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SRO-EA

Seventeenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE)

18-22 February 2013

Kampala, Uganda

Theme: “Enhancing Energy Access and Security in Eastern Africa”

FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The 17th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) was held from 18 to 22 February 2013 in Kampala, Uganda, at the Speke Resort Munyonyo Hotel. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) in collaboration with the Government of Republic of Uganda, under the theme “Enhancing Energy Access and Security in Eastern Africa”.
2. The 17th ICE presented an opportunity for participants to explore the theme of the conference through presentations, high level panels, plenary and group discussions. Through the 2012 “*Annual Report on the Work of the ECA in Eastern Africa, Including the Status of Implementation of Multi-year Programmes (MYPs)/ Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM)*”, the forum reviewed SRO-EA performance and offered suggestions on how to strengthen the SRO work-programme’s relevance and impact. Experts also assessed the report on “*Tracking Progress in Macroeconomic and Social Developments in the Eastern Africa region, 2012*”, in addition to considering the “*Special Report on the ICGLR Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR)*” as part of reporting progress on the Implementation of International Agendas Including NEPAD, MDGs and Other Special Initiatives in the Sub-region. Discussions on energy access and energy security in Eastern Africa and on the status of regional integration in the sub-region were informed by two high-level panel discussions on “*Enhancing Energy Access and Energy Security in the Eastern Africa Sub-Region*” and “*Regional Integration in Eastern Africa: Progress, Perspectives and Challenges*”, respectively. Experts also explored the theme of the planned “2013 Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economy and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development”, That would be held in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire, in March 2013.
3. Four ad-hoc expert group meetings (AEGMs) and a Special Forum were organized within the framework of the 17th ICE to review the following publications:
 - (i) Trade Flows and Market Expansion in Eastern Africa: The Impact of Trade Liberalization Schemes;
 - (ii) Regional Integration in Eastern Africa: Domestication and Mainstreaming of Regional Integration Process, Instruments and Decisions into National Policies, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks;
 - (iii) The ICGLR’s Regional Initiative Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) and other Certification Mechanisms in the Great Lakes Region: Lessons Learned and Best Practices”;
 - (iv) SRCM business plan: 2013-2017 for Eastern and Southern Africa Inception meeting; and
 - (v) Energy Access and Security in Eastern Africa.

4. At the opening ceremony, remarks were delivered by a representative of the Government of Tanzania and by the Director of the SRO-EA. The guest of honour, Honourable Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development in charge of planning, Honourable Matia Kasaija, made the opening statement and officially opened the ICE.

ATTENDANCE

5. Delegations from the following countries attended the 17th session of the ICE: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
6. The following sub-regional, regional and international organizations were also represented:
African Union Commission (AUC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) the Internal Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Communauté Economique des pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL), the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), East African Business Council (EABC), the Eastern Africa Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), the Ports Management Authority for Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), the Transit Transport Co-ordination Authority of the Northern Corridor (TTCA-NC), the Transit Transport Facilitation Authority of the Central Corridor (TTFA-CA), and the African Research & Resource Forum (ARRF).
7. Also represented were resource persons; representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, namely Delegation of The European Union, Embassy of China and Embassy of Japan; UN Agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, IMF, World Bank, MONUSCO, and UNEP); Civil Society: Stockholm Environment Institute PWYP-Tanzania; Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey; International Transport Workers' Federation (UK); Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering - University of Arizona; Regional Research Institute - West Virginia University; DRC/ SAVE ACT MINE, Centre National d'Appui au Développement et à la Participation Populaire (CENADEP KI Bureau d'Etudes, d'observation et de coordination pour le Développement du territoire de WALIKALE « BEDEWA »); ENOUGH Project - Goma, Nord Kivu, D.R. Congo; Partnership Africa Canada / Partenariat Afrique, African Smelting Group, Sprl; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) Route des grottes, Cameroon STRATEGIES.

PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening of the Meeting (*Agenda Item 1*)

(a) Statement by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, the outgoing Chair of the ICE 2012 Bureau

8. The outgoing Chair welcomed all the delegates and thanked the Government of Uganda for hosting the 17th ICE of UNECA/SRO-EA. He assured the delegates that the

resolutions of the last 16th ICE meeting under the theme: “Harnessing the APRM Potential to Advance Mineral Resources Governance in Africa” are being implemented. He called upon participants to use the ICE to exchange ideas and experiences as well as come up with concrete solutions to address the challenges that hinder socio-economic development in the sub-region.

(b) Welcome address by Mr. Antonio Pedro, Director , UNECA/SRO-EA

9. In his opening speech, Mr. Antonio Pedro, Director of SRO-EA, welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed his deep appreciation to the government of the Republic of Uganda for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality extended to all participants. He noted that, in the context of a changing global environment, Africa must seize the opportunity and harness its significant endowment in natural resources to promote resource-based industrialization. He underscored that robust measures and purposeful leadership were needed to transform and diversify African economies, improve the quality of growth, through greater employment creation, enabling production structures, faster poverty reduction and more equality in the distribution of incomes. He indicated that the continent should also explore the demographic dividends of its youthful population to promote domestic entrepreneurship, modernize production structures and build globally competitive economies.
10. The Director highlighted that UNECA, as a pan-African organization, was undergoing its own transformation, to be better positioned to respond to the transformative agenda of its member States and deliver results, leadership and impact in a coherent fashion. He indicated that UNECA, will be making significant investments to strengthen statistical and forecasting capacity across the continent. UNECA will also endeavor to retool its own staff and recalibrate programmes with the view to taking a frontline role in generating original data and knowledge, strengthening its policy research, knowledge delivery and advocacy with clear and objective evidence, and boosting its capacity development and advisory services to usher transformative impact to better respond to the needs and priorities of its member States, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities.
11. With regard to the theme of the 17th ICE, the Director indicated that in the Eastern Africa sub-region, electricity access levels are among the lowest globally, leaving millions of people without access to electricity. He noted that the sub-regional average access rate of 26% is lower than the sub-Saharan average of 32%, and much progress needs to be made to achieve the middle income countries’ average access rate of around 80%. In the area of energy security, he stated that Eastern Africa’s share of Africa’s petroleum consumption grew by 67% in the last decade. He underscored that the dependence on increasing quantity of petroleum comes at a period where oil prices have increased by 170%, causing economic strain to the member States. He concluded by emphasizing that it was important to prioritize the energy sector in sub-regional and national development frameworks and blueprints and to provide adequate budget support for implementation.

(c) Keynote address by Honourable Matia Kasaija, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development in charge of Planning, Republic of Uganda

12. The Minister explained that promoting and accelerating economic transformation were key to meeting aspirations to reach middle income country status across Eastern Africa.

He underscored that this could only happen if the countries of this sub-region experienced high and sustained economic growth, for which energy access and security is a vital prerequisite.

13. The Minister indicated that with only 31% of households that have access to electricity, the Sub-Saharan African region generates the least electricity of any region in the world. He noted that even those with access to electricity have to pay an extremely high price.
14. Particularly focusing on Uganda, the Minister highlighted that among the challenges hampering the country from attaining middle income status by 2040 was lack of energy access and security. He further noted that climate change was a major challenge affecting energy generation. He emphasized the need to reduce carbon foot print and diminish gas emissions by reducing the dependence on fossil fuels. He also identified renewable energy as an option for rural electrification.
15. He underscored that measures must be put in place to attract both local and foreign investors to enhance energy access. He emphasized that countries should find creative ways of funding energy development such as Public-Private Partnership. In conclusion, Honorable Matia Kasaija stressed the importance of sharing experiences among the various countries across the region.

2. Election of the Bureau (Agenda item 2)

16. The meeting unanimously elected the following countries into the 2013 ICE Bureau:

Chair	:	Uganda
1 st Vice-Chair	:	Democratic Republic of Congo
2 nd Vice Chair	:	Kenya
Rapporteur	:	South Sudan

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme (Agenda item 3)

17. The following provisional agenda and work programme was presented and adopted:
 1. Opening Ceremony (Agenda item 1)
 2. Election of the Bureau (Agenda item 2)
 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme (Agenda item 3)
 4. Topic review on Enhancing Energy Access and Energy Security in the Eastern Africa Sub-region (Agenda item 4)
 5. High-level Ministerial Panel on Structural Transformation: The Case of Energy Access and Security in the Eastern Africa Sub-region (Agenda item 5)
 6. Annual Report on the ECA activities in Eastern Africa, Including the Status of Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme (MYP)/ Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanisms (SRCM) (Agenda item 6)

7. Report on Tracking Progress on Macroeconomic and Social Development in the Eastern Africa Region 2013: “Towards High Quality Growth and Structural Transformation in the Eastern Africa” (Agenda item 7)
8. Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Other Regional and International Agendas and Special Initiatives in the Sub-Region: Special Report on “the ICGLR Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) and Other Certification Mechanisms the Great Lakes Region: Lessons Learned and Best Practices” (Agenda item 8)
9. Towards High Quality Growth and Structural Transformation in the Eastern African Region (Agenda item 9)
10. Thematic Plenary Session: High Level Expert Panel on “Domestication and Mainstreaming of Regional Integration Process, Instruments and Decisions at National Level” (Agenda item 10)
11. Parallel AEGM Sessions: (1) Trade Flows and Market Expansion in Eastern Africa: The Impact of Trade Liberalisation Schemes; (2) Regional Integration in Africa: Domestication and Mainstreaming of Regional Integration Process, Instruments and Decisions into National Policies, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks; (3) Special Forum on Energy Access and Security, (4) The ICGLR Regional Initiative on Natural Resources (RINR) and other Certification Mechanisms in the Great Lakes Region: Lessons Learned and Best Practices; and (5) SRCM for Eastern and Southern Africa inception Meeting (Agenda item 11)
12. AEGM Sessions Report to the Plenary Session (Agenda item 12)
13. Any Other Business (Agenda item 13)
14. Presentation and Adoption of the 17th ICE Report (Agenda item 14)
15. Closing Ceremony of the 17th ICE (Agenda item 15)

4. Topic review on Enhancing Energy Access and Energy Security in the Eastern Africa Sub-region (Agenda 4)

16. A representative of SRO-EA made a presentation on “Enhancing Energy Access and Security in the Eastern African region”. He indicated that 95% of the global energy access problem is concentrated in Africa and developing Asia, with the most serious challenge prevailing in Eastern Africa. He noted that the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SEFA) initiative offers a global energy access agenda for universal energy access by 2030, doubling energy efficiency and renewable energy share in total energy.
17. He indicated that most countries in the Eastern African sub-Region have biomass reliance in excess of 90%, which is high in comparison with developing Asian countries (54%), Latin American countries (19%) and the Middle East (0%). He also noted that comparison of absolute consumption levels of petroleum from 2000-2011 shows that while consumption at the continental level increased by slightly more than 40%, the rise in the Eastern African sub-

region was 67%. He further highlighted that in 2000-2012, the GDP share of oil import expenditure increased from a low of 48% in Madagascar, to between 100%-200% in Rwanda, Seychelles, Comoros, Djibouti and Burundi, 344% in DRC and 718% in Tanzania. He underscored that the Energy Access and Energy Security challenges of Eastern Africa pose constraints to the structural transformation agenda.

18. He made the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Recognizing the untapped energy resources in Eastern Africa, the region should pursue regional cooperation and regional trade opportunities;
- Eastern Africa should commit to energy access targets and strive to achieve Sustainable Energy for All objectives by 2030, supplemented by accurate data, monitoring and evaluation frameworks;
- It is important to sustain efforts to developing indigenous energy resources enabled through effective private sector participation, public-private partnerships and public sector initiatives guided by proper energy planning;
- Leverage resource dynamics by linking energy sector development with synergistic economic activities, such as mining and industry; and
- Commit to energy sector institutional capacity development.

On Energy Security:

- Institute and stock strategic reserves of petroleum to lower the economic costs of energy disruptions while developing partnerships for a regional procurement framework;
- Strengthen regional cooperation on development of strategic energy resources such as oil and gas that recognize the potential of the Eastern Africa market;
- Support regional frameworks for refining petroleum;
- Commit to fuel diversification enabled by appropriate policy and frameworks at national, regional and continental levels, and leverage regional trading opportunities in biofuels; and
- Build energy security data infrastructure, to enable effective monitoring and evaluation of the state of energy security to support timely decisions.

5. High-level Ministerial Panel on Structural Transformation: The Case of Energy Access and Security in the Eastern Africa Sub-region (*Agenda 5*)

The High-level panel was chaired by Honorable Minister of State for Energy from Uganda, Simon D’Ujanga, and comprised of Honorable Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau, Ministry of Petroleum and Mining, South Sudan; Director Samuel Youziel, Ministry of Electricity and Dams, South Sudan; Honorable Deputy Minister Nadifa Mohamed Osman, Ministry of Energy, Somalia; Engineer Jasper Odour, Executive Secretary, East African Power Pool, Mr. Tadesse Hailemariam, Chief Executive, Ethiopian Petroleum Supply Enterprise; Vice-Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Mr. Sadock Biganza, D.R.C, and Mr. Firmin Nikoyangize, Assistant of the Minister of Energy and Mines from Burundi.

19. The following issues were raised and/or recommendations made, during the panel :

- Political commitment for energy sector development is needed;

- Regional integration frameworks are important to mitigate regional energy security challenges;
- Align energy access strategies with the universal access agenda;
- High power losses need to be tackled to spare meager power generation capacity;
- Integrate energy development within national development plans;
- Grid and off-grid options need to be integral parts of energy resource development;
- High costs of energy need to be brought down through development of cheaper energy sources;
- Regional efforts for refining petroleum, cross-country fuel storage investments and tackling fuel adulteration at entry point and within countries is of importance;
- Private sector participation in the energy sector is a crucial necessity; and
- The high cost of energy is not conducive for structural transformation, and will need to be brought down through development of cheaper and diversified energy sources.

6. Annual Report on ECA Activities in Eastern Africa, Including the Status of Implementation of Multi-year Programmes (MYPs)/ SRCM (*Agenda item 6*)

20. During his presentation of the Annual Report of the Work of ECA in Eastern Africa, the Director of SRO-EA provided to participants a brief account of the status of implementation of the SRO-EA's 2012-2013 biennium work programme, with a particular focus on outputs implemented in 2012. It included a description of results achieved, resources utilized, challenges faced and lessons learnt during the course of implementation of the programme as well as an outlook on 2013 and the 2014-2015 Biennium.
21. The Director indicated that SRO-EA focused its programme delivery for 2012 around the three (3) expected accomplishments (EAs) of the biennium, namely:
- (i) Enhanced capacity of member States, regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes, and to domesticate and mainstream regional integration processes, instruments and decisions into national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks;
 - (ii) Enhanced platforms for advocacy and knowledge sharing, experiences and practices, building consensus and a common Eastern Africa voice and position regarding development agenda and sub-regional priorities; and
 - (iii) Increased capacity of the regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations, namely the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes States, the Indian Ocean Commission and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region through improved partnerships to deepen regional integration in East Africa.

22. He further noted that SRO-EA's work programme for the 2012-2013 biennium comprised a total of forty-nine (49) outputs, 31 outputs have been implemented in 2012, most of the remaining outputs will be implemented during the 17th ICE, the few outputs left will be implemented before the end of 2013. This represents an implementation rate of 62%; the same rate of implementation applies for the utilization of financial resources.
23. The Director highlighted some results which are:
- The 16th ICE held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania was a key avenue for policy formulation and consensus building;
 - Expert Groups Meetings on Harnessing the APRM potential to advance natural resources governance (Study and ICE inputs) strengthened the APRM EI chapter and influenced the Tanzanian country review process;
 - Report on Tracking Progress on Macroeconomic and Social Conditions in Eastern Africa, as a tool for comparative analysis and benchmarking performance of 14 countries, fills a void and is a welcome addition to the body of knowledge on the state of socio-economic development in the sub-region;
 - Capacity building interventions such as training courses, workshops and seminars contributed new tools, approaches and knowledge base on topics of interest for Eastern Africa; and
 - The field project on "Mainstreaming Regional Integration" provided an opportunity to collect country experiences and practices with the view to develop toolkits and guidelines to scale up implementation of the regional integration agenda across Eastern Africa.
24. The Director singled out SRO-EA's contribution to the formulation of the SRCM 2013-2017 Business Plan (which is fully owned by RECs and IGOs); and the Sustainable Tourism Master Plan for IGAD. He further noted that servicing of selected interagency meetings at continental, sub-regional and national levels have strengthened collaboration with ECA HQ and the UN Country Team in Rwanda. He noted that challenges remain in moving from theoretical knowledge products to offer practical solutions (templates, guidelines, and toolkits) to scale up policy formulation and implementation at the national level. He concluded by indicating that going forward, the ongoing ECA restructuring exercise, new 2013-2015 Business Plan and the 2014-2015 Strategic Framework will shape interventions for 2013 and onward.
25. The meeting took note of the report. Participants commended ECA for the interventions conducted in 2012 and results achieved. They also expressed support to the ongoing restructuring exercise which is timely and useful to the sub-region: "ECA is going in the right direction and hitting the right notes" indicated a representative from Kenya. The Director reiterated appreciation of the good collaboration with the National Economic and Social Council of Kenya (NESC) and indicated that going forward, ECA will be producing quarterly country profiles, which would require strong relationships with statistical offices in member States for their production.
26. The meeting recommended that ECA engages with relevant offices in the member States to establish firm partnerships for the production of the quarterly reports.

7. Report on Tracking Progress on Macroeconomic and Social Development in the Eastern Africa Region 2013: “Towards High Quality Growth and Structural Transformation in Eastern African Region” (Agenda item 7)

27. A representative of SRO-EA presented the “Report on Tracking Progress- Macroeconomic and Social Development in Eastern Africa”, which highlighted key macroeconomic indicators in the Eastern Africa region (EAR), comprising the 14 countries¹. He noted that given the difficult global context, the continued resilience of economic growth in the Eastern Africa region has been quite remarkable. He cautioned that this strong performance has increasingly been accompanied by growing concerns over the quality of the growth, particularly the extent to which growth has been conducive to broad-based poverty reduction and employment creation. He indicated that across the region, there is evidence to support the idea that, despite a much improved economic performance in the 2000s after two decades of economic stagnation, a lot of social and economic aspirations have still not been fulfilled. He noted that one example of this is that, despite the fact that \$1.25-a-day poverty has been reduced in relative terms in the region (from 65 percent to 54 percent of the population), the absolute numbers of citizens living below the international poverty line has actually increased, from 155 million in 2000 to 166 million in 2011.
28. The SRO-EA representative informed the meeting that the Tracking Progress Report 2013 explores why this has been the case, focusing particularly on the issue of insufficient ‘structural transformation’, meaning a shift towards high-growth generating activities, and away from a traditional dependence on the production of commodities and unprocessed goods. He highlighted that some of the explanations put forward are particularly pertinent to the Eastern Africa region, for instance the failure in natural resource industries to develop upstream and downstream activities, the stagnation of the manufacturing sector, a lack of diversification in exports, and economies which struggle with high levels of informality. He indicated that simultaneously in the Eastern Africa region, countries are confronting a number of major economic challenges such as accelerating processes of urbanization, population pressures, and high degrees of income inequality. He noted that with a combination of original analytical research and a review of the available empirical evidence, the “Tracking Progress Report” attempts to clarify some of the nature of these challenges and suggest why the region needs to put ‘quality first’ across the whole panoply of development policies.
29. The SRO-EA representative explained that regarding macroeconomic performance, though still performing strongly by international standards, economic growth in the Eastern African region declined by one percentage point in 2012, from 6.7 percent in 2011 to 5.7 percent in 2012, mainly due to the slowdown in the global economy. Real GDP growth for Eastern Africa is forecast to strengthen again in 2013, rising to 6.3% in 2013. Growth is being driven principally by services sectors, construction and transport. With few exceptions, agricultural performance remains lackluster.
30. The SRO-EA representative further noted that macroeconomic stability improved in 2012, as inflation declined across the region after the sharp acceleration of inflation in 2011. He further noted that analysis of the leading growth sectors across the region reveals that construction, transport, mining and utilities, and the wholesale and retail sectors have been

¹¹ The region comprises the following countries – Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, The Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. This year, for the first time, the report also deals with South Sudan.

among the fastest growing in the 2000s. In contrast, across the region, the lagging sectors have been agriculture and manufacturing, something which does not bode well with regard to fulfilling ambitions to accelerate ‘structural transformation’. Nevertheless, in terms of their absolute contributions to growth (rather than simply their growth rates), the major sectors contributing to economic growth continue to be the public sector, finance, wholesale, retail and tourism, and agriculture.

31. Moving forward, he indicated that the conclusions are two-fold. Firstly, although much rhetoric is given to supporting agriculture, actual budgetary allocations to agriculture are meager. Historical experience suggests that structural transformation is built on a strong agricultural performance, rarely on a neglected agriculture sector. Regional governments need to place more financial and technical resources into the development of the agricultural sector. Secondly, with one or two exceptions, manufacturing in the region has not been performing as strongly as would be hoped – certainly not in the way conducive to catalyzing structural transformation. Governments need to keep an open mind regarding sectors to target- sub-sectors of services, for instance, have often been quite dynamic within the region.

32. Another SRO-EA representative made a presentation on ‘Educational Deepening—the next objective’. The presentation highlighted the challenges of improving quality, and for the Eastern Africa region to achieve the right qualifications and skills mix in their education systems for the job market, with a view to supporting the structural transformation of the economies that all countries in the region are striving for. While recognizing the impressive gains made by Eastern Africa countries in education enrolment, with some countries being close to achieving 100% enrollments at primary level, the presenter noted that high enrolment figures do not necessarily reflect quality and that governments in the Eastern Africa Region have been battling with assuring quality education. Citing results of comparative cross-country studies like the Uwezo study which covered Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, the presenter noted that the region is not doing well in learning outcomes. The same concern was highlighted for educational inputs where, for example, the number of textbooks per child; number of students in classrooms, etc. were not up to the recommended standards. Citing the example of South Korea which managed to get excellent results from a relatively modest amount of spending, the presenter noted that financing for education is not all about budget allocation, but also about efficiency in the use of resources. Leakages in the education system need to be addressed. In conclusion, the presenter emphasized that structural transformation is unattainable without a highly qualified labour force.

33. The meeting welcomed the report and suggested the following changes and/or made the following comments:
 - Structural transformation in agriculture cannot proceed without appropriate land policy; and
 - Appropriate policy mix for fiscal system and labour laws are required to address income inequality in the region.

8. Progress Update on the Implementation of Regional and International Programmes, Especially NEPAD, MDGs and Other Initiatives: Special Report on “the ICGLR Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) and other Certification Mechanisms in the Great Lakes Region: Lessons Learned and Best Practices” (Agenda item 8)

34. A representative of SRO-EA presented the Special Report on “the ICGLR Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) and other Certification Mechanisms in the Great Lakes Region: Lessons Learned and Best Practices”. After pointing out the importance of minerals for the region, she elaborated on certification mechanisms such as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), the OECD Due Diligence Guidance, the Dodd-Frank Act, the Fair Trade Fair Mined (FT/FM) standard for gold for Artisanal and Small Scale Miners (ASM), the World Gold Council Conflict-free Gold standard; the ITRIT in Supply Chain Initiative (iTSCi), the Certified Trading Chains (CTC), the Conflict-free Smelter Program (CFS) and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). She highlighted lessons learned and best practices of these initiatives that can be useful for the ICGLR RINR.
35. With regard to challenges of the ICGLR RINR, she pointed out the evolving role of ICGLR which had moved from a conceptual framework to one that needed to be implemented on the ground; the lack of donor coordination; the lack of ownership by the ICGLR Secretariat; audit ‘fatigue’ given the multiplicity of transparency initiatives; and prior communication which hampered its visibility if compared to initiatives such as the Kimberley Process or the EITI. She concluded by underscoring that the ICGLR should be part of a greater conversation of foundational issues such as peace, security, rule of law and capable States; strengthening the capacity of the ICGLR Secretariat; that there is a need for better coordination of donor interventions for greater impact and economies of scale; and also necessity of innovative financing scheme for stronger ownership.
36. She ended the presentation by interrogating whether a flagship project in the illegal exploitation of natural resources should be included in the SRCM. The meeting took note of the report. In the ensuing discussions, participants indicated that member states were at varying levels of compliance of the mechanism. They equally observed that despite the introduction of the RINR, the livelihoods of communities in mine sites had not improved significantly. Concern was equally expressed on the overall lack of linkages between the mining sector and other sectors of the local economy.
37. The meeting recognized the complementarity between the RINR and other mechanisms such as the OECD Guidance and the KPCS and called for alignment between the instruments to avoid duplication and “certification fatigue”.
38. The meeting also called upon UNECA to render its support for a speedy implementation of the RINR.

9. Towards High Quality Growth and Structural Transformation in the Eastern African Region (*Agenda item 9*)

39. Presentations were made by Mr. Moses Bekabye, Technical Advisor on Macroeconomic Policy in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda; a representative from UNECA/SRO-EA and the Director of SRO-EA. The representative of Uganda shared the country's experience in economic reforms and structural transformation. He noted that the reforms have resulted into good macroeconomic performance, but with a modest change in transformation. Uganda's economic growth in the 1990s and 2000s was attributed to its diversification and structural transformation strategies. Despite the "impressive performance", Uganda's current economic challenges include a large informal sector, low domestic savings, high levels of youth unemployment, nascent private sector investment, limited modernization of agriculture and weak intra-regional and global trade. The key message from the presentation was that Uganda's economic reforms have resulted in good macroeconomic performance, but structural transformation has been modest, making complementary actions at sectoral and microeconomic levels imperative. Moreover, it was noted that structural transformation is a long process and requires considerable capital and human resources.
40. The presenter noted that Uganda's main challenge with structural transformation is its low agricultural productivity and low manufacturing capacity in the private sector. He also stated that the private sector is constrained mainly by the high cost of doing business including inadequate energy supply and poor infrastructure, opportunities to exploit include creating a strong regional demand for Uganda's goods and services, increased institutional efficiency, exploration of oil, and sustaining the peace dividends in the northern part of the country.
41. The representative from SRO-EA offered several caveats in relation to policies on structural transformation, diversification and value addition. Among other things, he expressed the view that countries should carefully explore various diversification opportunities and be bold in selecting their path to economic transformation. He noted that preferential markets could yield positive results, but cautioned that preferences were not permanent, which makes it risky to consider such arrangements as part of long term strategies.
42. He also noted the shifts in China's production patterns, partly as a result of rising wages, and underscored the need for African countries to take advantage of areas where China was losing its competitive advantage. He also underscored the need for African countries to improve intra-regional and intra-industry trade, step up efforts to reduce non-tariff barriers, and exploit the opportunities offered by South-South trade. He stressed the need for countries to take advantage of primary commodity windfall booms and use the revenues to strategically invest in infrastructure development and innovations for sustained economic growth and development.
43. The representative from SRO-EA noted that there is no blueprint or magic bullet for structural transformation and therefore it is difficult to prescribe a particular process that a certain country should follow in order to industrialize. Instead, the process should be informed by unique country conditions and the realities in the regional or global economies. He also urged governments to "*think outside the box*" by being ambitious in

their structural transformation and not to tie themselves to the traditional sectors based on the so-called maxim of comparative advantage!

44. The Director of SRO-EA used the mineral resources sector to illustrate the concept of value chain and the opportunity it offers to African economies. Key messages of his presentation were that: diversification has to harness the potential of the continent's natural resources and, irrespective of the dominant sector of a country's economy, the strategy adopted should depend on the state of maturity of the sector. He also highlighted the political economy of structural transformation and stressed the importance of addressing the social costs of reforms.
45. He identified the limited capacity of African entrepreneurs, the fact that most inputs were sourced from outside the continent, and incoherent policies as well as contradictions between international treaties and national strategies as some of the constraints to structural transformation. In concluding his presentation, he offered the following suggestions: Governments need to deliberately invest in capacity development for local entrepreneurs to enable them to enter and compete in the global supply chains; Governments should ensure that policy coherence and institutional cohesiveness are developed within the context of legal and administrative reforms; and deliberate strategies should be adapted to the specificities of each country.
46. The following issues were raised during the ensuing discussion:
 - Recent economic growth in Africa has generally not resulted in employment creation. It was therefore necessary to adopt strategies that not only lead to economic growth, but also to job creation;
 - Structural transformation is a gradual process and requires political commitment, and sustained interventions. It also requires reforms at both the macro and micro economic levels;
 - Due attention has to be given to land policies, including the legal framework, as land access is a key factor in economic development. Access to land could be a constraint to the implementation of policies/projects in sectors such as agriculture, mining and energy, among others;
 - Issues related to the informal sector and accountability, notably corruption need to be adequately addressed. In this regard, sharing of best practices in different countries could be a useful exercise;
 - Industrialisation, which is central to structural transformation, requires financing. In this regard, African countries have to increase their savings, including through improved revenue collection. Relying on the donor community is not a dependable option;
 - All stakeholders within a country have to be mobilised in support of structural transformation, including the indigenous private sector that has an important role to play in the process. Governments should therefore support the indigenous private sector by adopting strategies to strengthen their capacity;

- In countries that are rich in natural resources, policies should be put in place in support of artisanal and small-scale mining. The problem associated with small-scale mining is similar to that of the informal sector in general;
- The experience of South Korea illustrates the importance of human capital to structural transformation. Africa's chances to achieve structural transformation may therefore hinge on the continent's ability to implement policies to build its human capacity; and deepening its education systems in line with job markets; and
- For a country to achieve structural transformation there should be national dialogue and consensus on the pathway to sustained growth. In addition, governments have to play the role of catalysts in the growth of new sectors in the economy. Overall, the path to structural transformation is country-specific hence there is no generic prescription. For countries endowed with oil, it was noted that this sector created limited employment and thus the resources it generates should be invested in other sectors of the economy. Regarding investment in services, countries were better off if they set their sights on higher value services.

47. The following recommendations were made:

- African countries should adopt policies to build their human capacity as a basis for structural transformation;
- Member States should embed artisanal small scale mining in their rural development strategies;
- Member States should share best practices in policies to enhance accountability and combat corruption;
- Governments should support the indigenous private sector through policies and programmes/projects to strengthen the capacity of local entrepreneurs;
- Countries should encourage national dialogue and reach consensus on their respective pathways to sustained growth;
- Governments should act as catalysts in the growth of new sectors in their economy;
- Mineral rich countries should invest mineral revenues sectors; and
- Build other forms of capital such as human and physical capital.

10. Thematic Plenary Session: High Level Expert Panel on “Domestication and Mainstreaming of Regional Integration Process, Instruments and Decisions at National Level” (Agenda item 10)

48. The High Level Panel on “Mainstreaming Regional Integration at the national level” was held on Tuesday 19th February, 2013. It was chaired by Uganda's Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Hon. Shem Bageine. The panel comprised the following: Mr. Sadock Biganza, Vice-Minister of Planning, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Mr. Nathan Gashaija, Director for Economic, Productive and Infrastructure Sectors, Ministry of East African Community, Rwanda; Dr. Salif Sada Sall, Director of African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO); Mr. Frank Mugenyi, Regional Technical Advisor at COMESA; and Mr. Andrew Luzze Kaggwa, Executive Director, East African Business Council.

49. The panelists discussed the subject matter of mainstreaming regional integration at national level from the continental, regional and national perspectives. During the deliberations, the following challenges/ issues pertaining to mainstreaming of regional integration were highlighted:

- Multiple-membership of countries to RECs is costly and results in duplication of efforts. It was however noted that for Eastern and Southern Africa, this is being tackled through the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite;
- While political commitment, as signified by signing of agreements and ratification of Protocols, cannot be denied, the same cannot be said for implementation at national level, which prompted an interrogation of the real meaning of political will. The lack of implementation was attributed partly to limited resources (human and financial) and partly to lack of prioritization of the implementation process in the work plans and budgets of relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. To this end, it was noted that political sensitivities around surrendering some sovereignty to regional structures remains a concern;
- Lack of mechanism to enforce compliance and to impose sanctions for non-compliance;
- Lack of resources to fully mainstream regional issues into national plans;
- Capacity gaps impede full operationalisation of regional Protocols;
- Africa's integration agenda is largely dependent on development partners;
- Costs and benefits of regional integration are not well understood by stakeholders in some member States;
- The general public has to be mobilized in support of regional integration so that citizens of member States are sufficiently motivated to insist on accountability in the implementation of regional integration policies, programmes and projects;
- Whereas strong private sector players in some countries seem to be the real drivers of regional integration, in some countries the private sector is weak and vulnerable. This results in a situation where the private sector resists regional integration and presses their governments for protection instead. Overall a strong partnership between the State and private sector is required to overcome the obstacles to regional integration;
- There are few centres of excellence and think tanks to support regional integration;
- Parliamentarians need to be more engaged in the discussion on regional integration and their buy-in is critical in mainstreaming policies, programmes and projects at the national level;
- There are still several barriers to trade (e.g. Rules of origin criteria with high value addition, borders, lack of harmonization of standards, etc.). Information on trade opportunities has to be made more accessible in all countries to facilitate intra-regional trade;

- Insecurity is a challenge to regional integration in the sub-region. In this regard, it was noted that armed conflicts remained a constraint in parts of the sub-region and that it was difficult to integrate under such conditions; and
- Ministries coordinating regional integration at the national level need better tools to assist them execute their functions. For instance, studies on the cost to member States of not integrating could be effective in communicating the need for regional cooperation.

50. Following deliberation on integration issues, the following recommendations were made:

- Need to ratify the regional Treaties and Protocols in a timely manner to demonstrate political commitment;
- Further demonstrate political commitment by implementing the treaties and protocols;
- Adopt National Policy on Regional Integration (A coherent strategy involving all stakeholders in the public and the private sector, including the Civil Society). The Rwanda case was cited as a good practice for other countries to emulate. This will address the contradictory messages on regional integration by different points and the multitude of forums that often deal with regional cooperation within a country;
- It is important to adopt a bottom-up approach to mainstreaming regional integration. At the national level, the MDAs should be the ones initiating implementation plans and budgets;
- Undertake cost benefit analysis of regional integration to improve understanding of positive and negative benefits, including highlighting the cost of not integrating;
- Countries incurring losses at the initial stages of integration should take advantage of the compensation mechanisms that have been put in place in some RECs;
- The regional integration agenda should take into account the special needs of the island States, namely: Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles;
- ECA should develop a Model Toolkit on mainstreaming regional integration;
- Member States should create a one-stop platform (Ministry) to coordinate all regional integration issues;
- Reinforce national capacities to implement regional instruments;
- Develop appropriate M&E system with well defined indicators;
- Include regional integration in the schools and university curriculum;
- Work towards the creation of regional value chains in addition to nationally integrated value chains;

- As a means of awareness raising, celebrate regional integration weeks, to sensitise the public on regional integration issues;
- Establish national coordination mechanisms to ensure coherence of the positions of national focal points on regional cooperation;
- Undertake sensitization to change mind-sets among the various stakeholders, including political leaders to create awareness about regional integration. It was noted that seemingly, only Ministries responsible for integration are convinced of the rationale for and process of regional integration; and
- Harness public-private partnerships to accelerate and smoothen regional integration process.

11. Reports on Parallel AEGM Sessions: (1) Trade Flows and Market Expansion in Eastern Africa: the impact of trade liberalisation schemes; (2) Regional Integration in Africa: Domestication and Mainstreaming of Regional Integration Process, Instruments and Decisions into National Policies, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks; (3) Special Forum on Energy Access and Security; (4) The ICGLR Regional Initiative on Natural Resources (RINR) and other Certification Mechanisms in the Great Lakes Region: Lessons Learned and Best Practices; and (5) SRCM for Eastern and Southern Africa inception Meeting (*Agenda item 11*)

51. The AEGMs were convened to review non-recurrent publications made by SRO-EA in terms of content, style, format, depth and accuracy of analysis and data as well as to validate its main findings, policy implications and recommendations. The participants were asked to identify gaps, suggest references and additional material and case studies to improve the quality and relevance of the publications. The AEGMs were attended by a varied spectrum of experts from governments, research centres, academia, RECs, CSOs and NGOs, UN Agencies, international organisations and private sector.
52. The participants acknowledge the quality of the draft documents prepared by SRO-EA and appreciated the opportunity that the AEGMs provided for peer-learning, exchange of experiences and knowledge sharing. A brief account of the outcomes of each of the AEGMs is provided below:

1. AEGM: Trade Flows and Market Expansion in Eastern Africa: The impact of Trade Liberalisation Schemes

53. The Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting received a presentation highlighting key findings and recommendations of a study carried out by UNECA/SRO-EA staff on “Two Decades of Trade Liberalisation and Market Expansion in Eastern Africa – Towards a New Economic Geography?” The objective of this study was to assess the effects of trade liberalization on the region and secondly, simulate the effects of the proposed COMESA-

SADC-EAC Tripartite agreement on trade flows in the region. The presentation highlighted the following key factors:

- Over the last two decades, trade liberalization has continued apace, through a combination of multilateral, bilateral and regional processes. Average applied tariffs on imports in the Eastern African Region have declined from around 28% at the end of the 1980s to approximately 12% by 2010;
- Eastern African Exports are still determined largely by traditional forces of comparative advantage, with many countries still specializing in similar export products as they were at the beginning of the 1990s. This is evidenced by the lack of change in the Revealed Comparative Advantage indices, and the low levels of intra-industry trade within the region. However, there is also evidence that the region is diversifying and improving the quality of its exports;
- The COMESA-SADC-EAC tripartite would lead to increased trade and industrial production in the region as a result of realignments in regional demand and supply. It also has the potential to change the economic geography of the region and in the process induce structural transformation;
- Simulations carried out for this report predict that the full implementation of the COMESA/EAC/SADC Tripartite free-trade area would result in welfare benefits for the region of US\$ 10.7 billion. Dynamic gains through greater investment and more competition would likely multiply such benefits to the regional economy;
- A holistic approach to reducing trade costs is required to increase trade and growth in the region because policy barriers (tariffs and non-tariff barriers) are not the only trade costs faced by firms in the region. Sub-Saharan Africa has some of the highest trade costs –i.e. transport costs - in the world which remain a significant barrier to trade. This implies that as the region seeks to harmonize trade policy, measures to address other trade costs in the region should also be discussed; and
- The Eastern African region cannot continue to rely on the traditional forces of comparative advantage to drive export and economic growth - government policies should encourage domestic capabilities in the non-traditional export sectors, to increase the productivity level of exports and subsequently economic growth.

54. The Ad Hoc Group Meeting also received a presentation by Dr. Vincent Leyaro from the University of Dar-es-Salaam on “Trade and Growth: Is Sub-Saharan Africa Different?” which discussed the effects of trade costs and primary commodity dependence on economic performance in the Sub Saharan Africa region. The presentation highlighted the following key factors:

- Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) has derived a minimal growth benefits from trade because of what it exports and that the detrimental effect of primary commodity export dependence on SSA growth can be captured by two structural variables,

natural barriers to trade (NBT, trade costs) and natural resource endowments (NRE, primary commodity dependence);

- High trade costs and primary commodity dependence have a negative effect on growth and Sub-Saharan African countries tend to have high levels of primary commodity dependence and high trade costs and this helps to explain why these countries experienced lower growth than other developing countries;
- Increased exports and increased trade openness generally contribute to growth, but their effect on growth is affected by trade costs and primary commodity dependence. Specifically, high values as observed in Sub Saharan African countries, dampen the positive impact of trade on growth; and
- Infrastructure development and diversification away from primary commodities is therefore important as a strategy in order for African countries to gain the maximum benefits of trade in terms of economic growth.

2. AEGM on Regional Integration in Africa: Domestication and Mainstreaming of Regional Integration Process, Instruments and Decisions into National Policies, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

55. The Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting (AEGM) was attended by experts from member States, AU Commission, RECs and IGOs, Private Sector and Civil Society.

56. The objective of the AEGM was to review the draft report on “Regional Integration in Eastern Africa: Domestication and Mainstreaming of Regional Integration Processes, Instruments and Decisions into National Policies, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities”. The report showcased the Rwanda and Uganda case studies, presentations of which were reviewed by the AEGM.

57. In showcasing the Uganda case study, the presenter highlighted the following key elements in mainstreaming regional integration:

- The need to have a strategic approach to mainstreaming regional integration;
- The relevance of having appropriate institutional set-up to facilitate implementation;
- Technical capacity as well as adequate funding vital in the process;
- The need to fast-track harmonization of laws and regulations to conform to the regional protocols;
- The vital role of communications/Outreach Strategy to sensitize a wide range of the populace, including politicians, public servants, private sector stakeholders and civil society; and
- The centrality of M&E systems.

The successes, challenges and lessons in mainstreaming regional integration in Uganda were also highlighted.

58. The presentation on the Rwanda case highlighted the steps/ process that Rwanda adopted in terms of preparatory requirements and those needed to ensure sustainability in mainstreaming. These were:

- Identification and alignment of national and regional priorities;
- Identification of priority sectors / stakeholders;
- The Sector Working Groups as a mechanism to enhance national dialogue;
- M&E indicators in the national strategy;
- Accounting for sub-national considerations;
- The need to gain high level accountability;
- Capacity enhancement for all stakeholders;
- Implementation plans [yet to be developed] that will spell out responsibilities; and
- A long-term M&E strategy which is essential for ensuring that actual mainstreaming work is accomplished over the life of the national development plan.

59. Following discussions which highlighted challenges and sought solutions to the bottlenecks, the AEGM on mainstreaming regional integration at the national level agreed on the following as being minimum essential elements of the integration process:

- A strategic policy framework for coordination of implementation, which should include among others:
 - a platform for effective engagement of all stakeholders in a formalised manner;
 - political ownership for implementation while insuring sensitisation of Government officials and Parliamentarians;
- Adoption of a communication and mobilisation strategy which includes:
 - Awareness creation – sensitisation of the public (including Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations);
 - Identification of champions while showcasing results of success cases with a presence throughout the region;
- Undertake an assessment of capacity in order to identify gaps and determine what is realisable in the short term based on available capacity;
- Align national and regional priorities to ensure maximum benefits from the integration process through:
 - Including regional integration issues in vision statements and planning and budgetary frameworks;
 - Consolidating what has been attained while emphasizing building synergies and putting in place enablers of integration [legal instruments among others];
 - Elaboration of a sequencing plan; and
- Plan and implement long term M&E system.

60. Following the presentation of the report of the Ad-Hoc Expert Group Meeting (AEGM) on mainstreaming regional integration into national development processes, the meeting was urged to seek ways to harness South-South cooperation in better understanding fundamentals of the sub-regional groupings, and to ensure that skills deposited in the regions are extended to all in the regional grouping. Noting that integration is not all about trade, the need to embrace exchanges beyond trade was highlighted, citing the

example of Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) as a Centre of Excellence that has taken a regional approach to issues of management of economies. Other examples concerned the agricultural sector where countries are undertaking research on specific crops, in education where teachers cross borders to teach English. Socio-cultural aspects of regional integration should be underscored. The centrality of private sector, Civil Society Organizations and citizens to accelerating regional integration was emphasized. It was also noted that foundational issues including among others, peace and security, democracy, governance and rule of law, were imperative for regional integration.

61. In closing the discussion, the Director also explained that the AEGM was convened as part of a field project whose recommendations would be used to develop a toolkit and guidelines to help implementation of regional agreements across the region. While context matters, common denominators that could form the basis of the toolkit on mainstreaming regional integration at national level should be well understood. He further reiterated the suggestion to have a single Ministry at the national level coordinating other Ministries responsible for integration issues.

3. Special Forum on Energy Access and Security

62. The Special Forum on Energy on “Enhancing Energy Access and Security in the Eastern African Sub-Region” was attended by experts and government delegates from Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. CSOs and private sector participants also participated in the Forum.
63. The Forum covered the following themes in the context of enhancing energy access: “Sharing Country Experiences”; “Leveraging Indigenous and Trans-boundary Energy Resources”; “Country Experiences on Financing Energy Access” and “Pathways for Sustainable Energy for All in Eastern Africa.” In the context of energy security, the Forum deliberated on the following themes: “Energy Disruption Management and Fuel Diversification Frameworks” and “Frameworks for Energy Supply Security in Eastern Africa.”
64. The following issues and challenges were raised during the discussions:
- The need for strong political commitment and prioritization of energy sector development for social and economic transformation in Member States;
 - The importance of considering regional markets in oil and gas resources development in the sub-region;
 - The need for strengthened energy security strategies in Member States, including mainstreaming energy security policy and frameworks, and institutionalization of data and monitoring capabilities;
 - The lack of measurement, monitoring and evaluation framework for energy access and security;
 - Policy, institutional and financial requirements for Universal Energy for All and Enhanced Energy Security;

- The growing share of thermal energy in the energy mix and the high cost of imported energy which can undermine sustainable economic growth and development;
- The challenges of inadequate energy sector planning in the sub-region, particularly on power generation, demonstrated through emergency power generation initiatives, and commitment to high-cost thermal generation options;
- The predominant dependence of most Member States on hydropower, coupled with planned and on-going investments in hydropower systems, and their vulnerability to climate change;
- Broadening space in energy sector development for the private sector, PPPs, and other partnership frameworks;
- The need for a robust regional framework to enable development of low cost energy for trade to enhance energy access and mitigate energy security challenges; and
- The importance of considering a wide range of energy technology options and looking at the energy system in its entirety in widening access to energy services.

65. The following actionable recommendations were made:

- Capacity development in energy planning to strengthen institutional and technical capability to undertake short to long term planning;
- Develop measurement, monitoring and evaluation tool(s) and framework(s) for supporting Member States to oversee progress in enhancing energy access and mitigating energy security;
- Given the growing importance of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative as a vehicle for accelerating energy access in Member States, and in view of the fact that each Member State has specific energy challenges, development of a country SE4ALL strategy is recommended;
- Realizing the predominance of hydropower for the region's growing energy requirements, and the risks from climate variability and change, undertake situational assessment of the risk, and strengthen Member Countries preparedness through mainstreaming climate change into energy planning.

4. The ICGLR Regional Initiative on Natural Resources (RINR) and other Certification Mechanisms in the Great Lakes Region: Lessons Learned and Best Practices

66. The AEGM on “ICGLR RINR and other mechanisms in the Great Lakes Region: Lessons Learned and Best Practices” was attended by experts from the governments of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. GIZ, BGR, Partnership Africa Canada (PAC), OECD Development Centre, AngloGold Ashanti, Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM), the Africa Smelting group, and various Civil Society Organizations including Save Act Mine, CENADEP Kivu, and BEDEWA.

67. The “Special Report on ICGLR RINR and other mechanisms in the Great Lakes Region: Lessons Learned and Best Practices” was presented for consideration by the experts. Additional presentations were made on certification mechanisms in the Great Lakes Region including the OECD Guidance, the World Gold Council Conflict Free Standard; the Fair Trade and Fair Mined (FT/FM) standard for gold from ASM and the Certified Trading Chains (CTC). It was followed by a panel discussion on “Opportunities, challenges best practices and lessons learned from certification mechanisms in the region”.

68. The following issues came out of the discussion:

- Capacity building of the ICGLR Secretariat and member States needs to be improved;
- Formalization of Artisanal and Small-scale Miners (ASM) requires immediate attention;
- Coordination and harmonization of donor support is vital to avoid duplication of efforts; and
- International regulatory frameworks, notably Dodd-Frank Act and its implications on the competitiveness and livelihoods in the region need to be understood.

69. The meeting also recommended the following concrete actions:

- Development of a Business Plan for ICGLR-RINR and a communication plan;
- Creation of working groups based on the Kimberley Process;
- Review legal frameworks for the formalization of ASM; and Capacity building of ASM through the creation of platforms for experience sharing.
- Harmonization and coordination of initiatives at national, regional and international levels;
- Advocate to USA law makers for accompanying measures to avoid the labeling “conflict-minerals”.

5. Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) for Eastern and Southern Africa inception Meeting

70. The meeting was informed that the Inception Meeting is a follow-up action to the finalization of the five-year SRCM Business Plan which was presented and approved at the 13th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM-Africa) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14-15 November 2012. It was stressed that there is a need for the

development partners to work together in order to realize the implementation of the Business Plan. This is particularly important in the quest to realized efforts towards regional integration and coherent development in the sub-regions. The goal of the inception meeting was to focus on two aspects of the business plan. These include detailed discussions on: Identification of priorities on flagship projects/activities to be carried out over the next five years; and articulation of a structured resource mobilization strategy to ensure implementation of the SRCM Business Plan.

71. The following flagship projects were identified during the AEGM:
- Initiatives to fight illegal exploitation of natural resources – issues of certification, certification audits, harmonization of the legislation of the member states in the sub-region, discussions on Africa Mining vision etc (ICGLR);
 - Energy Security under the Sustainable Resource Management (SRO);
 - Regional Food Security Programme (ICGLR, IGAD, CEPGL);
 - Industrialization focusing on value addition on agriculture – agro processing (EAC, COMESA);
 - Support to the Development of Tourism in the sub-region (IGAD); and
 - Mainstreaming intelligent transport systems in corridor infrastructure (CC-TTFA/PMAESA).
72. This list will be filtered and refined by the Task Team on Flagship Projects for submission to the SRCM Steering Committee. The selected flagship programme should meet the following criteria:
- Be strategic and designed to achieve sub-regional integration;
 - Support critical thematic areas of the BP and aligned with regional development priorities;
 - Promote the engagement of RECs, IGOs and other development partners in the development interventions and the sub-regional and country levels;
 - Enhancement of development partner Policy contribution in their engagement with the stakeholders in sub-regional and national policy dialogue;
 - Be within the focus areas where the development partners, including UN contributions make significant impact in attaining the intended higher level outcomes of the Business Plan;
 - Achieve commitment by the participating institutions to contribute resources to the planned activities of the flagship;
 - Provide possibilities to support budgeting links for the on-going strategic programmes; and
 - Receive endorsement by the SRCM Steering.
73. It was emphasized that the SRCM Steering Committee should be put in place urgently. Accordingly, UNECA will communicate with the Secretary General of COMESA, to expedite the convening of the SRCM Steering Committee during the first quarter of 2013 to review the flagship projects and to initiate the process of resource mobilization for the Business Plan. With regard to *Resource Mobilization*, at the first session of the SRCM Steering Committee, a Resource Mobilization Committee will be determined to pursue and develop modalities for mobilizing resources for both the flagship projects and the planned activities under the SRCM Business Plan.

12. Presentation and Adoption of the 17th ICE Report (Agenda item 12)

74. The report of the 17th session of the ICE was presented and adopted by the 17th ICE meeting with minor amendments

13. Any Other Business (Agenda item 13)

75. The Director of SRO-EA discussed the venue and dates of the next ICE and provided a brief background to justify the choice of the venue of the meetings. The participants of the 17th ICE agreed that the 18th ICE meeting will be organized in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

14. Closing Ceremony of the Seventeenth Session of the ICE (Agenda item 14)

76. The closing ceremony comprised of statements by the Director of SRO-EA as well as the closing speech by Maria Kiwanuka, Minister of Finance, planning and Economic Development.
77. In his closing remarks, Mr. Antonio Pedro expressed sincere gratitude to the people and the government of Uganda for their warm hospitality and conducive environment that allowed ‘vigorous debates, ingenious thinking, frankness of conversation and action oriented outcomes’. He thanked the able chairpersonship of Minister of State, Matia Kasajja and all the 17th ICE Delegates for their energy, passion and commitments. UNDP Uganda, ECA HQ and SRO-EA colleagues were also recognized for their dedication, zeal, professionalism, hard work and sacrifice. The SRO-EA Director also thanked the the Master of Ceremony, members of the press, interpreters, and the security personnel. Mr. Pedro recalled that the ICE restated the role of both visionary and developmental states in pushing for comprehensive, balanced and inclusive growth. He further highlighted that the 17th ICE participants expressed the need to expand human capital, strengthening Science and Technology as well as Research and Development capacity to make transition from factor driven growth to efficiency and ultimately to innovation and knowledge based growth.
78. In her closing remarks, the Minister of Finance, planning and Economic Development of the Republic of Uganda, Maria Kiwanuka expressed her confidence that the stimulating discussions that have transpired in Kampala for four days have afforded governments with new insights and perspectives on how to better mobilize and deploy individual and collective capabilities in the push to transition their countries to middle-income status over the next generation partly through sustained investment in energy access and security. On regional integration, the Minister noted the importance of involvement of non-governmental stakeholders in the integration process. She underscored that whereas governments can make the decisions and build the structures to support regional integration, the spirit that drives true integration can only come from the citizens of the countries. She thanked the Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa of UNECA for jointly organizing this conference with Ministry of Finance and thanked member States of the sub-region for giving Uganda the opportunity to host the 17th ICE Meeting

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