



Economic Commission for Africa
Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender
Fourth session

Online, 17 and 18 November 2021

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports to the Committee on Social Policy,
Poverty and Gender – reporting and discussion****Report on the activities of the Economic Commission
for Africa relating to subprogramme 6: Gender
equality and women’s empowerment****I. Introduction**

1. The work of subprogramme 6 is undertaken by the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Section within the framework of international and regional commitments on gender equality. These commitments include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a special focus on Sustainable Development Goal 5; Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, with a special focus on aspiration 6; and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. During the 2020–2021 biennium, subprogramme 6 was expected to enhance the capacity of member States and regional economic communities to design, implement and monitor policies that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to strengthen the capacity of member States to mainstream gender into macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes.

2. To ensure that these expected accomplishments are achieved, the subprogramme focuses on conducting analytical and policy research; providing technical advisory services to member States; engaging in policy dialogue; disseminating knowledge; developing capacity; and forging strategic partnerships. As part of the “Continent-wide Initiative on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, these interventions are organized around three pillars, namely, women’s economic empowerment, women’s socioeconomic and political rights, and the social sector.¹

3. The purpose of the present report is to highlight the key achievements of the subprogramme in 2020 and 2021. The challenges faced in the implementation of the work programme are also discussed, as are the lessons learned. Informed by the outcomes of previous Committee meetings and by lessons learned from the work implemented to date, the report also highlights the focus areas planned for 2022 and 2023.

* E/ECA/CSPPG/4/1.

¹ See E/ECA/COE/33/19.



II. Progress made in the implementation of activities

A. Women and digital finance

4. The 2020 African Women's Report, on digital finance ecosystems as pathways to women's economic empowerment in Africa, which was jointly prepared by the Committee and the Graça Machel Trust, has been finalized in line with the recommendation made at the most recent meeting of the Committee for a greater focus on digital finance. The purpose of the report is to inform evidence-based policymaking by member States and to expand the knowledge base needed to tackle structural and emerging gender issues in economic empowerment and the digital technology and financial sectors, in line with Africa's structural transformation agenda. The report includes analysis of digital finance across different dimensions and through a gender lens to help identify challenges, shortfalls and policy priorities.

5. The findings of the report strengthen the evidence that member States should design and implement policies to leverage digital technology for women's economic empowerment. In this regard, the report highlights the need to address the social and cultural barriers that still limit digital education and financial literacy among women and girls and their use of digital and financial platforms and technologies, despite the various gains in digital infrastructure development across the region. The dominance of male digital technology developers and male financial decision makers and the lack of representation of women in all areas of digital finance can perpetuate biases that create additional challenges for women's financial inclusion. Stronger policy and regulatory instruments are also needed to make gender concerns more prominent in the technology and financial sectors. Virtual workshops on the African Women's Report held in 2021 and attended by member States, stakeholders and partner institutions resulted in a set of recommendations based on lessons learned from high-performing countries. A team of stakeholders was then tasked with using the recommendations to address gender in digital finance across the region. The report will serve as the foundation of the technical advisory services provided by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to assist countries in strengthening gender considerations in their policies and frameworks on information and communications technology.

B. African Gender and Development Index

6. Through the African Gender and Development Index, the subprogramme continued to provide technical support to strengthen the evidence base and improve the monitoring of progress on gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2020, the Governments of Namibia and Seychelles received technical support in using the index to identify high-priority gender issues. In Namibia, the issues were: the high prevalence of gender-based violence; the disproportionate impact of poverty and unemployment on women; the gender disparity in access to secure land tenure and housing that favoured men; the large number of girls dropping out of school due to pregnancy, despite the country's progressive policies in that regard; and women's continued underrepresentation in executive leadership in the private and public sectors. In Seychelles, it was concluded from the assessment that the Government's policy priorities should be: to produce, manage and disseminate gender statistics more effectively; to enact the domestic violence bill to give the police and agencies legal powers to intervene in cases of domestic violence; to build the capacity of law enforcement officials to better handle cases of gender-based violence; and to develop an action plan to support the implementation of its gender policy and to guide gender mainstreaming at all ministries and agencies.

7. The subprogramme also provided support for designing interventions that would address the main gender issues identified in the assessments. For example, as a result of the gender gaps identified in Seychelles, an initiative implemented in conjunction with subprogramme 4 (on data and statistics) assessed the production of gender statistics in the country and developed a road map to mainstream a gender-based approach into the national statistics system. As part of the subprogramme, ECA intends to co-organize national workshops with Namibia and Seychelles to develop a strategy to improve uptake of the recommendations.

8. In 2020, ECA revised the African Gender and Development Index to align it with the gender-related indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals and with human rights principles. This was in response to the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights, which exhorted United Nations entities to support member States and other stakeholders in making better use of universal periodic review outcomes and treaty body reports in national development planning, follow-up and reporting – including reporting on the Goals – and in drafting and considering voluntary national reviews. ECA also prepared a technical note to assist member States with conducting national assessments for the African Gender and Development Index based on the revised methodology.

C. Africa Gender Index

9. At the request of member States, ECA and the African Development Bank collaborated to jointly produce the Africa Gender Index. By working together, the two entities avoided duplication of efforts and harmonized their respective gender-equality indices. Building on the Commission's experience in creating the African Gender and Development Index, the joint Africa Gender Index has become the most comprehensive measure of gender equality across 51 African countries. The index highlights the progress made in closing gender gaps in three dimensions: social; economic; and representation and empowerment. The reliable data provided by the index are vital for developing evidence-based reforms, tracking progress and evaluating the effectiveness of policies to advance gender equality.

10. ECA has continued to work with the African Development Bank over the past two years to produce the Africa Gender Index report and to organize a virtual global dissemination event, held in December 2020. The event was attended by more than 150 participants from government, development institutions, the private sector and civil society, who discussed how to accelerate progress for women and girls in Africa. Representatives of member States requested support from ECA and the Bank with analysing the gender gaps detected, identifying the bottlenecks causing the gaps, and prioritizing policy interventions to close them. To help disseminate the findings of the report, ECA and the Bank worked with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to run high-level policy dialogues in 2021 that charted action-oriented road maps that would address gender-based discrimination in East, Southern and West Africa.

D. Costing of Sustainable Development Goal 5

11. A project is being implemented to support African countries with assessing the cost of achieving Goal 5 and to strengthen the capacity of African policymakers to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment objectives into national planning processes and budgets. The main deliverables are: a situation analysis of costing interventions to promote gender equality; case studies documenting how African countries have costed gender-equality

interventions; a review and assessment of existing methodologies and approaches for costing gender-equality interventions; a conceptual framework for costing gender-equality interventions in African countries; and an estimate of the cost of interventions to achieve gender equality in the education sector in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in selected African countries.

12. These deliverables will provide the basis for drafting of the next edition of the African Women's Report, which will focus on the costing of Goal 5 in African countries. The costing exercise will support member States by highlighting the requirements for financing interventions to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to help prioritize related budget allocations and fiscal policy, especially in the context of COVID-19, in which many countries are operating on limited resources. The costing exercise will also be used to reprioritize development funding. The report is intended to build a strong case for African member States to recommit and re-align their development financing initiatives so that they substantively address gender inequalities within the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

E. Gender and climate change

13. The African Climate Policy Centre continued to support the subprogramme by producing a body of knowledge on mainstreaming gender perspectives in climate policy in Africa. A policy report on unlocking African women's participation in clean energy policy was produced to assess women's involvement in clean energy policy. The report called for the systematic, focused and guided mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the clean-energy sector and highlighted policy gaps, challenges, opportunities and potential benefits for the continent if clean and renewable energy initiatives were to incorporate gender perspectives, provide better access for women and increase women's participation. The report underscored the Commission's commitment to supporting the continent's nationally determined contributions, with a special focus on creating a clean-energy value chain and making the transition from fossil fuels to gender-responsive, renewable, low-carbon energy sources. Through the report, ECA expanded the knowledge base and set out its intention to strengthen the technical support it provides to member States to help them to better align their nationally determined contributions with their national development plans on the one hand and with Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 5 and 13, on the other. Work is taking place with the African Climate Policy Centre to identify which countries are preparing their nationally determined contributions to ensure that gender is integrated into the whole process. It was envisaged that ECA support on gender and climate change would help member States to harmonize policies better across multiple ministries to make the energy sector gender-responsive.

14. ECA will also publish a report on building a case for gender-responsive and resilient policies in the context of climate issues in Africa. The report set out practical steps that member States could follow to incorporate gender perspectives into their national policies, action plans and other climate-change measures. The findings of the report were presented at a virtual expert meeting in June 2021, during which it was underscored that women and girls were at greater risk from the effects of climate change due to entrenched gender roles. As such, 80 per cent of people displaced by climate change were women. Despite this disproportionate impact, women's voices remained largely excluded from discussions and decisions on responses to climate change.

F. Demographic dividend and gender

15. The implementation by ECA and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of the eleventh tranche Development Account project “Demographic dividend with a gender dimension: Entry points for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Africa and Asia and the Pacific”, has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the project is to improve the capacity of member States to create policies that will better harness demographic dynamics to improve health care, education and job creation outcomes, with a focus on gender equality. The project provides policymakers with data and skills to make evidence-based policy interventions that take rapid demographic changes into account. In 2019, the project’s activities focused on the development of knowledge products to be used as the main tools for the national and regional capacity-building and training workshops to be undertaken in the focus countries. The workshops were expected to take place in 2020 but did not go ahead owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

16. Several knowledge products have been prepared, including: situation analysis reports for Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia, highlighting issues and policy gaps in gender mainstreaming efforts within national interventions to harness the demographic dividend through education, health, employment and governance; two operational manuals providing guidelines and support for efforts to integrate the demographic dividend and gender equality into national plans and sectoral policies; and an index and statistical dashboard, with indicators to measure, monitor and report on progress pertaining to the gender dimension of harnessing the demographic dividend. In addition, regional analyses are being undertaken to determine the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the status of project countries and on project outcomes and to assist in planning the next steps. Also, new activities have been planned, including the development of national profiles and policy briefs to aid the implementation of training and capacity development initiatives.

G. Gender and artisanal mining

17. Five national reports and policy briefs (for Ghana, Guinea, Mali, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia), a regional report and blog articles are being finalized relating to the project on artisanal and small-scale mining in Africa. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the strengthening of gender dimensions in the mining sector in order to advance the economic empowerment of women through the creation of decent jobs for African women in mining, thereby making the continent’s economic growth more broad-based, inclusive and sustainable. All related knowledge products are expected to be finalized by the end of 2021. The project is expected to enhance knowledge of: policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in the mining sector; ways to integrate gender equality and equity into mining policies, laws, regulations, standards and codes to advance women’s economic empowerment; the wide range of financing mechanisms available to enable small-scale mining operations to scale up and become commercially viable; opportunities for productive collaboration between large-scale mining corporations and small-scale mining operations; and ways in which policy and structural changes can create an enabling environment for such collaboration.

H. Gender-responsive recovery and responses to the coronavirus disease

18. In response to COVID-19, a project under the thirteenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account on the care economy is underway to address aspects of gender inequality that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Innovative capacities and cooperation mechanisms are being developed to better integrate the care economy into social protection policies and other public policies. The goals of the project are to find effective responses to short-term needs; identify structural challenges; compile regional guidelines for medium- and long-term action; create an exchange space for dialogue between countries so that they can integrate lessons learned and implement actions in a coordinated way; assess policy and legal frameworks on care work in five African countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya and Zambia); and assist countries with designing care policies that recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work.

19. In May 2020, a meeting was held in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the theme “COVID-19 responses and recovery: A gendered framework”, which was attended by 35 African ministers in charge of gender and women’s affairs. The objective of the meeting was for parties to discuss key lessons learned in gender-responsive crisis management and mitigation and to agree on strategic priorities for gender-responsive crisis management and action in the short-term and on a gender-transformative recovery framework in the long term. The political declaration emanating from the meeting called upon member States to ensure that gender-sensitive and responsive perspectives were integrated in all national COVID-19 plans, including the allocation of resources for interventions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls.

I. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the work programme of the Economic Commission for Africa

20. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the work of ECA is a core focus of the subprogramme. In this regard, the subprogramme facilitates the mainstreaming of a gender dimension across other ECA subprogrammes by providing support to gender focal persons in the divisions and subregional offices and at the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

21. The Commission’s gender policy for the period 2021–2026 and the accompanying strategic plan for its implementation were developed under the subprogramme. The policy aims to strengthen the accountability of all ECA management and staff to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. The accompanying strategic plan spells out clear roles and responsibilities, with targets and timelines for completion.

22. Annual performance review reports for the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women highlight the Commission’s performance on gender equality. The reports provide a synthesis of how planning, policy initiatives and financial arrangements have been aligned with targets under Sustainable Development Goal 5 to improve results on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

23. A Commission-wide gender mainstreaming report developed mainly under the subprogramme synthesized reports from divisions, subregional offices and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning on the gender-related work delivered through the ECA subprogrammes to support member States. Plans are under way to present the report to the ECA gender

forum, where member States and strategic partners will be invited to participate in and review the Commission's work on gender equality and women's empowerment within the context of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

J. High-level events on gender equality and women's empowerment

24. In partnership with the Gender Directorate of the African Union Commission; the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security; and UN-Women, a series of high-level events were held in the lead up to the thirty-third ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. These events included consultations on the African Women Leaders Network and the launch of the African Women Impact Fund. The purpose of the events was to elevate the needed dialogue on women's economic empowerment to the African Union Summit level for greater policy impact.

25. The African Women Impact Fund was established to accelerate the emergence of African women fund managers by mobilizing global capital to build a cadre of African women fund managers who will then invest in and develop businesses and microbusinesses led by African women. By mobilizing more than \$300 million and investing it in women fund and asset managers in both listed and private markets, the Fund will create a golden and sustainable opportunity to accelerate the economic growth of enterprises led by African women, address the fundamental gap in their access to private and public investment and facilitate broad-based transformation in the asset management industry in Africa. It is also intended that the Fund should accelerate the financial inclusion and empowerment of women across critical sectors in which the gender impact is expected to be significant and resilient, including manufacturing, education, health care, clean energy and agriculture, thus promoting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, especially Goals 5 (on gender equality) and 8 (on decent work and economic growth).

26. The high-level events were attended by Heads of State and Government, as well as the Secretary-General and heads of United Nations agencies. It is envisaged that these high-level consultation meetings will shape long-term policy by creating gender-responsive leaders who are open to innovation and forward-looking programmes for the economic empowerment of women.

K. Women's entrepreneurship

27. The recently released "Women's Entrepreneurship Report: Education and Finance for Successful Entrepreneurship in Africa" is based on original empirical analysis of entrepreneur-level, firm-level and individual-level data collected between 2013 and 2019 in 45 African countries. The findings of the report show that education is critical for productive female entrepreneurship in Africa and that increasing women's educational attainment makes them more likely to have a bank account and better able to save up to start a business. The findings also show a positive link between access to finance and women's business practices and performance. Firms with access to credit are more innovative, purchase more assets and borrow more from banks than those that are financially constrained. The report provided policy knowledge on the entrepreneurial environment for women, with policy recommendations on how to directly stimulate women's entrepreneurship opportunities through education and investment.

28. A virtual workshop was held in January 2021 to disseminate the findings and policy recommendations of the Women’s Entrepreneurship Report and to discuss them in the context of COVID-19. A virtual side event was held in March 2021, on the margins of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. The side event provided an opportunity for policymakers, digital entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to engage with women and youth entrepreneurs to deliberate on how technology and digitalization could be leveraged to boost and support women and youth entrepreneurship in Africa.

III. Partnerships

29. Several partnerships have been established with United Nations agencies and continental institutions to achieve the aims of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in respect of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

A. African Union Commission

30. ECA has cooperated closely with the African Union Commission and supported it through the African Union’s Women, Gender and Development Directorate and its Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security. In addition to the meeting on the theme “COVID-19 responses and recovery: A gendered framework” (see para. 19), ECA supported the hosting of a virtual consultation meeting on 26 February 2021 to prepare for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the priority theme of which was “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”.

31. To help the African Union achieve its priorities, ECA supports the African Union Commission in hosting the meetings of its specialized technical committees and in the overall implementation of the Gender Strategy of the African Union within the framework of the United Nations Development System.

B. United Nations

1. United Nations Population Fund

32. ECA partnered with the United Nations Population Fund to convene national workshops in Ghana as part of a project under the eleventh tranche of the United Nations Development Account and provided support to the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme to end violence against women and girls, including traditional harmful practices, by engaging with and building the capacities of civil society organizations through ECA virtual knowledge-management portals.

2. United Nations Children’s Fund

33. ECA partnered with the United Nations Children’s Fund on the topic of the demographic dividend to convene national workshops in Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia as part of the United Nations Development Account project mentioned above.

3. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

34. ECA partnered with UN-Women for the African consultations prior to the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and to coordinate and support the review process of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Also, in partnership with UN-Women, ECA supports the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment of the African Union and produced a gender scorecard as part of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme.

4. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

35. Under subprogrammes 6 and 9, ECA worked with ESCAP to jointly deliver on a project to harness demographic dividends for gender equality and women's empowerment (see para. 15). The project operates in some ECA member States and directly targets the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10.

C. African Development Bank

36. At the behest of its member States, ECA partnered with the African Development Bank to produce and launch the African Gender Index in 2020. Preparations for the production of the second edition of the index, to be launched in 2022, have begun. Taking advantage of complementarities between the African Gender Index and the Social Institutions and Gender Index, ECA, the African Development Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development arranged high level policy dialogues to chart action-oriented road maps designed to address gender-based discrimination in East, Southern and West Africa.

IV. Challenges and lessons learned

A. Challenges

1. COVID-19 pandemic

37. Since the beginning of 2020, containment measures taken by member States to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have had an adverse impact on the Commission's implementation of planned activities. National and regional workshops have had to be moved online, but online workshops are less effective than face-to-face meetings for discussions of substantive issues.

2. Unavailability of accurate and timely data

38. The paucity of data remains a challenge. More data are required for deeper analysis and insights into pertinent issues on gender equality in Africa. In this regard, the partnership with the African Centre for Statistics has been strengthened to help ensure the timely provision of data.

3. Delayed feedback from member States

39. Ongoing delays in obtaining timely responses from member States remain a challenge, and staff shortages at ECA make it difficult to follow-up effectively in that regard. Processes like the regional reviews under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action are constantly being delayed by slow responses and action from member States, which are critical to those processes.

B. Lessons learned

40. The following lessons were learned:

(a) To influence national policies in a way that will have transformative results, it is essential to use the tools and knowledge products of the subprogramme to inform hands-on capacity-building and tailored advisory services for member States;

(b) Strategic partnerships with clear roles for each partner are important to leverage delivery of the work carried out through the subprogramme;

(c) Judicious use of online delivery approaches is important to expand the reach of subprogrammes and make the support that they provide to member States more effective; and

(d) Continued investment in data collection at the national and subnational levels is needed to generate timely and well disaggregated data.

V. Planned activities for 2022 and 2023

41. In 2022 and 2023, the subprogramme will contribute towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa by accelerating the pace at which member States implement and report on their global and regional gender-related commitments. The subprogramme will also contribute towards enhancing member States' implementation of policies and programmes for the empowerment of women and girls. The measures carried out to achieve these objectives will include policy research and technical advisory services, and the convening of policymakers and experts to increase knowledge, develop capacity and stimulate discussion on the mainstreaming of gender in development policies and programmes. This work will assist member States in making progress towards achieving Goal 5. The work is also expected to have a positive impact, both directly and indirectly, on Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 16. It is planned that the subprogramme will support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by revisiting project objectives to ensure resilient outcomes in relation to COVID-19 and other external shocks.

A. Mainstreaming gender into sectoral policies

42. As part of the ongoing work to assist member States in mainstreaming gender into their sectoral policies, in line with the mandate of the subprogramme, a Commission-wide gender mainstreaming report will be prepared on the work by the ECA to support gender-sensitive sectoral policies. There are also plans to convene a Commission-wide gender forum where divisions and subregional offices will showcase their work on gender and request feedback from member States. Support will also be provided to mainstream gender into the deliverables of the other ECA subprogrammes. Policy research and technical advisory services will be undertaken on women's entrepreneurship and on harnessing demographic dividends, and a report on African women leaders will be published.

B. Monitoring global and regional commitments on gender equality

43. As requested at the most recent meeting of the Committee, and building on the results of the African Gender and Development Index, member States will receive technical support with measuring their progress and reporting on

the status of their national programmes and policies related to their global and regional commitments. Furthermore, the subprogramme will roll out the African Gender and Development Index in the countries that have not yet implemented it. In collaboration with the African Development Bank, ECA will produce the second edition of the Africa Gender Index, which will provide a good indication of the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed the gender-equality gains achieved since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action a quarter of a century ago. Building on the results of the exercise in 2021 to determine the cost of achieving Goal 5, further analysis will take place to support member States' efforts to better finance gender equality and to strengthen planning and monitoring processes to improve their performance in achieving gender equality.

C. Integrating gender into economic and digital transformation

44. COVID-19 has highlighted that digital technologies play an essential role in connecting individuals and communities, providing access to services such as education and maintaining connectivity to global and local economies. Women and girls, however, face structural barriers that hold them back from becoming empowered to harness the digital economy by participating in and benefitting from the development, use and adoption of digital technology initiatives across Africa. Building on the 2020 *African Women's Report*, which focused on digital finance as a pathway to women's economic empowerment, the subprogramme will assess the current status of structural and sectoral benchmarks and targets on the use of digital technologies for women's economic empowerment.

VI. Conclusion

45. In line with the current strategic orientation of the Commission, the work carried out under subprogramme 6 will focus on promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in Africa and on supporting member States. This work will be undertaken within the framework of international and regional commitments on gender equality, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda, and Agenda 2063 and the Continent-wide Initiative on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. In 2022 and 2023, the subprogramme will build on previous focus areas, supporting member States with integrating gender into sectoral policies and monitoring global and regional commitments on gender equality. In addition, a new focus area will be the integration of gender into the economic and digital transformation of African countries. Special emphasis will be placed on helping member States to identify bottlenecks that are causing gender gaps to persist, prioritize policy interventions to close those gaps and integrate gender into national planning and public-finance processes through more effective use of the African Gender and Development Index. As African countries start to develop COVID-19 recovery plans and strategies, the subprogramme will place greater emphasis on resilience, focusing more on the impact of exogenous shocks in addition to existing and underlying risks and vulnerabilities faced by women and girls.

Annex

Significant deliverables

<i>Deliverable/project</i>	<i>Knowledge products</i>	<i>Operational support</i>	<i>Meetings convened</i>	<i>Countries</i>
<i>African Women's Report: Costing of Sustainable Development Goal 5</i>	A review and assessment of existing methodologies and approaches for costing gender-equality interventions; a conceptual framework for costing gender-equality interventions in African countries; an estimate of the cost of interventions to achieve gender equality in education in the context of COVID-19 in selected African countries.	Situational analysis of costing interventions to promote gender equality in selected countries; case studies documenting how African countries have costed gender-equality interventions.	A workshop to validate the costing methodology and estimates; an expert group meeting to launch the <i>African Women's Report</i> .	Cameroon, Malawi, Nigeria, South Sudan and Tunisia.
African Gender and Development Index	A revised African Gender and Development Index aligned with the gender-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and human-rights principles; a technical note to help member States to conduct national assessments for the African Gender and Development Index using the revised methodology.	Technical support, upon request, for Governments to use the African Gender and Development Index, along with country-status assessments and recommendations; support for designing interventions to address the main gender issues identified in the assessments.	National workshops with selected countries to develop an implementation strategy for the recommendations.	Namibia and Seychelles.
Harnessing demographic dividends in Africa with a gender dimension	An operational manual developed to help countries integrate gender perspectives into their efforts to harness demographic dividends; an index and a on gender and demographic dividends in Africa.	Support for producing national reports and situational analysis reports in the project countries.	Five national workshops, one subregional workshop and one African regional workshop in 2021 and 2022.	Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia.
Gender mainstreaming	The ECA gender policy for the period 2021–2026 and the accompanying strategic plan for its implementation; annual reviews, under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan, of the Commission's performance on gender equality; a Commission-wide gender-mainstreaming report on the Commission's delivery through the subprogramme to support member States.	Support for gender focal persons in divisions and subregional offices and at the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.	An ECA gender forum to present the Commission-wide report to member States and strategic partners and to review the Commission's work on gender equality and women's empowerment within the context of global and regional frameworks.	All ECA member States