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**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**  
**EASTERN AFRICA SUBREGIONAL OFFICE**

SRO-EA

01

*12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE)*  
*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24-25 March 2008*

**Theme: “Meeting Sub-Regional Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
Regional Integration towards the achievement of MDGs”**

Aide Memoire

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts is a steering organ mandated by the ECA Council of Ministers to supervise the activities of subregional offices, including that for Eastern Africa.

The Subregional Office for Eastern Africa covers 13 countries, namely: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.

The meeting of the Committee will coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa. The ECA will seize the opportunity of the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, jointly organized with the African Union, early April 2008, to celebrate the golden jubilee. A series of activities will be organized in the course of the year to celebrate this anniversary.

The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa of the ECA meets every year in view to:

- i. Consider the report on activities of the SRO-EA
- ii. Consider medium-term plans of action, programmes of work, as well as strategic orientations for the subregion.

Beside those administrative functions, the Committee is mainly a discussion forum and exchange of views between experts from member countries, regional economic communities and researchers on economic and social conditions of the subregion in view to defining modalities of cooperation and formulating recommendations for the development of countries in the subregion.

## **II. OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

The major objective of the meeting is to analyze economic and social conditions in Eastern Africa, in particular with regard to millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and define modalities for accelerating the achievement of those objectives through regional integration programmes. Indeed, in September 2000, the international community, -made of poor and rich countries, and international organizations- solemnly committed to put together all means in order to halve the proportion of populations living under the poverty line, by 2015.

Since the Millennium Declaration, several countries in the world deployed efforts meant at achieving the goals. Nevertheless, for a quite number of countries in the Eastern African subregion, the probability of achieving these goals is slim, unless new mechanisms are identified, including financing resource mobilization and their allocation to pro-poor sectors, accelerating regional integration processes, in particular through harmonization of macroeconomic policies, fostering agricultural policies, rehabilitating transport infrastructures, communication and energy, as well as promoting a conducive environment for private investments, domestic and foreign.

In that framework, the meeting will focus on:

- i. The report on the programme performance of the ECA Subregional Office for Eastern Africa for the period 2006-2007;
- ii. Analysis of the economic and social situation of the Eastern African subregion, including progress made in achieving the MDGs, major constraints and strategies for the realization of the goals before 2015;
- iii. Assess progress on the implementation of international both at regional agendas including NEPAD, MDG and other African Union and subregional Programmes levels;
- iv. Assess progress made in the area of regional integration, in particular contributions of Regional Economic Communities and prospects,
- v. The need to adopt appropriate integrated strategies and policies, involving all national, regional and international actors, public and private, as well as a definition of appropriate institutional mechanisms.
- vi. Furthermore, the Committee will examine financial sector reforms in Eastern Africa and their impact on economic development for countries in the subregion. In that context, an Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting will be held and discuss the issue in-depth. Conclusions from the working group will be examined by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.

### III. EXPECTED RESULTS

The meeting should allow participants to:

- i. Acquire a common understanding of socio-economic problems faced by the subregion, in particular constraints to achieve millennium development goals within the planned timeframe, therefore, the need to define appropriate strategies, including how to mobilize domestic resources for investment and accelerate the regional integration;
- ii. Assess objectively financial sector reforms undertaken by member countries and their impact on socio-economic development and poverty reduction, and formulate pertinent recommendations on how to increase their efficiency and equal distribution of outcomes;
- iii. Brainstorm on a subregional action plan meant at accelerating the development process, in particular, necessary pro-poor measures to be undertaken, both by national, subregional, regional and international institutions in view to achieve MDGs;
- iv. Assign clear mandates to the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa, Regional Economic Communities and other partner institutions for the way forward.

### IV. MODALITIES FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

- i. *Dates and Venue:* The meeting will take place in Addis Ababa, from 24 to 25 March 2008;
- ii. *Composition of Delegation:* left to the discretion of member States. Nevertheless, it is expected that delegates are high-level experts in areas of planning and finance;
- iii. *The Secretariat of Subregional Office for Eastern Africa*, taking into consideration of its limited resources, will sponsor two delegates per country, i.e. return air ticket from home country to Addis and payment of subsistence allowance at UN rates. Other delegates will be sponsored either by their own government or other institutions;
- iv. *Representatives of regional and international organizations* will also participate to the meeting as observers and will be requested to bring their contributions to technical discussions. Invitations will therefore be extended to them also.
- v. *Working language of the meeting:* French and English, with a simultaneous interpretation.

For any further information related to the confirmation of participation of delegates, you may contact:

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