



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# ECA/SRO-WA ACTIVITY REPORT

*November 2023-November 2024*

By

**Mrs. Ngoné Diop**

Director, Sub Regional Office for West Africa  
United Nations



Joint Meeting of the IC SOE  
for North and West Africa

19-21 November 2024  
Rabat, Morocco

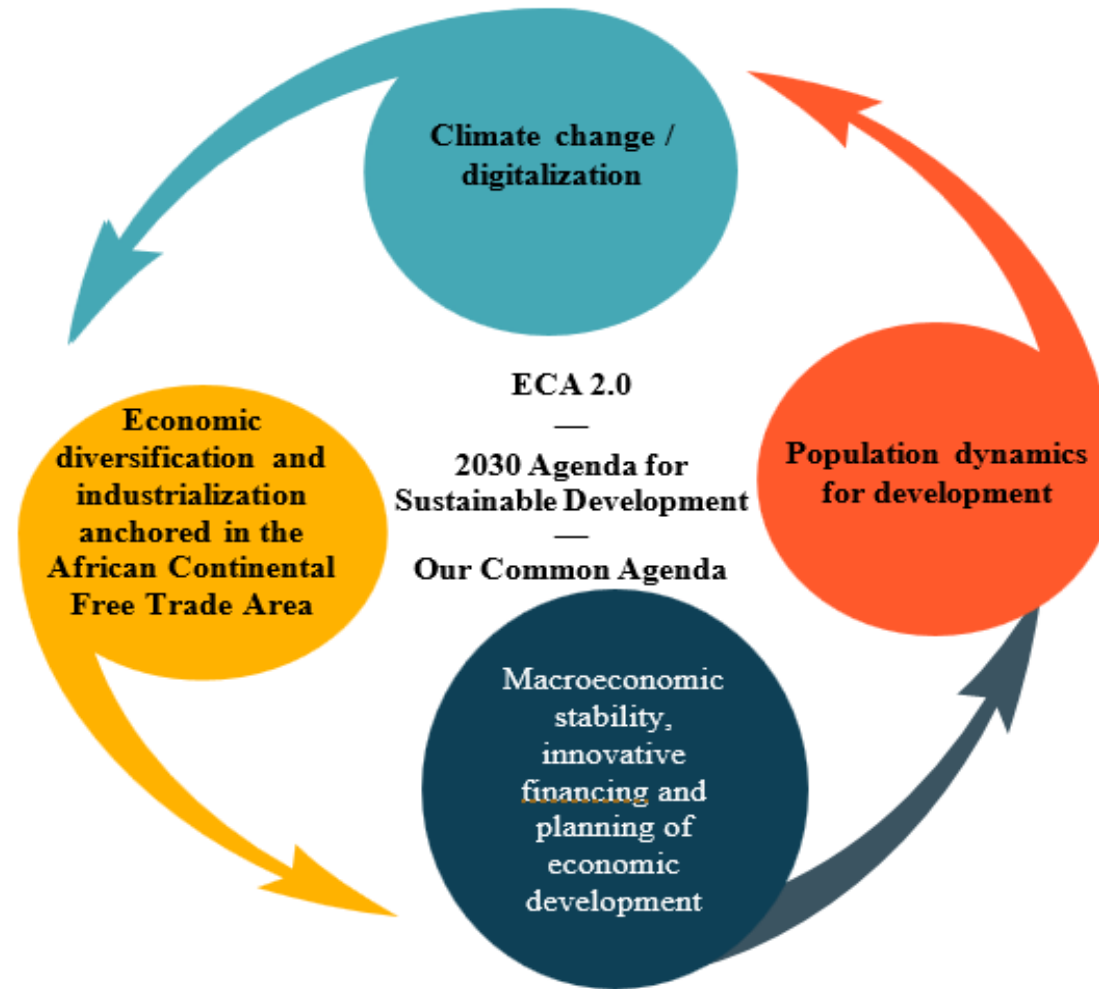
- ❑ **Mandate and strategic tracks of the Subregional Office**
- ❑ **Office's key results at a glance**
- ❑ **Major results under the three ECA core functions**
  - Think-tanks
  - Conferences/meeting – platforms for engagement-reflexions, advocacy and mobilization
  - Operationalization/technical support to countries
- ❑ **Key partners**
- ❑ **Main challenges, risks, and responses**
- ❑ **2025 Work Program**

# Mandate & Strategic tracks

## THE MANDATE

- ❑ Accelerating the capture of the demographic dividend
- ❑ Achieving regional integration

## FOUR STRATEGIC TRACKS “BIG TICKETS”



# Office's Results at a Glance

## AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)



15

AfCFTA strategies  
(National and Regional)  
formulated and validated



6

Priority AfCFTA  
projects

AfCFTA priority projects identified  
and under implementation (Cabo  
Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea  
Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal).



*Inter-regional training platform on best practices  
to leverage the benefits of AfCFTA and serve as  
a catalyst for resource mobilization*

*7 countries in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger,  
Senegal, and Togo) & 3 in North Africa (Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia)*

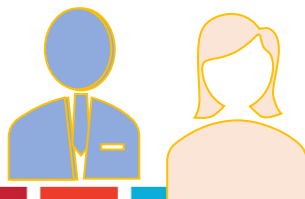
## WEST AFRICAN BUSINESS LINKAGES PLATFORM (WABLP)

329

out of a total of 503 are entrepreneurs and/or  
Associations of entrepreneurs, members of WABLP.




11 MoUs on cooperation and commercial  
agreements concluded, when 3 others are  
under negotiation (chia seeds, sesame, etc.).



Information extracted  
from the Website  
consulted as of 16  
November 2024.

# Office's Results at a Glance

## BUDGETING SENSITIVE TO DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND (BSDD)

04 

**Countries' vision  
for budget  
planning  
documents  
prepared/revised:  
Burkina Faso,  
Niger, Senegal and  
Togo**

- i) Budget circular for 2025 of Burkina Faso (June 2024);
- ii) Multi-year economic and fiscal programming document for 2025-2027 of Niger (Niger-DPBEP2025-2027, June 2024);
- iii) Document on budgeting sensitive to Gender integrating the demographic dividend for 2025 of Togo (Togo-DBSG 2025, July 2024);
- iv) Multi-year economic and fiscal programming document for 2024–2026 and public investment programme for 2024–2026 of Senegal (November 2023).



**235** National  
**experts** trained  
including 91 women (39%)  
in 2024 – facilitated by National  
BSDD Teams



**Policy dialogue with  
Members of the Transitional  
Legislative Assembly on  
Budgeting sensitive to DD,  
Burkina Faso  
August 2024**

# Major results under the 3 ECA core functions

Studies, research reports  
and other knowledge  
products (with four  
ongoing)

**14**

Conferences and  
discussion, advocacy and  
mobilization forums (with 2  
expected)

**15**

Operationalization/  
technical assistance to  
countries

**26**



## THINK TANK: RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### For the implementation of national AfCFTA strategies

- Technical validation of the **Republic of Liberia's revised AfCFTA national strategy document**, July 2024;
- Issuance, in March 2024, of the **closure report of the joint regional project, involving the North and West African subregions, of ECA**, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) in support of the implementation of priority projects and activities derived from NS-AfCFTA;
- **Preparation of the Cabo Verde draft AfCFTA national strategy document;**
- Launch of a study on estimates of **bilateral trade in services flows in Guinea by partner and by available sector; and formulation** of a strategy to promote and develop trade in targeted services;
- Preparation of an **AfCFTA manual for Guinea-Bissau exporters**, including the export promotion strategy;
- Preparation of a report on the **10 main products traded by women and young people** and related product guides on different **markets in Nigeria**.



## THINK TANK: RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### Other KPs aimed at informing decision-making and appropriate measures by countries

- The 2024 Socioeconomic Profile of West Africa to helping to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 and responding effectively to the multifaceted crises that States face, September 2024;
- The 2024 Report on Sustainable Development Goals: Accelerating SDGs in West Africa: Transformative Pathways for Greater Progress, September 2024;
- The Socioeconomic profile drawn up in response to Guinea's request; an in-depth analysis of the progress made in implementing the government's transitional development programme and proposes appropriate strategies and policies for accelerating impact results, August 2024;
- A study conducted on trends in and the outlook for the Sahel, with a focus on the implications of the announced withdrawal of the members of the Alliance of Sahel States - Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali from ECOWAS;





## THINK TANK: RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### Accelerated harnessing of the demographic dividend

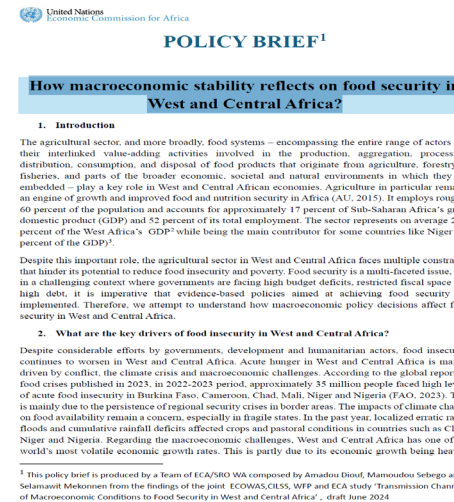
- A guidance note was published on budgeting that is responsive to the demographic dividend in Togo the chief results of the related technical work were set out, along with their socioeconomic implications, with a view to informing the preparation of the 2025 budget, July 2024;
- A guidance note was issued on budgeting that is responsive to the demographic dividend in Burkina Faso, in which the crucial results of the technical research are set out, with a view to guiding the preparation of the 2025 budget, August 2024;
- A policy brief issued on budgeting sensitive to the demographic dividend in Niger: budget structure for capturing the demographic dividend', March 2024.
- A policy brief was issued on the ways in which macroeconomic stability influences food security in Central and West Africa, June 2024.

## 02 Technical materials

- ✓ 1 Policy brief on Niger's Budgeting sensitive to the demographic dividend: budget structure for capturing the demographic dividend', March 2024.



- ✓ Policy brief: How macroeconomic stability reflects on food security in West and Central Africa achievements.



<sup>1</sup> This policy brief is produced by a team of ECA/SRO WA, composed by Amadou Diouf, Mamoudou Sebeogo and Setamant Mekonnen from the findings of the joint ECOMS/CLASS, WFP and ECA study 'Transmission Channels of Macroeconomic Conditions to Food Security in West and Central Africa', draft June 2024

<sup>2</sup> West Africa Socioeconomic profile, UNECA/SRO WA, Nov 2023

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/country/niger/overview>



## CONFERENCES, MEETINGS – PLATFORM FOR ENGAGEMENT, REFLEXION, ADVOCACY AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

**PRE-COM2024 dialogue:** *Financing the transition to inclusive green economies: challenges, imperatives and opportunities for West African countries .*



🌐 A moderated discussion around issues of financing models to support the transition to the green economy, best practices and success stories from West Africa, and key recommendations made in terms of policy actions, measures and solutions needed to achieve impactful results.

📅 Virtual, 13 February 2024

👥 108 participants

**Technical validation workshop for Liberia's national AfCFTA strategy**



🌐 Jointly organized with the Government of Liberia, the workshop aimed at fine-tuning the national AfCFTA strategy. The event brought together key players in the country to ensure that Liberia gets the most out of this continental initiative. The discussions and technical suggestions gathered will lead to its ownership by adapting it to the country's specific needs, thus ensuring its final adoption in September 2024.

📅 Monrovia, 15-17 July 2024

👥 75 national participants

**Regional meeting of West African intergovernmental organizations:** *“Strengthening synergy of actions to accelerate regional integration and sustainable development in West Africa in a context of multiple challenges”*



🌐 Information shared on subregional flagship initiatives undertaken by ECA and West African IGOs and prospects identified for strengthening the partnership between ECA and other United Nations entities with IGOs in order to better support efforts by countries towards regional integration and sustainable development.

📅 Abidjan, 10-11 June 2024

👥 30 participants

**Towards the establishment of a framework for sharing best practices for the implementation of AfCFTA in West and North Africa**

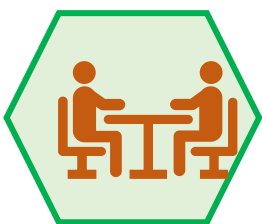


🌐 Jointly organized by SRO-WA and the Enhanced Integrated Framework-World Trade Organization (EIF-WTO) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the mutual capitalization workshop on the experiences of eight countries in West and North Africa (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, and Tunisia) provided a platform for peer learning at the regional level. It is expected to maximize the benefits of AfCFTA and serve as a catalyst for mobilizing resources to support the implementation of national AfCFTA strategy action plans.

📅 Lomé, 4-5 June 2024

👥 14 participants





# CONFERENCES, MEETINGS – PLATFORM FOR ENGAGEMENT, REFLEXION, ADVOCACY AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

**High-level policy dialogue on budgeting sensitive to demographic dividend:** advancing the operationalization and institutionalization of the BSDD in Burkina Faso.



📅 Ouagadougou, 26-27 August 2024  
 👥 135 participants

🌐 The technical results of BSDD in Burkina Faso are presented to policy-makers and parliamentarians to ensure that the country's 2025 budget is demographic dividend (DD)-sensitive. This initiative will accelerate the capture of the DD, which is essential for the country's inclusive, transformative and sustainable economic development.

**Technical workshop for the integration of the demographic dividend in Togo's 2025 budget:** *using gender-sensitive budgeting as an entry point*



📅 Lomé, 14-15 July 2024  
 👥 70 participants

🌐 The concepts of the demographic dividend and the results achieved by Togo in terms of the BSDD have been integrated into the 2025 Gender-sensitive budget document (DBSG)

**Hands-on technical support to Government officials responsible for budget execution to ensure the integration of the budgeting framework sensitive to the demographic dividend into the budget cycle in Burkina Faso**



📅 Ouagadougou, 19-21 March 2024  
 👥 56 participants

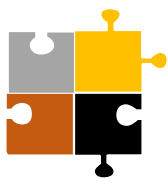
🌐 Build the capacities of stakeholders in the techniques and methodologies of the BSDD approach in order to facilitate its operationalization and identify the actions to be undertaken as part of the roadmap for integrating the BSDD in the 2025 budget, in line with the timetable for the preparation of the 2025 budget of Burkina Faso.

**Technical workshop on transforming conventional budgets into budgets sensitive to the demographic dividend**



📅 Ouagadougou, 10-14 June 2024  
 👥 25 participants

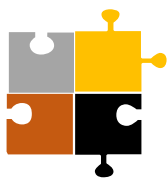
🌐 Finalizing the post-2020 budgetary transformation to inform the evaluation of the last three multiannual budgetary and economic programming (DPBEP) documents and consideration of the BSDD approach in the 2025 budget.



## OPERATIONNALIZATION/ TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

### ❖ **Strengthening the framework for budgeting that is sensitive to the demographic dividend**

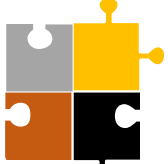
- Conversion of the traditional budgets of the period 2021-2023 of Burkina Faso into performance budgets, using budgeting techniques and methods responsive to DD, June 2024
- Incorporation of the demographic dividend approach into the 2025 budget of the Niger, which is essential if the demographic transition is to be accelerated, June 2024;
- Review of the work done and the setting-out of the specific measures needed to incorporate budgeting that is responsive to the DD into the 2025 budget of Togo, online support, March 2024.



## OPERATIONALIZATION/ TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

### ❖ Acceleration of the implementation of NS-AfCFTA

- Development and implementation of a strategy to promote **trade in services (Guinea)**;
- Capacity-building for entrepreneurs, in general, and exporters, in particular, through the provision of a **handbook for the exporters of Guinea-Bissau**;
- Development of a **digital platform aimed at facilitating the exporting of goods by Nigerian women and young entrepreneurs**;
- **Awareness-raising among businesses in Senegal** of the processes involved in ensuring compliance with trade facilitation measures (rules of origin, and strengthening of the institutional framework...);
- Development of a plan for **funding the NS-AfCFTA in the Gambia** (support the process of eliminating tariffs, mitigate any negative effects on the country's tax revenues);
- Development of NS-AfCFTA for Cabo Verde;
- Support to women and young entrepreneurs registered on the WABLP which hosted **2 virtual roundtables** on 9 July & 23 October 2024 respectively bringing together **14 sector champions**, who are trailblazers in the circular economy, and **157 women and young entrepreneurs** (products in the circular economy, agricultural including organic fertilizer, waste management, textile and leather, eco-friendly clothing and accessories, sustainable footwear).



## OPERATIONNALIZATION/ TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

### ❖ Strengthening countries' development planning and macroeconomic policies

- Supported a round table for donors, organized by the Government of Guinea to help to raise funds for the implementation of the country's Interim Reference Programme, 2022–2025, - Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in February 2024.
- The joint deployment of the IPRT (planning and reporting toolkit), in partnership with the MGD & SRO-CA following in-depth consultations and the drafting of the relevant ToRs of a 1st training session held in July 2024, for Portuguese-speaking countries, including Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau;
- Completion of the deployment of IPRT in Benin, and training held in September 2024, to enhance assessment of the country's progress on SDGs.
- In July 2024, facilitated discussions on synergies with other WAMA.
- Support to Liberia, by deploying a Chief Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Finance, in support of the formulation of the National Development Plan (NDP), its macroeconomic framework, among others. Liberia's NDP is under development, with the OIBC actively participating in the process.
- In collaboration with MGD and ACS, The Gambia is being supported on the formulation of its Long-Term Vision 2050.
- Technical assistance to the organisation of the 8th Ghana International Trade and Finance Conference, a High-Level Continental Policy Dialogue on “Global Debt Initiative and Africa's Credit Ratings” held in 6 September 2024, to foster consensus around a Ghana-led coalition advocating for sustainable debt treatment.

## ❖ Country testimonials

**Burkina Faso** : representative of the country's Transitional Legislative Assembly said that “members of the Assembly could appreciate the suitability of the budgeting approach that is responsive to the demographic dividend. She said that such an approach would contribute to combating unemployment and to control the birth rate, with a view to reducing poverty and economic and social dependence. She pledged to work towards budgetary discipline for the benefit of Burkina Faso.”

**Niger**: According to the Ministry of the Economy and Finance of the Niger, “Budgeting that is responsive to the demographic dividend would enable the country to capitalize on these investments with socioeconomic benefits and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with pillar two of the Resilience Programme for the Safeguarding of the Homeland: inclusive development of human capital.”



# Keys Partners



**ECOWAS**

**COMPASS GLOBAL Limited**

**CREG**

**ITFC**

**African Solidarity Fund (ASF)**

**NTA-Africa Network**

**National demographic dividend observatories**

**West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**

**AFRISTAT**

**Integrated Development Authority of Liptako Gourma (ALG)**

**United Nations System/Resident Coordinator's Office**

**World Trade Organization**

**(WTO)/Integrated Framework to support least developed countries**

**United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)**

**UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNOWAS, UNDP, UNCTAD, DESA**



**United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa**

# Main challenges, risks, measures taken and outlook



## Main challenges, risks

- Political instability, and insecurity in West Africa and the Sahel
- Countries' debt distress
- Scarce resources;
- Freeze on all recruitment within the organization.



## Mitigation measures, responses

- Recruitment efforts to increase staff numbers
- Strategic partnerships and coalitions for action and impact, with a view to responding more effectively and satisfactorily to the many requests from Member States.





## Outlook for 2025

- Consolidate achievements, particularly with regard to the SDGs;
- Advocate the adoption of robust planning, programming and budgeting systems that mainstream gender and the demographic dividend.
- Enhance macroeconomic capabilities, strategic planning, and policy evaluation for Members of ECA
- Support Members of ECA assess debt sustainability and develop longer-term fiscal strategies;



## 2025 Planned Results

 **Planned RA1/ outcome 1:**  
 **Developing and implementing a planning, programming and budgeting system that integrates the demographic dividend**



Number of countries that adopted a planning, programming and budgeting system that integrates the demographic dividend.

**IoA > Baseline (end of 2024): 4** (Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Togo)

**> Cumulative target (2025): 5 countries** among the following 6 Member States, i.e: Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Niger, Senegal and Togo for continuous mainstreaming BSDD not only to inform budget allocation to Demographic Dividend (DD), but also to support the efficiency of public expenses.



## Planned RA2/ outcome 2:



**Regional performance monitoring and accountability mechanism to monitor and report on progress in the implementation of the African Union Road map on harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth**



**Number of national officials acquiring enhanced capacity in demographic dynamics and policy implications.**

### IoA > Baseline (end of 2024):

215 national officials

### > Cumulative target (2025):

250 national officials



**Number of Members of ECA establishing a performance monitoring and accountability mechanism for a demographic dividend (cumulative)**

IoA > Baseline (end of 2024): 4 (Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Togo).

> Cumulative target (2025): 5 (1 additional country)



**RA3:**

**Members of ECA assess debt sustainability and develop longer-term fiscal strategies**



**Number of members of ECA developing longer-term fiscal strategies to address debt**

**IoA > Baseline (end of 2024):** 2 (Ghana, Liberia).

**> Cumulative target (2025):** 3 (1 additional country)

# 2025 Work Program

To enhance countries' capacity to integrate the demographic dividend into their planning, programming, and budgeting systems:



- Provide ongoing support to Members of Parliament from five Member States on population dynamics, social demands, and the optimal allocation of public resources to capitalize on the demographic dividend.
- Empower countries to take ownership of the mechanism to monitor and report on progress in the implementation of the African Union Road map on harnessing the demographic dividend, thereby strengthening their ability to monitor, report on, and align their National Development Plans (NDPs) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063.
- Utilize advanced macro-models to bolster capacities in macroeconomic policy analysis and forecasting



## **R4: Strengthened ECOWAS and countries macro-economic capabilities, strategic planning and public policies evaluation**

Number of ECOWAS countries supported on development planning/macro-economic modelling & IPRT



**IoA > Baseline (end of 2024):** 3 countries supported on ECA macroeconomic model/Development planning (Liberia, Niger and Senegal) & 3 Countries on IPRT (Benin, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire)

**> Cumulative target (2025): 3**



**Thank you!**

Ideas  
to  
Action