

## Economic Commission for Africa

### *Recent Developments*

The Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) occurred in October of 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, jointly convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), and the African Development Bank Group (AfDB).<sup>1</sup> The participants discussed the topic of “Governing and harnessing natural resources for Africa’s development,” and addressed issues such as resource management and development in Africa with a special focus on minerals and mining, land, fishery, and forestry.<sup>2</sup> This Forum produced a Consensus Statement which outlines the determination to use Africa’s natural resources to the benefit of its citizens and economy across institutional lines.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, on October 30 – November 2, 2012, ECA along with AfDB and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) came together for the seventh annual African Economic Conference (AEC) in Kigali, Rwanda to discuss “Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Africa in an Age of Economic Uncertainty.”<sup>4</sup> Academics, policy makers, and development practitioners from around the world come together every year for this conference to discuss and educate each other on important issues effecting Africa’s economies and to work towards finding resolutions for those issues.<sup>5</sup>

The 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of UN Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme (RCM-Africa) took place in Addis Ababa on November 14-15, 2012. The discussions focused on the progress made regarding the work of the RCM, and addressed the future steps for integrating the RCM clusters within the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) program.<sup>6</sup> The RCM-Africa created the yearly Progress Report to review thematic concerns and prioritize issues of importance, especially governance.<sup>7</sup>

In December 2012, ECA Executive Secretary Dr. Carlos Lopes stated that ECA’s working structure would be overhauled and restructured and put into effect in March of 2013.<sup>8</sup> The Executive Secretary proposed the creation of five new divisions that will help organize each thematic issue and promote research and data collection for each topic that concerns ECA and Africa.<sup>9</sup> These new divisions are: the Regional Integration and Trade Division; the Special Initiatives Division; the Macroeconomic Policy Division; the Social Development Division; and “a strengthened and expanded” African Centre for Statistics.<sup>10</sup> In order to make ECA’s work with NEPAD more productive and efficient, Lopes also proposed the creation of an Office of Partnerships and a Capacity Development Division.<sup>11</sup> ECA currently divides its work between nine categories.<sup>12</sup> The work from these nine categories will be distributed and absorbed amongst the new division structure in March.<sup>13</sup>

More recently, the Executive Secretary of ECA met with the AUC Chairperson and the President of the AfDB in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on January 11-12, 2013 in order to discuss ways in which they can perpetuate Africa’s

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) Home*, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *African Development Forum: About ADF-VIII*, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) Consensus Statement (ECA/ADF/8/6)*, 2012.

<sup>4</sup> African Economic Conference, *Home*, 2012.

<sup>5</sup> African Economic Conference, *Objective*, 2012.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Regional Coordination Mechanism of UN Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa (RCM-Africa) in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme*, 2012.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Consolidated Progress Report of RCM-Africa to the 13<sup>th</sup> session of RCM*, 2012.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Lopes re-aligns ECA work to better serve Africa’s transformation agenda*, 2012.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Lopes re-aligns ECA work to better serve Africa’s transformation agenda*, 2012.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Lopes re-aligns ECA work to better serve Africa’s transformation agenda*, 2012.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Lopes re-aligns ECA work to better serve Africa’s transformation agenda*, 2012.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Home*, 2013.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Lopes re-aligns ECA work to better serve Africa’s transformation agenda*, 2012.

“socio-economic transformation” over the future five decades.<sup>14</sup> Other events in 2013 for ECA include the Sixth Joint Annual Meetings between the AU and ECA. The joint African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the ECA will take place from March 21-26 2013 with the theme, “Industrialization for and Emerging Africa” in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.<sup>15</sup> The Committee of Experts will take place from March 21-24, 2013, and the Ministerial segment will occur on March 25-26, 2013.<sup>16</sup>

### ***The Committee at the National Model United Nations Conference***

The Economic Commission for Africa promotes the economic and social development of its Member States, encourages cooperation internationally for Africa's development, and fosters intra-regional integration. The ECA is comprised of 53 Member States and as a Regional Commission of the Economic and Social Council does not hold elections for Member States. ECA is currently structured to operate eight internal committees: the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST), the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD), the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology (CNRST), the Committee on Human Development and Civil Society (CHDCS), the Committee on Women and Development (CWD), the Committee on Trade, Regional Co-operation and Integration (CTRCI), the Committee on Industry and Private Sector Development (CIPSD), and the Committee on Governance and Popular Participation (CGPP).

**Format:** The Economic Commission for Africa is a Resolution Writing Committee.

**Voting:** In the Economic Commission for Africa each member has one vote and it does not allow for special privileges of Member States, such as veto power. All decisions are decided on by majority vote of members present for both procedural and substantive matters.

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<sup>14</sup> African Development Bank Group, “Heads of AfDB, AUC and UNECA Discuss Continent’s Socio-Economic Transformation,” 2013.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Meetings and Events*, 2012.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Meetings and Events*, 2012.

## Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *African Development Forum: About ADF-VIII*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/adfviii/AboutADFVIII.aspx>

*This event held every two years by ECA with the AU is centered on progress in Africa's development. Provided here is a thorough explanation of the African Development Forum and the works that occur at this event. Also provided are objectives and documents that have been created as well as a review of each forum.*

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *Consolidated Progress Report of RCM-Africa to the 13<sup>th</sup> session of RCM*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from

[http://new.uneca.org/Portals/rcm/2012/Documents/RCM13\\_Progress-Report\\_ENG.pdf](http://new.uneca.org/Portals/rcm/2012/Documents/RCM13_Progress-Report_ENG.pdf)

*The Progress Report created by RCM-Africa which was presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the Economic Commission for Africa and African Union regarding the New Partnership for Africa's Development. This will be a helpful overview of progress made and future goals of the RCM in NEPAD. This document provides an excellent source of information and can be used as a point of reference throughout the remainder of the research and conference periods.*

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012, October 25). *Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) Consensus Statement (ECA/ADF/8/6)*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from

[http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/ADFVIII\\_Consensus\\_Statement\\_Final.pdf](http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/ADFVIII_Consensus_Statement_Final.pdf)

*This document from ADF-VIII is the new standard by which the AU, AfDB, and ECA consider development issues in regards to natural resources. The natural resources considered are minerals, fisheries, land, and forests. The Consensus Statement also includes recommendations regarding each natural resource and progress to be made.*

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012, December 12). *Press Release 213/2012: "Lopes re-aligns ECA work to better serve Africa's transformation agenda."* Retrieved on January 11, 2013 from

<http://new.uneca.org/ArticleDetail/tabid/3018/ArticleId/2431/Lopes-re-aligns-ECA-work-to-better-serve-Africa-s-transformation-agenda.aspx>

*Press releases and newsletters from different departments and committees serve as excellent sources of news and advancement in their respective areas. The release from ECA in December explains a great deal about the future structural rehabilitation that the ECA committee work will take. The changes proposed by the Executive Secretary are supposed to take place in March of this year. When these changes take place, each of the thematic areas of ECA will be divided and reabsorbed into new divisions. Progressive changes like these offer a dynamic example of opportunity to recreate systems, initiatives, and programs.*

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *Regional Coordination Mechanism of UN Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa (RCM-Africa) in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme*.

Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/rcm/rcm13.aspx>

*The RCM-Africa homepage is useful for retrieving information from thirteen sessions of work. This historical website provides information by which to stay up to date with current works and concerns as well as measuring the growth and succession over time. Maneuvering through the information located here will provide a basis of knowledge on regional and sub-regional activity concerning NEPAD and the accomplishments of ECA and AU over time.*

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<http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/heads-of-afdb-auc-and-uneqa-discuss-continent-socio-economic-transformation-10204/>

African Economic Conference. (2012). *Home*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from <http://www.africaneconomicconference.org/2012/index.htm>

African Economic Conference. (2012). *Objective*. Retrieved on January 25, 2013 from <http://www.africaneconomicconference.org/2012/objective.html>

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) Home*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from [http://new.uneca.org/adfviii/home\\_adf8.aspx](http://new.uneca.org/adfviii/home_adf8.aspx)

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *African Development Forum: About ADF-VIII*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/adfviii/AboutADFVIII.aspx>

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *Consolidated Progress Report of RCM-Africa to the 13<sup>th</sup> session of RCM*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from [http://new.uneca.org/Portals/rcm/2012/Documents/RCM13\\_Progress-Report\\_ENG.pdf](http://new.uneca.org/Portals/rcm/2012/Documents/RCM13_Progress-Report_ENG.pdf)

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012, October 25). *Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) Consensus Statement (ECA/ADF/8/6)*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from [http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/ADFVIII\\_Consensus\\_Statement\\_Final.pdf](http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/ADFVIII_Consensus_Statement_Final.pdf)

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2013). *Meetings and Events*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/MeetingsandEvents/tabid/307/ModuleID/725/mctl/EventList/Default.aspx>

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012, December 12). *Press Release 213/2012: "Lopes re-aligns ECA work to better serve Africa's transformation agenda."* Retrieved on January 11, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/ArticleDetail/tabid/3018/ArticleId/2431/Lopes-re-aligns-ECA-work-to-better-serve-Africa-s-transformation-agenda.aspx>

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *Regional Coordination Mechanism of UN Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa (RCM-Africa) in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/rcm/rcm13.aspx>

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2013). *United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Home*. Retrieved on January 9, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/>

## I. Pursuing Socially and Environmentally Sustainable Practices in Mineral Trade

### *Recent Developments*

The Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) took place in Addis Ababa from October 23-25, 2012. The Director of Economic Development and New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) of ECA highlighted the importance of continuous growth of Africa-South cooperation and urged governments to focus on how to foster and “manage these partnerships for better and more equitable development results.”<sup>17</sup> He stressed that such partnership must be directed towards “promoting structural transformation and reducing dependence on mineral-resource exports.”<sup>18</sup> Most importantly, the participants at the Forum recognized the African Mineral Skills Initiative (AMSI) as a significant step towards the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV).<sup>19</sup> Heads of State had adopted the AMV at the African Union summit in February 2009, following the October 2008 meeting of African Ministers responsible for Mineral Resources Development.<sup>20</sup> It advocates for transparency and accountability to ensure that the “minerals sector delivers development dividends to governments and communities, while rewarding investors for the risk they take.”<sup>21</sup> The Consensus Statement, released at the end of the ADF-VIII, called for partnerships among stakeholders and governments to popularize the Vision across Africa and ultimately “achieve a much needed paradigm shift in the sector that has eluded the continent for decades.”<sup>22</sup> However, the research and development capacity for the AMV transformational agenda is rather weak, especially due to limited budgets for science and innovation as well as the lack of adequate experts.<sup>23</sup> The African Minerals Skills Initiative which developed through the partnership of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the gold mining company, AngloGold Ashanti, seeks to support the Africa Mining Vision by: (a) focusing on broad skills development in Africa with regards to the minerals sector; (b) taking a holistic view of skills and institution building for the minerals industry; (c) supporting local delivery of skills and opportunities through selected African mining schools.<sup>24</sup>

Additionally, ECA is planning to integrate the AMSI within the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC), which has been under development by the African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB) and ECA since August 2012.<sup>25</sup> Given the fact that the AMV calls for a “transformative role for mineral resources in Africa’s development based on appropriate social and economic linkages,” the creation of the AMDC was agreed in order to “integrate the approach to mineral development in the manner demanded by the AMV.”<sup>26</sup> The aim of the Centre is to encourage multiple partnerships across the continent including the African Union Member States, their national and regional organizations such as the AUC, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).<sup>27</sup> It is also tasked to “enable mineral resources to play a greater transformative role in the development of the continent through increased economic and social linkages, and in this manner, help address its intractable poverty and limited development.”<sup>28</sup> The Business Plan developed by the AUC, AfDB and ECA states that the AMDC will operate in three phases from 2013 to 2017.<sup>29</sup> During the build-up phase, efforts will be directed towards establishing the Centre; the main phase (3 years) will entail project implementation of each work-stream; and the review phase (1 year) will involve project completion and discussions on advancing the Centre’s work.<sup>30</sup> The AMDC is expected to start working in the first quarter of 2013.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> UNECA, *Africa's growing cooperation with Southern partners has positive impact on growth in the continent*, 2012.

<sup>18</sup> UNECA, *Africa's growing cooperation with Southern partners has positive impact on growth in the continent*, 2012.

<sup>19</sup> UNECA, *Mineral Skills Initiative to Support Africa's Mining Vision*, 2012.

<sup>20</sup> UNECA, *Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII)*, Consensus Statement, 2012, p. 3.

<sup>21</sup> UNECA, *Stakeholders adopt consensus statement on sustainable exploitation of Africa's natural resources*, 2012.

<sup>22</sup> UNECA, *Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII)*, Consensus Statement, 2012, p. 5.

<sup>23</sup> UNECA, *Mineral Resources for Africa's Development: Anchoring a New Vision*, 2012, p. 10.

<sup>24</sup> UNECA, *Mineral Skills Initiative to Support Africa's Mining Vision*, 2012.

<sup>25</sup> UNECA, *Mineral Skills Initiative to Support Africa's Mining Vision*, 2012.

<sup>26</sup> AUC, ECA & AfDB, *The African Mineral Development Centre*, 2012, p. 6.

<sup>27</sup> AUC, ECA & AfDB, *The African Mineral Development Centre*, 2012, p. 6.

<sup>28</sup> AUC, ECA & AfDB, *The African Mineral Development Centre*, 2012, p. 17.

<sup>29</sup> AUC, ECA & AfDB, *The African Mineral Development Centre*, 2012, p. 7.

<sup>30</sup> AUC, ECA & AfDB, *The African Mineral Development Centre*, 2012, p. 7.

<sup>31</sup> AUC, ECA & AfDB, *The African Mineral Development Centre*, 2012, p. 7.

With regards to the funding, the AngloGold Ashanti confirmed its contribution of US\$ 1 million in 2013 as part of a broader five-year commitment towards the Centre. This financial aid will be used for the integration of the African Mineral Skills Initiative in the Centre's work to ensure AMSI thrives and flourishes in the coming years.<sup>32</sup> Moreover, during the annual Africa Down Under Conference in August 2012, the Government of Australia announced support for the Centre of 5 million Australian dollars over the next 2 years.<sup>33</sup> The Foreign Ministry of Sweden and the Canadian International Development Agency are also considering providing financial support.<sup>34</sup> In October of 2012, the AUC, AfDB and ECA gathered for the meeting of the Bureau of the Second Conference of AU Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development in Addis Ababa.<sup>35</sup> During this gathering, ministers further discussed the Business Plan for the launch of the AMDC. The Plan was reviewed by senior officials and recommended to the Bureau of Ministers in mid-October 2012.<sup>36</sup> However, the implementation of the Business Plan will only be considered towards the end of 2013 when the meeting of Ministers takes place.

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<sup>32</sup> UNECA, *Mineral Skills Initiative to Support Africa's Mining Vision*, 2012.

<sup>33</sup> UNECA, *Prime Minister commits initial \$5 towards African Minerals Development Centre*, 2012.

<sup>34</sup> UNECA, *Officials to deliberate a business plan to implement the African Mining Vision*, 2012.

<sup>35</sup> UNECA, *Officials to deliberate a business plan to implement the African Mining Vision*, 2012.

<sup>36</sup> AU, *First Bureau Meeting of the Second African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development: Ministers Meeting*, 2012.

## Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *Mineral Skills Initiative to Support Africa's Mining Vision*. Press Release. Retrieved on January 5, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/ArticleDetail/tabid/3018/ArticleId/2203/Mineral-Skills-Initiative-to-support-Africas-Mining-Vision.aspx>

*This press release provides a detailed account about the African Mining Vision and the latest initiative to support it. The document also entails the views expressed by the private sector partners and the agreed donations to be made in order to implement the Mineral Skills Initiative. This release also states the issues related with mineral trade that were discussed at the Forum and what were the decisions made.*

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) *Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development*. Consensus Statement. Retrieved on January 5, 2013 from [http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/ADFVIII\\_Consensus\\_Statement\\_Final.pdf](http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/ADFVIII_Consensus_Statement_Final.pdf)

*This document gives an excellent overview about the issues discussed during the Eights African Development Forum and what actions ought to be taken to address them. In particular, it reviews the initiatives that were taken to enhance mineral resources in Africa and states recommendations for stakeholders and governments. Ultimately, this document serves to present the most current issues faced by the continent and urges the governments to take immediate action.*

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *Mineral Resources for Africa's Development: Anchoring a New Vision*, Issues Paper I. Retrieved on January 13, 2013 from [http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/Issue\\_Papers/ADFVIII-Mineral-Resources-Issues-paper.pdf](http://new.uneca.org/Portals/adfviii/Documents/Issue_Papers/ADFVIII-Mineral-Resources-Issues-paper.pdf)

*This issue paper identifies key strategic issues faced by Africa regarding mineral resources. The paper poses questions that framed the debate during the Forum and gives background information on the topic. It, however, does not entail policy prescriptions but serve as an excellent and informative resource to understand the key challenges.*

African Union Commission. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. African Development Bank. (2012). *The African Mineral Development Centre*. Business Plan. Retrieved on January 13, 2013 from <http://www.au.int/ar/sites/default/files/AMDC%20Business%20Plan%20EDITED%20Final%2017%20Sep%202012.pdf>

*This document provides information about the inception of the African Mineral Development Centre. It gives a review about the structure, aim and expected outcomes of such organization. This document is a result of a partnership of three major multi-lateral organizations and reveals the global efforts to tackle the issue of mineral resources in the region.*

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *Officials to deliberate a business plan to implement the African Mining Vision*. Press Release. Retrieved on January 13, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/TabId/3018/Default.aspx?ArticleId=2127>

*This press release gives a good overview about the latest meeting with regards to implementing the AMDC. It provides information about the urgency to improve the mineral trade practices in Africa and highlights the benefits of the Centre. The document also states the list of potential donors and funders that support the AMDC project.*

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African Union Commission. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. African Development Bank. (2012). *The African Mineral Development Centre*. Business Plan. Retrieved on January 13, 2013 from <http://www.au.int/ar/sites/default/files/AMDC%20Business%20Plan%20EDITED%20Final%2017%20Sep%202012.pdf>

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United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2012). *Africa's growing cooperation with Southern partners has positive impact on growth in the continent*. Press Release. Retrieved on January 13, 2013 from <http://new.uneca.org/ArticleDetail/tabid/3018/ArticleId/2204/Africas-growing-cooperation-with-Southern-partners-has-positive-impact-on-growth-in-the-continent-says-ECAs-Nnadozie.aspx>

African Union. (2012). *First Bureau Meeting of the Second African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development: Ministers Meeting*. Press Release. Retrieved on January 14, 2013 from [http://www.au.int/ar/sites/default/files/PR98-First%20Bureau%20Meeting%20of%20the%20Second%20African%20Union%20Conference%20of%20Ministers%20Responsible%20for%20Mineral%20Resources%20Development\\_Closure\\_f.pdf](http://www.au.int/ar/sites/default/files/PR98-First%20Bureau%20Meeting%20of%20the%20Second%20African%20Union%20Conference%20of%20Ministers%20Responsible%20for%20Mineral%20Resources%20Development_Closure_f.pdf)

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## II. Enhancing Good Governance through the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The conclusion of the Eighth African Governance Forum on Democracy, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa (AGF-VIII) in October 2012 reaffirmed that democracy and development are mutually interdependent following empirical evidence from the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).<sup>37</sup> The Forum particularly emphasized that while elections are synonymous with democracy, they can also trigger violence and the practice of democracy cannot be reduced to only organizing elections.<sup>38</sup>

Acknowledging that elections are not synonymous with democracy, the Forum emphasized that for democracy to take root, countries must embrace peaceful, credible, and transparent multi-party elections.<sup>39</sup> In reference to Zambia in 2010, Senegal in 2012, and Lesotho in 2012, AGF-VIII stressed that the inclusion of all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, political parties, regional and international groups, and election management bodies.<sup>40</sup> The forum provided policy recommendations for each of these groups on what they can do in regards to the democratic process.<sup>41</sup> Of these recommendations, AGF-VIII stated that the "International Community, including the United Nations system, must play a more proactive role in enhancing institutional capacity for Africa towards democracy promotion, electoral integrity and constructive management of diversity."<sup>42</sup> These principles are important to note and observe in the upcoming Kenyan elections that are to be held in March of this year. These upcoming elections are particularly important to note after the country experienced post-election violence in 2007 and 2008 that cost the lives of over 1,000 and led to an estimated 600,000 internally displaced persons.<sup>43</sup>

As noted by AGF-VIII, the inclusion of civil society greatly improves good governance while the participation of non-governmental organizations plays a crucial role in organizing and giving a voice to much of civil society. One such organization that specifically works for the betterment of government in Africa is Good Governance Africa (GGA), which plays a crucial part of civil society in improving governance in Africa by carrying out research and working as an advocacy organization.<sup>44</sup> GGA publishes a monthly journal called *Africa in Fact*, with each journal discussing an issue relevant to good governance like the October 2012 issue *Law and Lawlessness in Africa*.<sup>45</sup> This particular issue discusses the rule of law in regards to good governance by analyzing situations such as police crime in South Africa, the International Criminal Court's (ICC) role in Africa, or Somalia's recovery.<sup>46</sup> Another recent publication by GGA that is just as pertinent to the concept good governance is entitled *Africa's Opposition Parties*, which coincides with AGF-VIII's recent statements, where GGA expresses that "without an opposition a country cannot be defined as democratic, representative and accountable."<sup>47</sup>

The 13th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of UN Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa (RCM-Africa) convened in November 2012 to bring the AU, NEPAD, and UN organizations to focus on the theme of a post 2015 development agenda for Africa.<sup>48</sup> RCM-Africa established a set of objectives to achieve for the post-2015 development agenda which includes: participation and ownership of an African-owned and led process that captures the severity of Africa's reduction of poverty and vulnerability to crises; learning from past experiences;

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<sup>37</sup> African Union, *Outcome Statement of the Eighth African Governance Forum on Democracy, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa*, 2012.

<sup>38</sup> African Union, *Outcome Statement of the Eighth African Governance Forum on Democracy, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa*, 2012.

<sup>39</sup> African Union, *Outcome Statement of the Eighth African Governance Forum on Democracy, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa*, 2012.

<sup>40</sup> African Union, *Outcome Statement of the Eighth African Governance Forum on Democracy, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa*, 2012.

<sup>41</sup> African Union, *Outcome Statement of the Eighth African Governance Forum on Democracy, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa*, 2012.

<sup>42</sup> African Union, *Outcome Statement of the Eighth African Governance Forum on Democracy, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa*, 2012.

<sup>43</sup> Kariuki, *Kenya to hold polls in March 2013, says elections body*, 2012.

<sup>44</sup> Good Governance Africa, *About Us*, 2012.

<sup>45</sup> Good Governance Africa, *Law and Lawlessness*, 2012.

<sup>46</sup> Good Governance Africa, *Law and Lawlessness*, 2012.

<sup>47</sup> Good Governance Africa, *Africa's Opposition Parties*, 2012.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa Concludes its 13th Session*, 2012.

resource mobilization for transformative development; and a human-centered approach to development.<sup>49</sup> Additional activities of RCM-Africa are also divided into clusters, including the Governance Cluster and Social and Human Development Cluster, to focus on specific issues for organizations to address in Africa and provide a thorough discussion of each cluster's activities.<sup>50</sup>

Much of what is said on good governance at the AGF-VIII, by the GGA and at RCM-Africa in the past months have come to coincide with the release of two major publications by NEPAD: the *NEPAD Agency Report 2011* and *Africa's Decade of Change*.<sup>51</sup> NEPAD has found that an improvement of political governance, among other factors, has contributed to both the success of NEPAD's activities in Africa as well as the strengthening economic status of the continent as a whole.<sup>52</sup> Despite the improvements, the NEPAD identifies alarming situations including less than optimal education rates, high youth unemployment, and a high level of poverty and inequality to which NEPAD stresses the need for resources to face these issues.<sup>53</sup> A key advantage in tackling this are the partnerships that NEPAD spend significant time building with such organizations as the ECA, Group of Eight, Group of Twenty, Development Bank of Southern Africa, and the African Development Bank.<sup>54</sup> As noted in the recent book *Africa's Decade of Change*, it is through this cooperative and collective approach that incorporates many stakeholders from states, civil society, and international organizations that has enabled NEPAD to institutionalize peer learning and sharing to pursue good governance.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *RCM-Africa Pushes for an African Common Position on the post 2015 Development Agenda*, 2012.

<sup>50</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Regional Coordination Mechanism of UN Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa (RCM-Africa) in support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme*, 2012.

<sup>51</sup> New Partnership for Africa's Development, *NEPAD Newsletter*, 2012.

<sup>52</sup> New Partnership for Africa's Development, *NEPAD Agency Annual Report 2011*, 2012.

<sup>53</sup> New Partnership for Africa's Development, *NEPAD Agency Annual Report 2011*, 2012.

<sup>54</sup> New Partnership for Africa's Development, *The New Partnership for Africa's Development: NEPAD Agency Annual Report 2011*, 2012.

<sup>55</sup> New Partnership for Africa's Development, *Africa's Decade of Change: Reflections on 10 Years of NEPAD*, 2012.

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*The outcome statement by the Eighth African Governance Forum is an essential read to understand the current attention that the African Union is spending to advance good governance. Detailed in the document are recommendations that every part of society should take to increase good governance in Africa. Reading this statement should provide an extensive update to the current state of democratic process across Africa.*

Good Governance Africa. (2012). *Africa's Opposition Parties*. *Africa in Fact*, December 2012-January 2013. Retrieved January 10, 2013 from: <http://gga.org/publications/africa-in-fact-december-2012-january-2013-african-opposition-parties/view>.

*As part of monthly reports by Good Governance Africa, each one discusses a particular theme about governance in Africa. The theme for this joint December-January issue of Africa in Fact covers the role of opposition parties in Africa. They accomplish this by reviewing situations in South Africa, Uganda, Tunisia, and Guinea. While the publication focuses on specific country, this document is a good read by providing a basis of review and critique on political party systems in countries that may be extrapolated to other states.*

Good Governance Africa. (2012). *Law and Lawlessness*. *Africa in Fact*, October 2012. Retrieved January 10, 2013 from: <http://gga.org/publications/africa-in-fact-october-2012/view>.

*This October issue of the monthly publication discusses the role of rule of law in Africa's current state of governance. Rule of law in Africa is discussed by analysis and review of particular circumstances in states including piracy on the West African seas and the role of the International Criminal Court in Africa. The reviews of these situations and more provide valid analysis, criticisms, and up to date information to address these issues from varied viewpoints.*

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, Economic Commission for Africa, Office of the Special Advisor on Africa. (2012). *Africa's Decade of Change: Reflections of 10 Years of NEPAD*. Retrieved January 10, 2013 from: <http://www.nepad.org/system/files/Africa%20Decade%20of%20Change%20-%20Final.pdf>.

*NEPAD's new book Africa's Decade of Change is a crucial read for any who aims to discuss NEPAD in any aspect. This book details the progress of NEPAD from its inception to the current that is being taken by the organization. The great importance of this book comes from its in-depth information from on subjects ranging from the core principles of NEPAD to the engagement of civil society.*

New Partnership for Africa's Development. (2012). *NEPAD Agency 2011 Annual Report*. Retrieved January 10, 2013 from: <http://www.nepad.org/nepad/knowledge/doc/2847/nepad-agency-2011-annual-report>.

*NEPAD's release of annual reports provides important details of the progress of NEPAD in Africa as well as issues that should be addressed. While this report is for 2011, its release at the end of 2012 does not diminish its importance as a crucial document. The importance of this document comes from that its review of the first year of NEPAD since it changed to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. Of note in the report are details of accomplishment by the agency in the areas of agriculture and food security, regional integration, human development, capacity development, and much more.*

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### III. Improving Youths' Access to Education and Employment Opportunities

#### *Recent Developments*

Through the past few months, there have been recent developments in improving youths' access to education and employment opportunities across the continent. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO) in their report on *Africa's Response to the Youth Employment Crisis*, global youth unemployment will remain at crisis levels until at least 2016 with the youth being three times more likely to be unemployed than adults.<sup>56</sup> For example, Nigeria is already making efforts to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers that will build up Africa's potential and encourage growth in the manufacturing and services sectors that will add value to its current export commodities.<sup>57</sup> Another effort being made by the Nigerian government involves working to address both ageing farmers and high youth unemployment through the recent innovative term known as "nagropreneur."<sup>58</sup> These nagropreneurs are a part of the new Youth in Agric Business project of the Nigerian government to increase the number of young farmers to 1 million by 2015.<sup>59</sup> This project, which was presented in September 2012 and launched in January 2013, is a response to the influx of young graduates entering the workforce and encourages them to take charge seeking self-employment through agriculture and business, since the government and private sector are unable to create jobs as quickly as young people are entering the workforce.<sup>60</sup> Since the project is new, however, it still remains to be seen just how successful it will be in creating new job opportunities for Nigerian youths and which methods will be used for evaluating its success.<sup>61</sup>

Although a major problem throughout Africa is the lack of access to education, the North African region faces the quandary of having a majority of youths with higher education representing the unemployment figures.<sup>62</sup> In Egypt, the figures for unemployed young men and women with university degrees are 26.9 percent of males and 55.1 percent of females.<sup>63</sup> These high unemployment figures are due to an increase in the creation of low productivity, or minimum-waged jobs, and a high influx of applicants competing for the few good jobs available.<sup>64</sup> In November, the Danish government, working in conjunction with the ILO, signed a Memorandum of Understanding, stating it would finance the first phase of the "Decent Jobs for Egypt's Young People" project in the amount of \$1.6 million USD.<sup>65</sup> The project is part of the National Action Plan (NAP) that aims to address problems at the national, regional and local level while giving special attention to those with disabilities and other particularly vulnerable groups.<sup>66</sup>

Conferences were held to address some of the major issues creating obstacles for youth in Africa. Senegal hosted the West Africa Regional Conference on Youth Employment in cooperation with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in November 2012.<sup>67</sup> The two main themes of the conference consisted of creating education models, training opportunities and skills needed for youth in West Africa and setting strategies for business models, economic policies, and job creation.<sup>68</sup> The West Africa Regional Conference on Youth Employment aimed to highlight successful West African policies, programs, and initiatives that were already yielding results in the region and to promote further support from businesses and civil society in developing sustaining economic reforms that could create more inclusive growth in the region.<sup>69</sup> Another conference titled "Youth and Democratization in Africa: Lessons Learned and Comparative Experiences" was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as a joint effort of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) to help create a dialogue and increase mobilization of youth in taking control of their future and as a response to the youth uprisings

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<sup>56</sup> International Labor Organization, *Africa's Response to the Youth Employment Crisis*, 2012, p. 1.

<sup>57</sup> Akinsuyi, *FG to Remove Barriers to Intra-African Trade*, 2012.

<sup>58</sup> Momoh, *Nagropreneurs and the drive to create entrepreneurs*, 2013.

<sup>59</sup> Momoh, *Nagropreneurs and the drive to create entrepreneurs*, 2013.

<sup>60</sup> Momoh, *Nagropreneurs and the drive to create entrepreneurs*, 2013.

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<sup>62</sup> International Labor Organization, *Africa's Response to the Youth Employment Crisis*, 2012, p. 6.

<sup>63</sup> International Labor Organization, *Africa's Response to the Youth Employment Crisis*, 2012, p. 6.

<sup>64</sup> International Labor Organization, *Africa's Response to the Youth Employment Crisis*, 2012, p. 4.

<sup>65</sup> International Labor Organization, *Denmark and ILO team up to advance youth empowerment in Egypt*, 2012.

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<sup>67</sup> African Development Bank, *Senegal Hosts AfDB-OECD Conference on Youth Employment in West Africa*, 2012.

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in North Africa.<sup>70</sup> The lessons learned that were addressed at this conference included the increasing role of mass communication and social networking in strengthening the power of youth in mobilizing, facilitating, and building their capacity as part of the policy-making process to influence decisions that directly affect them.<sup>71</sup> The conference also drew attention to the need for youth unemployment to be addressed through appropriate policy changes through major government policy initiatives, since high unemployment was driving youth to crime and violence.<sup>72</sup>

During December's Africa Industrialization Day, Emmanuel Nnadozie, the ECA's director of Economic Development and NEPAD division (EDND) emphasized the importance of increasing job creation through adding value to its current commodities.<sup>73</sup> Since Africa's economies are focused primarily on exporting raw goods, Nnadozie emphasized the need for African governments to also focus on developing intra-African trade, which remains at 15 percent of all trade, while the majority of Africa's markets are largely dependent on Europe.<sup>74</sup> Preparations are being made for the 2013 Economic Report on Africa, expected to be released in March, which will also reflect the research and more thorough information on shifting focus to developing more value-added commodities in Africa.<sup>75</sup> A major challenge that remains to be addressed by youth-employment programs is developing an effective evaluation system that highlights the overall impact and results, which makes it difficult to monitor and implement changes.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>70</sup>International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, *Democracy and the role of youth in Africa*, 2012.

<sup>71</sup>International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, *Democracy and the role of youth in Africa*, 2012.

<sup>72</sup>Economic Commission for Africa, *From protests to participation, youth call for more organized political engagement*, 2012.

<sup>73</sup>Economic Commission for Africa, *Africa can create millions of jobs through value-addition to commodities, says ECA's Nnadozie*, 2012.

<sup>74</sup>Economic Commission for Africa, *Experts review ECA's flagship report on value-addition*, 2012.

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*The IDEA's web site provides a comprehensive overview of why the Youth and Democratization Conference was essential to helping empower Africa's young people. There is also a great deal of emphasis placed on empowering youth to have more of a voice in government so they can overcome their disadvantages. In addition to the overview, the quick links on the right side provide some useful additional information and analysis regarding youth and democratization.*

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*This regional report has useful information in addressing the major problems faced by the African youth in a range of aspects that hold them back from achieving full employment. In addition to providing delegates with useful, current statistics for unemployment and disparities amongst different youth groups, there are also solutions suggested and problems clearly outlined that need to be addressed before progress is made. Africa's Response to the Youth Employment Crisis also highlights countries' responses and different partnerships that are working together to address the problem.*

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*This article highlights one of the innovative ways countries like Nigeria are working to address their growing workforce, but lack of available jobs. Through the Nagropreneur program, young graduates learn to mix business and agriculture to create long-term sustaining self-employed jobs. This also utilizes Nigeria's resource rich space to develop an industry with a lot of potential for growth.*

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*This article highlights what the ECA recommends Africa focus its attention on to increase employment opportunities and long-term sustainability. The article also mentions the importance of African businesses sharing progress and creating linkages. The ECA's web site does a good job of updating its press releases and provides a bibliography at the end of this article that will be helpful for delegates staying up to date on research.*

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