. Continued development and success of AFT initiatives will require adequate and dependable international funding, well-trained and supported government trade ministers, and political leadership and commitment. Beyond these institutional needs, the ultimate success of AFT depends on the cooperation of the private sector ultimately responsible for producing goods and services, services liberalization, and product diversification. The recently released roadmap for the 2009 AFT program outlines essential objectives, emphasizing the need to maintain the current momentum of AFT during the economic downturn. The roadmap also noted the importance of moving from commitment to implementation, and of finalizing the indicators for progress and self evaluation that were initially discussed in the 2008 symposium on Aid for Trade.

Questions to consider from your government’s perspective on this issue include:

- What should be the main objectives of an ECA-established Aid for Trade Network?
- How can the ECA aid in the development of regional and community Aid for Trade action plans?
- How can African countries provide support for AFT programs in other African countries?
- What measures would help sustain the growth already achieved through AFT programs in light of current economic conditions?

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Additional Web Resources:

www.uneca.org - United Nations Economic Commission On Africa
www.uneca.org/aidfortrade/media.htm - ECA Aid for Trade
www.wto.org - World Trade Organization

ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AFRICA

The 2008 report to the General Assembly on the progress of the MDGs showed that at the halfway point to the 2015 deadline there had been substantial achievements, but many serious impediments still exist. Each goal has specific problems that are unique to every region. As such, many regional initiatives have been advanced to help ensure the completion of the MDGs. For the purposes of the MDGs, Africa is divided into two regions, sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa. Achieving the 2015 benchmarks appears most difficult for the sub-Saharan region, which is especially troubling because many of the MDGs were formulated with sub-Saharan Africa in mind.

The goal to Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger has an overarching objective of reducing absolute poverty, or those people living on less than one dollar a day. Based on current data, however, the population of sub-Saharan Africa living in absolute poverty is not likely to be halved by 2015. The sectors furthest from achieving the MDGs poverty reduction goals are refugees and rural African communities, which need to focus on repairing massive neglect of the local agriculture. This need plays directly into the MDG concerning environmental sustainability, a multi-faceted goal where Africa has experienced both success, as in reversing depletion of natural resources, and failure, as in efforts to improve the lives of the millions of people living in slums. Achieving environmental sustainability and eliminating poverty are in turn directly related to the goal of establishing a global partnership for development. Unfortunately this goal, which had been experiencing consistent progress, is now facing significant setbacks as a result of the current global economic recession. However, the percentage of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries has been consistently growing along with the percentage of debt in developing regions. Thus decrease in debt is crucial to continued success in achieving all the MDGs.

The goal to Achieve Universal Primary Education has enjoyed success in most regions, reaching a 90% enrollment rate for primary education. However sub-Saharan Africa remains at 71% enrollment. This is a tremendous improvement from its 54% enrollment rating in 1991 and even its 58% enrollment rating in 2000. The largest contributing factor for sub-par enrollment numbers is the current poverty levels. This is another example of the interaction between different MDGs. Just as alleviating extreme poverty is key to providing universal primary education, the availability of primary education to both genders equally is key to promoting gender equality. The efforts to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women have been met with tenuous but growing success. In the area of education, Northern Africa has shown consistent and remarkable improvement with an enrollment ratio of ninety-nine girls for every one hundred boys in secondary education as of 2006. Unfortunately, sub-Saharan Africa is tied for the lowest enrollment ratio in primary education and holds the lowest enrollment ratio in secondary education. Efforts are also needed in the realm of mainstreaming women in political office. The percentage of women holding political office tripled in Northern Africa, and both African regions showed improvement in promoting women between 2000 and 2008. In sub-Saharan Africa the numbers nearly doubled from 9.1% women in political office to 17.3%, showing that both regions have made slow but promising improvement in this area.

The goal to Reduce Child Mortality aims to reduce by two-thirds the deaths of children under five by 2015. Some progress has been achieved, but the numbers are still strikingly high. Measured at deaths per one thousand births, the current sub-Saharan child mortality rate of 157 deaths per thousand is the highest globally by a wide margin; overall, sub-Saharan Africa accounts for nearly half of the five and under child deaths in the developing world. The Northern Africa region, however, has shown remarkable improvement, going from 82 deaths per thousand in 1990 to 35 deaths per thousand in 2006. While life-saving vaccinations have become more readily available, many children under five remain severely malnourished; nearly a third of all five and under child deaths are attributed to undernutrition. Inextricably tied to the goal of reducing child mortality is the MDG to Improve Maternal Health, an area which has also shown an alarmingly low level of improvement. In sub-Saharan Africa, only statistically marginal improvements have been made to maternal mortality rates. However, Northern Africa has shown a 40% reduction in its maternal deaths, placing the region on track to attain its 2015 target. Improvements in family planning, availability of trained health workers, and many other areas such as reducing poverty will require significant scale-up to lower the maternal mortality rate in Africa.

Efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases have achieved mixed results in sub-Saharan Africa. The vast majority of all people living with HIV/AIDS, estimated at 37 million as of 2007, live within sub-Saharan Africa. Most are without access to necessary antiretroviral therapy. Most sub-Saharan African nations lack both drug supplies as well as the necessary infrastructure to distribute them. Despite the lack of progress in combating HIV/AIDS, significant work has been achieved in combating malaria, mainly thanks to increased availability of insecticide treated mosquito nets. Though malaria prevention efforts have improved greatly, significant barriers remain in providing malaria treatment. Despite efforts, tuberculosis cases are on the rise in the region. Without serious and substantial assistance from the international community, targets outlined for this MDG are unlikely to be met.

In most areas Africa has been showing consistent, if laborious, improvement, but a significant amount of work still needs to be done in Africa in order to achieve the MDGs. An integrated approach is needed which recognizes the codependency of the goals. As the half way point to the 2015 target has passed, it is imperative that efforts be redoubled in working toward meeting these goals. The ECA has a crucial role to play in this process by assisting African states with monitoring progress, developing poverty reduction strategies, and coordinating sub-regional efforts. By supporting peer learning and knowledge sharing, the ECA can help African states develop context-specific and culturally sensitive approaches to achieving the MDGs.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What are the models for success in achieving the MDGs, and what role do Millennium Promise and MDG Progress play into that success? How does good governance affect progress on the MDGs?
- How can the international community assist Africa in reaching the Millennium Development Goals? Specifically, what forms of aid could be given to sub-Saharan Africa in light of its poor track record of meeting the MDG target milestones?

- What impact does the destabilization of one country play on the region's ability to accomplish the MDG? How can the international community help mitigate this impact?
- What effect, if any, has the current global economic situation had on Africa's likelihood of accomplishing the MDGs? How can the ECA prioritize allocation of scarce resources?

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Additional Web Resources:

- www.un.org/millenniumgoals - Millennium Development Goals
www.uneca.org/mdg - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
www.mdgafrica.org - MDG Africa Steering Group