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**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA: SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**Fifteenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee
of Experts for Southern Africa (ICE)**

**23 - 25 June 2009
Lusaka, Zambia**

AIDE MEMOIRE

**Theme “*Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization: Challenges
and Opportunities for Southern Africa*”**



Background

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has five sub regional offices. The main function of the subregional Offices is to translate much of UNECA's normative and analytical work into operational activities at the country and sub regional levels, particularly with respect to harmonising policies and programmes of action, providing policy advisory services, and generally serving as focal points for policy dialogue and information exchange all aimed at facilitating regional integration.

The sub regional office for Southern Africa, which is based in Lusaka, Zambia, derives its programmatic direction and guidance from its Intergovernmental Committee of Experts constituted by General Assembly Resolution 40/243 to provide a forum for engaging with member States on policy and programme related matters. ICE-Southern Africa is one of five ICEs, which meets annually to oversee the overall formulation and implementation of the programme of work and priorities of the respective subregion and make recommendation on important development issues confronting the subregion. This ensures that the development imperatives of the subregion are fully reflected in the UNECA programme of work. Thus the ICE is a policy sub organ of the Commission; i.e. the Conference of African Ministers of Economic Planning when in session constitute the Commission and a critical part of UNECA's legislative machinery.

More critically for the ICEs, was the adoption by the sixty-first session of the UN General Assembly a **New Strategic Direction** for the ECA subregional offices, including among others, strengthening the governance role of the ICE to serve as a platform for advocacy and consensus building as well as to articulate common subregional policies and positions.

The Theme

The meeting coincides with the prevailing global financial crisis which has resulted in the dwindling of Official Development Assistance and thus requires a paradigm shift in the funding opportunities for Southern Africa's development agenda. In this regard, the meeting will be held under the theme "***Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization: Challenges and Opportunities for Southern Africa***". The choice of theme reflects the broader dimensions of the need for African countries to bolster domestic resource mobilization for development including regional integration. Given, the prevailing global financial crisis and its implication on development assistance and investment flows call for a fresh look at domestic resource mobilisation beyond the mainstream savings and financial sector reforms to look critically and adopt a dynamic economy-wide approach to analysing feasible sources for domestic resource mobilisation to finance development.

The main objective of the fifteenth ICE meeting is to analyse the opportunities and challenges in integrating domestic resource mobilisation into other areas of economic policy making.

Expected outcome

The meeting is expected to make recommendations on measures to deepen domestic resource mobilization beyond the conventional economic and monetary stability. In addition to the report of the meeting, a policy brief will be prepared outlining a set of recommendations, which will serve as an impetus for action by the stakeholders.

Documentation

The following reports will be presented to the meeting:

1. Economic and social conditions in Southern Africa;
2. Issues paper on “*Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization: Challenges and Opportunities for Southern Africa*”;
3. Progress report on mainstreaming regional integration into national development plans;
4. Report on the proposed programme plan for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Southern Africa Office.

The ICE will also consider reports from ECA Headquarters Divisions and Co-operating Partners.

Participation

Given the theme of the meeting, participants will include the traditional representatives from the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, and extended to the ministries of finance, regional integration, trade, gender, the private sector, and CSOs. Participants to the meeting will also include other cooperating partners as well as United Nations agencies.

Working Language

The meeting will be conducted in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.

Date and venue for the Meeting

The fifteenth ICE meeting will be held in Lusaka, Zambia from 23 – 25 June 2009.

Administrative arrangements

Member States and other invited organizations are requested to confirm their participation and send the names of their delegates to ECA-SA as soon as possible, but not

later than 15 May 2009. Since this is a legislative organ meeting, participants are expected to fund their cost of travel and daily subsistence.

UNECA will organise all local logistics including hotel reservations, airport reception and transportation to and from hotels. Special hotel rates for a single room that includes breakfast will be negotiated. Participants wishing to take advantage of this offer are advised to contact UNECA. Participants are advised to provide to ECA-SA details of travel itinerary in good time to facilitate airport pickup and hotel reservations.

Participants are encouraged to organise their entry visas and vaccinations prior to their travel. However, the ECA-SA office will on request, provide assistance in organising for entry visas.

Contacts

Confirmation of participation and any communication on the meeting should be sent to:

Anne Mwansa
Team Assistant
P.O. Box 30647
Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: +260-211-231062/2285-5
Fax: +260-211-236949
Email: mwansaa.uneca@un.org

and copy to:

Munorweyi Dhliwayo
Head, Infrastructure and Sustainable
Development for Regional Integration Cluster
P.O. Box 30647
Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: +260 -211- 231062/228502-5
Fax: +260 -211-236949
E-mail: srdcsa.uneca@un.org,
mdhliway@uneca.org