

Mandate of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD)

I. Background

The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development adopted Resolution 853 (XL) in April 2007, related to the review of the intergovernmental machinery of the Economic Commission for Africa, through which the Ministers structured new organs to deal with development issues facing the region. Among these organs and subsidiary bodies, the Ministers established the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD).

The Conference agreed with the need to align the subsidiary bodies with the approved programme structure of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). It was also agreed that the terms of reference of each committee would be defined during their first meeting. Accordingly, the Constitution and Functions of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development are as follows:

II. Composition and Functions

CFSSD is composed of high-level experts from governments, academia, R&D institutions, the private sector and civil society of ECA member States. It meets on a biennial basis and serves as a forum for the promotion of cooperation, exchange of information and sharing of experiences in the areas of sustainable development with focus on food security, agriculture, human settlements and, environment, among African countries. It provides advice in those fields to the member States and to ECA on ways to strengthen its support to member States. It also provides a platform for advocacy and for assessment of follow-up activities by African governments to global plans of action, especially the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21, the World Food Summit Programme of Action and, the Habitat Agenda.

III. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the CFSSD are:

- (a) Undertake periodic review of the implementation of global programmes of action such as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21, the World Food Summit and the Habitat Agenda;
- (b) Consider and make recommendations on a multidisciplinary approach to implementation of the relevant programmes of action;
- (c) Promote the formulation of policies and measures on sustainable development with focus on food security, environmental protection, improved human settlements, and cooperation among African countries in natural resources management;
- (d) Provide a forum for exchanging information and sharing experiences in these areas;
- (e) Advise the Commission on the formulation of programmes and activities for supporting member States in food security related issues, and integrating the

economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into national development policies and strategies and;

- (f) Serve as the Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

IV. Operational Guidelines

The Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development will:

- (a) Consider special and burning food security and sustainable development concerns of member States and make related policy recommendations for use by African policymakers and their counterparts in the development cooperation community;
- (b) Monitor and review activities undertaken and progress made in the implementation of the global plans of action mentioned above and recommend further actions based on the experiences of member States through national reports submitted to the ECA Secretariat; and
- (c) Provide guidance to the work of ECA by reviewing the existing programme of work and examining proposed programmes and priorities of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of the Commission.

V. Relationship of the CFSSD with UN Commission on Sustainable Development

- (a) The Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development will serve as Africa's regional forum of government experts from ECA member States, with Major Groups as observers, that deals with all the fields mandated by the UN General Assembly to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development;
- (b) It will also serve as the regional advisory arm of the Commission on Sustainable Development on cross-sectoral activities in Africa as well as on proposed activities and follow-up actions in the implementation of international programmes; and
- (c) The periodic reporting of CFSSD follows the established procedures and practices of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

VI. Relationship between CFSSD and other institutions

The Committee will cooperate with:

- a) The similar committees on food security and sustainable development committees in the other Regional Commissions and will liaise with them to enhance cooperation in the global field of sustainable development;

- b) The six other technical committees under the auspices of ECA and will promote regular liaison and communication with these committees;
- c) The appropriate intergovernmental structures at national, sub-regional and regional levels; and
- d) The appropriate structures of the Commission of African Union.