



**Economic Commission for Africa
Southern Africa Office**

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for Southern Africa:

Report of the 15th Meeting



Lusaka, Zambia
23 - 25 June 2009



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

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



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INTRODUCTION

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 (ICE) constituted by Commission Resolution 826 (XXXII) of May 1977 and General Assembly Resolution 40/243 to provide a forum for engaging with member States on policy and programme related matter. ICE-Southern Africa meets annually to oversee the overall formulation and implementation of the programme of work and priorities of the respective sub region and make recommendation on important development issues confronting the sub region.

The fifteenth ICE meeting held from 23rd – 25th June 2009 in Lusaka, Zambia was organized under the theme: “Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization: Challenges and Opportunities for Southern Africa” with the objective of analyzing the opportunities and challenges in integrating domestic resource mobilization into other areas of economic policy making.

With respect to the theme of the meeting, delegates discussed at length various ways of harnessing domestic resources mobilization and proposed a number of measures to deepen domestic resource mobilization beyond the conventional economic and monetary stability. These have been summarized in a policy statement outlining a set of recommendations, to serve as a guide on actions to be undertaken by Stakeholders.

The meeting also considered other issues including:

- i) The macroeconomic related issues focusing on the economic and social conditions in Southern Africa, providing member States with an overview of achievements and issues relating to the economic and social conditions in Southern Africa and prospects for 2009;
- ii) Mainstreaming Regional Integration in National Development Plans outlining strategies for mainstreaming systematically the objectives and related initiatives of the regional integration agenda as well as the process of creating the ownership of the agenda into the overall national development plans;

- iii) Programme of Work for UNECA-SA for the period 2010-2011 focusing on the objective, programme thrust and operational modalities including the Southern African Development Community (SADC)/UNECA collaboration framework and its related Multi-Year Programme; and

- iv) The United Nations System-wide Support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa’s Development Programme providing information on the nature and scope of United Nations support including actions to coordinate the United Nations interventions at the continental and the recommendation for establishing sub-regional coordination mechanisms through consultations with the Regional Economic Communities .

The outcome of the 15th ICE is highlighted in the Policy Statement and the summary of proceedings captured in section one and two of the report.

Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization: Challenges and Opportunities in Southern Africa

Policy Brief (June 2009)

Background

Southern Africa's drive to mobilize its vast domestic resources for development is not a new initiative. Indeed, the push for marshalling the mineral, water, forestry and human resources were targeted and key drivers for industrialization and socio-economic development of the sub-region and the continent. What gives reasons to revisit these past decisions are the various recent economic shocks that have been buffeting the sub-region. These shocks consist of sharp rises in food and fuel prices, and the global financial and economic turmoil that set in from mid-2008. The economic fallout is impacting the sub-region negatively, slowing or even reversing economic growth, raising unemployment levels and reducing foreign investments and aid flows. If prolonged, these effects may reverse the notable socio-economic gains that the sub-region has made in recent years.

Southern African countries remain economically vulnerable as a result of over-reliance on official development assistance, foreign direct investments, and other forms of external sources of finance. These resources of financing development have also had the inadvertent effects of entrenching dependency and taking attention away from the need to design equitable trading systems. Finally, such sources of development finance have not proved adequate and sustainable to meet the socio-economic development needs of the sub-region.

There is now a realization that the sub-region needs to diversify beyond the traditional sources of development, including the taxes, to also look at how the sub-regional can marshal all its natural and human resources to serve as a buffer against future external economic shocks, and accelerate its economic development. A failure to do so will doom the sub-region to perpetual vulnerability due to over-reliance on external sources of finance that are unpredictable and inadequate for financing development.

To be sure, external resources should continue to play an important, but essentially complementary role in development financing while domestic resources should take the lead. The current crisis therefore offers an opportunity to mobilize the sub-region's substantial financial, natural and human resources in a big push towards industrialization and socio-economic development.

This policy brief outlines the challenges and presents a selection of recommendations aimed at addressing them.

What are the Key Challenges for Domestic Resource Mobilization in Southern Africa?

1. The public sector has not been effective in mobilizing and managing domestic resources. There is need to enhance the commitment to implementing national and regional strategies for enhancing domestic resource mobilization, even though several policies and strategies have already been articulated and agreed.
2. The need exists for the formal financial institutions to effectively mobilize savings and allocate them efficiently across the wider spectrum of society. Focus is predominantly on a small segment of the population in the corporate world and high-value taxpayers while paying only a passing attention to the rural, urban poor, women and small and medium scale enterprises. This means that a substantial amount of wealth, including what is held in non-monetized state, is left out of the formal financial system.
3. The proper exploitation and sound management of natural resources, especially for the resource rich countries, remain a challenge. Multinational enterprises usually extract and export minerals in their raw form with no domestic value addition, while the environmental impact of their activities also receives less attention than it deserves. On local participation, indigenous enterprises are in many instances bypassed for investments, including mining outsourcing activities. Most countries do not have the skills to negotiate effectively the mining contracts to ensure that more benefits accrue to the citizens,

and they also lack the capacity to monitor and influence the activities of multinational enterprises. There are also several trans-boundary resources such as water, wildlife and forests that have to be managed regionally for the benefit of all countries sharing such resources.

4. The sub-region suffers from outflows of financial resources through financial capital flight, debt servicing, human capital flight and a rudimentary financial management and enforcement systems. Political instability also makes the holding of domestic assets risky and thus leads to a search for a safer home for these assets elsewhere.

5. Limitations in tax policies and administration, the narrow tax base and inequitable tax systems lead to overtaxing of the few and leaving out the hard-to-tax segments such as the self-employed professionals, the consultant industry and the informal sector. Tax evasion, corruption and lack of transparency also constitute a source of serious leakages of resources with the potential to undermine the effectiveness of the entire tax system.

Recommendations

1. How to enhance the role of the public sector in domestic resource mobilization?

Review existing fiscal policy with a view to incorporating needed improvements in both revenue collection and expenditure. On the revenue side, the tax base must be broadened to embrace hard-to-tax sectors including the informal sector. The tax administration must be more efficient, transparent and equitable in order to encourage compliance. The tax systems must be strengthened in order to increase capacity to collect more taxes that are due but are not collected. The expenditure of tax revenues also need to be well targeted to address key challenges and development priorities; and must be transparent, which will further encourage compliance. To ensure greater tax compliance, citizens should be able to link their taxes to public services that they receive. Public policy should usher in an environment and institutional mechanisms that will attract the private sector to buttress public sector efforts. Governments have a critical role to ensure good governance that will address citizens in the Diaspora to bring resources home

for real investments. In the framework of introducing efficiency in the tax administration for simplification, compliance, accountability and transparency, the public sector application of e-government through the use of information, communication and technology should be encouraged.

2. How to mobilize private savings and investment?

Governments should work with financial institutions in order to provide incentives for institutions to develop a wide range of products that can service excluded sectors of society. Non-bank financial institutions and other financial intermediaries capable of servicing the population segments and informal business sector currently not serviced by commercial banks should be developed. Other supporting measures include fostering second tier institutions that operate as wholesale providers of capital, refinancing other financial intermediaries that currently face capital constraints and establishing credit rating agencies and credit guarantee schemes to mitigate the risks and costs of borrowing. In addition, it is necessary to address the high costs of existing financial services. Reforms to the banking regulatory framework, viable capital markets and microfinance institutions can all contribute to higher savings and investments.

3. How to better harness the wealth of natural resources?

Strengthen national frameworks and institutional capacity to manage and exploit natural resources, including by (i) reviewing existing mineral exploitation regimes, (ii) building capacity to be able to negotiate more favorable contracts, (iii) prioritizing value addition through fostering downstream industries and enhanced local content, and (iv) taking a regional collaborative approach especially for the management of trans-boundary natural resources.

4. How to contain capital outflows?

Member States should strive to entrench policies and induce the right domestic environment that discourages the repatriation of profits and dividends, and encourages more foreign direct investment. They should also encourage good

political and economic governance, sound banking system that are user-friendly to attract remittances and encourage the exchange of skills and expertise.

Further recommended measures to contain capital outflows include sustaining improvements in debt positions resulting from the heavily indebted poor countries' completion and multilateral debt relief initiatives by avoiding accumulation of new unsustainable debt. Member States should strive to plough resources freed by debt relief into productive investments and stem leakages from corrupt practices. Countries should develop capacities to audit multinationals and monitor their accounting and revenue reporting practices. Mining contracts should also contain provisions for the employment of local labour and value-addition before export. The international community should also support the anti-corruption measures by for example supporting the United Nations resolution against corruption.

5. How to harness the contribution of the Diaspora?

Since the remittances have grown to exceed official development assistance in many cases, the sub-region should strive to reverse the negative effects of human capital flight by developing coherent national and regional policies on migration, develop mechanisms and incentives to facilitate remittances and channel them into savings and investments. Countries should also foster the development of sub-regional skills and more knowledge exchange through establishing skills networks; including using virtual networks to access professionals in the Diaspora and establishing short-term return schemes.

Conclusion

To ensure that the above recommendations are implemented, the role of national parliaments is of paramount importance. The effective participation of parliaments at all levels of the development process will ensure that the natural resources are harvested to benefit all the citizens. They will also safeguard against impropriety either by the governments or private sectors participants.

Adopted on June 25th 2009 Lusaka, Zambia

SECTION 2 (SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDING OF THE 15TH ICE MEETING)

A. Attendance

1. Representatives from the following member States attended the meeting: Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2. The following intergovernmental, quasi-government, United Nations and development partner organizations participated in the meeting: the African Union Commission, the Bank of Zambia, the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the United Nations Fund for Women, the International Organization for Migration, the Southern Africa Customs Union, the Zambia Revenue Authority, the Zambia Development Agency, and the Delegation of the European Union Commission.

3. A number of organizations from the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions also attended the meeting. These were: the Private Sector Development Association of Zambia, Women and Law in Southern Africa based in Zambia, Non-Governmental Organization Coordinating Council of Zambia, the Southern African Enterprise Network, the University of Eduardo Mondlane, the Media Institute of Southern Africa based in Zambia, and the Zambia Business Forum. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

B. Opening of the meeting (Agenda item 1)

4. Opening statements were delivered by the African Union Regional Delegate to the Southern African Development Community, Professor Omatayo Olaniyan in Southern Africa, Director of UNECA-SA, Ms. Jennifer Kargbo, and Mr. David Ndopu representative of the Ministry of Finance and National Planning for the Republic of Zambia.

5. In his opening remarks to the meeting, the African Union Regional Delegate to SADC, Professor Olaniyan, recalled the 2000 gathering of World Leaders' at the United Nations in New York and their commitment to address poverty as crystallized in the Millennium Declaration.

6. The Millennium Declaration was expected to provide an opportunity for African countries to make up for lost ground and accelerate economic and social development. He commended African countries for taking macroeconomic reforms that in the last five years led to strong and sustained economic growth resulting in many African countries recording growths at above the annual rate of 7 per cent which is considered the minimum required to attain the millennium development goals.

7. In considering the consequences on the impact of the unfolding global economic and financial crises on the economic development of the sub region, he underscored the importance and timeliness of the theme of the 15th ICE “enhancing domestic resource mobilization.” He noted the prominent role played by the AU in galvanizing the African countries to deal with the likely impact of the crisis such as reduction in aid, investment and trade and demand for African commodity exports as most of Africa’s trading partners are falling into recession through its recent Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economy. In concluding, he called on the meeting to provide their perspectives on how to mitigate the adverse effects on the African economies so as to harness the vast resources of the sub region.

8. The Director welcomed all delegates on behalf of the UNECA’s Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdoulie Jannah and thanked the Government of the Republic of Zambia for hosting again the meeting of the ICE. She shared the recommendations of the recent 2nd Joint UNECA/AU Annual Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance which called on governments to engage the private sector as a development partner, including through public-private partnerships to roll out infrastructure and inject efficiency in the delivery of public goods and services.

9. The Director emphasized that Southern Africa is indisputably rich with both financial and natural resources to assuage the dire impacts of this, and future, economic crisis. She drew attention to the UNECA-SA initiative related to the preparation of the framework on mainstreaming regional integration into national plans and development through the Forum organized by the UNECA-SA, in collaboration with the Edward Mondlane University.

She further made recommendations for individual country studies to ascertain the best approach to accelerate policy and institutional domestication of Regional Integration.

10. The Director expressed hope that in reviewing the major economic and social developments of 2008 in Southern Africa, participants while focusing on the theme of the meeting should propose policy actions to address the socio-economic challenges induced by the still unfolding grave economic environment.

11. On the work programme of the UNECA-SA for the period 2010-11 to be tabled at the meeting for endorsement, she urged the participants to note its focus on harnessing regional resources for development and the emphasis placed on partnership as the primary operational modality to build institutional capacities to meet the challenges facing the sub region. She referred to SADC/UNECA collaboration framework and its related Multi-Year Programme that would enable UNECA-SA to contribute more to policy harmonization, regional integration, and institutional strengthening, as outlined in the Regional Indicative Strategic Plan, the Special Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, the New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development and the Millennium Development Goals, in the sub-region. In conclusion, she informed the meeting about the program to coordinate the United Nations System-wide support to the African Union and the New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development at sub-regional level, including through the sub-regional coordination mechanisms to facilitate consultations with Regional Economic Communities and called upon the meeting to endorse it.

12. The representative of the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Mr. David Ndopu, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Zambia and thanked the UNECA for conveying the invitation to the ministry. He noted that economic development was a domestically driven enterprise highlighting the importance of the domestic resource mobilization as stated by the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development and the Millennium Project.

13. He observed that the majority of SADC countries have a number of problems in both tax policy and tax administration such as narrow tax bases, tax evasion and complex taxation regimes. In this respect, he applauded the reforms already initiated by member states. He lamented the poor performance of financial systems in most of the SADC countries highlighting the need for innovative approaches to effectively mobilize domestic resources. Furthermore, savings mobilization is slow and volatile and lending to the private sector is even more problematic thus encouraging capital flight to more developed economies. He stressed the importance of institutional policy and administrative measures to strengthen domestic resource mobilization in Southern Africa.

14. He recognized that external grants might in some respects be the first-best option but he encouraged SADC countries to strengthen their domestic resource mobilization efforts. This will involve countries designing and implementing policies that foster capital accumulation.

15. In conclusion, he called upon participants to focus their deliberations on mechanisms and strategies to strengthen the domestic resource mobilization process within the sub region with a clear emphasis on the role of different stakeholders and capacity requirements. He then declared the meeting open.

C. Account of Proceedings, Election of the Bureau, Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work (Agenda Item 2)

16. The meeting elected the following countries to constitute the bureau:

Chair: Zambia
Vice Chair: Malawi
Rapporteur: Zimbabwe

17. The meeting unanimously adopted the proposed agenda as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the bureau, adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
3. Presentation and Discussion on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa 2008
4. Presentations and Discussion on the theme of the Meeting
5. Presentation of Mainstreaming Regional Integration in National Development Plans
6. Programme of Work for UNECA-SA for the period 2010-2011 in the sub region
7. Presentations and Discussion on UN System-wide support to the African Union and its New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Programme
8. Any Other Business
9. Date and venue of the next meeting
10. Adoption of the Report
11. Closure of the meeting

18. The meeting adopted the following organization of work:

Morning: 09:30 - 13:00
Afternoon: 14:30 - 17:30

Review of the Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa in 2008 (Agenda item 3)

19. The Secretariat presented the Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa (ECA/SA/ICE.XV/2009/4).

The Committee noted that the global economic crisis of 2008 continued to have direct and indirect impacts on social and economic performance in the sub-region. The direct effects in the financial sector relate mainly to South Africa whose financial market is relatively well developed and integrated in the international financial market, hence affecting its banking sector and lending. Since 2008, South Africa's financial and foreign exchange markets including markets for commodity exports have been declining. The rand exchange rate has been volatile, house prices have been stagnant or falling, and the stock exchange has lost about a third of its value since September 2008.

20. The indirect impacts relate to macroeconomic performance and trade, especially relating mainly to Gross Domestic Product growth, inflation, fiscal deficit and current account balance. Generally, the crisis has led to decrease in commodity prices, slowdown in private sector activity and reduced demand for energy consumption. As a result sub-regional growth declined from 5.7 per cent in 2007 to 5.2 per cent in 2008. Growth is expected to slow dramatically in 2009 to 0.2 per cent. Inflation averaged 15.2 per cent in 2008, although most countries achieved the single digit target for SADC in 2007. All countries except Zimbabwe achieved the SADC target of fiscal deficit of less than 5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, while for 2009 and 2010 fiscal deficits are expected to be 4.6 and 3.6 per cent respectively. The impacts on trade include weaker demand for Southern African exports, which are likely to shrink both in terms of volume and value. As the external demand for the sub-region's exports declined, manufactured goods suffered; oil-producing countries' trade surpluses in 2007 to late 2008 had transformed into deficits by early 2009.

21. In addressing the above, the report provided policy recommendations to avert the present and future financial crisis as including strengthening financial sector regulations, minimizing exposure by commercial banks to risky foreign-currency borrowing, faster response by countries to exogenous shocks such as price increases, decline in trade etc.

22. The report also reviewed sectoral developments in the sub-region and include: agriculture and food security, transportation infrastructure, energy, mining, Information, Communication and Technology, social conditions, gender and development.

23. As for the transportation sector, the joint air transport competition rules was adopted in 2008 along with setting up of a Regional Competition Authority to oversee the airline air transport operations in Eastern and Southern Africa. On information, communication and technology by 2008, while all the SADC countries had initiated the process of developing their respective policies, the level of use was lower than access.

24. As regards, energy, Southern Africa continues to face critical shortages leading to Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe resorting to load-shedding. Thus, SADC region plans to spend over \$40 billion to boost power supplies over the next two years. On mining industry, while the SADC economy did well during the 2007, it did badly in 2008 due to a sharp decline in prices. This resulted in reduced government revenues and social spending as well as rising unemployment and a distortion of macroeconomic fundamentals, such as a depreciation of exchange rates, rising inflation rates and reduced foreign reserves. The report recommended, inter alia, diversification of economic sectors through diversified mineral output and the creation of manufacturing value added.

25. Poverty remains pervasive in a number of countries and the financial crisis will continue to affect the poor through lower growth of household income resulting from rising unemployment, reduction in remittances from Diaspora and HIV/AIDS. AIDS has continued to claim growing numbers of people including the productive sectors across the sub-region. National prevalence rates range from 2.1 per cent for Angola to 26 per cent for Swaziland. As for gender, which is a key factor in growth and poverty reduction, in 2008 SADC member states signed a Gender and Development Protocol, which is a legally binding instrument that will harmonize the various commitments that SADC member countries are signatory to towards ensuring gender equality and women empowerment. However, women in southern Africa continue to face challenges of systemic poverty and social status that restricts them full access to and control over productive resources.

26. In the ensuing discussions, the emphasis was on the need to consider both direct in indirect impacts of the financial crisis on the Southern African

economies especially on the mining sector which is very prominent in the sub regional economy. To this end, the Committee encouraged member States to go beyond tightening monetary policy and adopt innovative ways of increasing productivity and improving the business competitiveness.

27. On macroeconomic convergence, the Committee noted that its regular assessment is important as it provides indication on progress made in regional integration. The Committee suggested that the assessment of the sub-regional macroeconomic performance should include the linkages between growth, equitable distribution and their contribution to poverty alleviation. This was particularly relevant with respect to adopting measurements for broad-based growth with significant emphasis on incorporating pro-poor measures in growth strategies. Considering the significant contribution of the informal sector and the household (care) economy to the Gross Domestic Product, efforts should be made to capture it in the Gross Domestic Product. It was noted that growth is not the only condition for poverty reduction; rather, other factors such as access to productive resources including education, health, water, etc. should be considered in poverty alleviation programmes.

28. The need to include demographic data in the report being reviewed was noted as well as the identification of policies which can influence population growth trends in the sub region. The meeting noted that the informal sector including care (household) economy are difficult to capture due the measurement bottlenecks and was informed about the on-going work between UNECA and Afristat aiming at defining an efficient and cost-effective way of measuring the informal sector's contribution to the socio-economic development in Africa.

29. The Committee sought clarification on the sources of data used in the report reviewed. The meeting noted that the report was based on primary data provided by National Statistics Offices as well as sectoral ministries in the sub-region. The meeting noted that the best practice in this regard exists in Malawi where before statistics is disseminated, it is validated jointly by the National Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning and the Central Bank for credibility purposes. The Committee emphasized the need for harmonization of production and use of statistics in the sub-region and the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development

Bank and the African Union in this regard was highlighted. The meeting noted that UNECA-SA has initiated work on building time series data to enable economic and social performance projections in the sub-region.

30. While the contribution of the local private sector in the development process in the sub region was highlighted in respect to the health and education sectors, the meeting noted that national policies are generally focused on attracting Foreign Direct Investment. The informal sector needs to be considered seriously not only in terms of domestic resource mobilization but also in terms of equity as it constitutes a major segment of the southern African economy. It was noted that inadequate energy supply and infrastructure are disincentives to faster economic development in the sub region by restraining private sector contribution. To this end, the Committee recommended as a policy, the private sector should be a partner in the development process to fast track the regional integration process and strengthen it through participation in the aid for trade programme and the infrastructure development support at the sub regional, regional and global levels. The Committee recommended that tax collection efficiency in the sub-region as well as diversifying tax sources through diversification of the economy itself should be promoted.

31. The socio-economic performance report was encouraged to look at issues related to violence against women and its associated impacts on HIV and sexual abuse related to the effects of the prevailing financial and economic crises on women. It was also noted that unless the sub-region started demonstrating the benefits of mainstreaming gender perspectives in the development process through better measurements, it will be very difficult to convince decision makers for increased funding for it. The need to provide specific budget for gender-inclusive programmes in the sub-region was raised given the fact that gender issues are cross-cutting in all development sectors.

32. The Committee raised concern about the new trends of protectionism developed by the western countries which might impact on the Doha Round outcomes and revive tariff and Non-tariff barriers at the global level and may affect the SADC countries which might impact on the Doha Round outcomes

and revive tariff and Non-tariff barriers at the global level and may affect the SADC countries in their effort to step up domestic resource mobilization.

Presentations and discussions on the theme of the meeting “*Harnessing Domestic Resource Mobilization in Southern Africa*” (Agenda item 4)

33. The UNECA-SA Secretariat presented the report entitled “*Harnessing Domestic Resource Mobilization in Southern Africa*” (ECA/SA/ICE.XV/2009/3). The report highlights the potential of Southern African countries to expand the regional resource envelope from domestic sources in order to fast-track economic development and meet the MDGs targets. It further explores policy and institutional reforms needed to better manage the mining, forestry, water, fisheries and other regional resources to benefit the region’s people and to deepen regional integration.

34. The external demand for the region’s exports has slumped, thus worsening unemployment as some factories and mines fold. As national tax bases narrow, budget deficits and debts are rising as governments try to forestall worsening poverty by sustaining social and economic expenditures. Flows of foreign investment and aid into the sub-region are also drying up as economic situations in developed nations worsen. These events are threatening to reverse the notable socio-economic gains that the sub-region has achieved in recent years.

35. The study notes however that Southern Africa can mitigate the impact of this economic fallout if it takes resolute actions to look inward at its own resources. It proposes a number of actions that include the following:

- a) Calling for political will to implement the regional protocol on free movement of persons to enable efficient use of human resources and ushering in policies that invite more inflows of foreign workers’ remittances, including from the Diaspora.
- b) Accelerated implementation of regional protocols on shared water, fisheries and forestry resources to improve the management of these resources for the benefit of all citizens.

c) Governments should strive to introduce appropriate revisions to the mining contracts negotiated with the multinational corporations with a view to maximizing the benefits that accrue to the citizens.

d) Deepening governance and financial policy reforms to encourage higher savings that should be channeled into more productive investments, and contain capital flight and facilitate the growth of capital and money markets.

e) Establishing a more supportive environment for private sector activities to thrive and in the process enable them to absorb labour and boost tax resources.

f) Addressing capacity constraints in the region by scaling up reforms, in particular in the education and health sectors.

36. In the ensuing discussions, participants were in agreement that the sub-region should welcome foreign financial assistance, but that this assistance should complement rather than supplant domestic resources.

37. It was observed that there was a need to take a broad based approach to domestic resource mobilization that takes into account the following:

- issues of liquidity and cash flow in the light of the predominance of the informal sector and non-monetary assets;
- innovative savings initiatives targeted at the rural and urban poor and the informal sector including promoting niche institutions such as rural banks, community banks and postal banks;
- take a comprehensive view to human capital flight to address both its costs and benefits at the national and sub regional levels, particularly measures to tap the potential contribution of the Diaspora in terms of remittances, investment, knowledge and skills, as well as the retention of human capital within the region through a regional human capital resource management programme that would allow for the free movement and utilization of skills across countries;

- strengthen tax regulation to reduce leakages and enhance compliance and accountability on the use of revenue, including broadening the tax base by streamlining and simplifying tax regimes; and
- the depletion of fiscal resources related to the granting of concessions and negotiation of contracts in extractive sectors, strengthen institutional capacity to monitor and manage concessions in a transparent manner and to negotiate contracts with a view to ensure optimal benefits from natural resources.

38. For this to happen, a more structured approach should be adopted encompassing the:

- promotion of indigenous private sector participation, particularly in the beneficiation for value addition of natural resources,
- deepen financial intermediation through promotion of capital markets, credit guarantee and micro-credit schemes, and
- assigning responsibility for resource mobilization to a dedicated entity.

Mainstreaming Regional Integration in National Development Plans (Agenda Item 5)

39. The UNECA-SA presented an Issues Paper entitled “Mainstreaming Regional Integration in National Development Plans” (ECA/SA/ICE.XV/2009/6). The paper underscored regional integration as a key strategy for Africa to transform itself from a continent of mainly least developed and developing countries to a strong united bloc of developed nations and a global force. Despite this potential, a number of countries and regional economic communities have not been able to reap full benefits of regional integration due to a number of challenges ranging from inability to fully domesticate and/or mainstream regional programmes, policies and processes, to weak administrative, institutional and legal national frameworks. In addition, member States face capacity challenges to be able to meaningfully mainstream regional programmes and initiatives.

40. Mozambique was cited as exemplary in embarking on mainstreaming regional integration in its national plan. Mozambique provides an example for the sub-region to begin to align their policies, strategies and institutional arrangements to respond to the needs of regional integration. Capacity should be enhanced in order to facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned. In this context, UNECA will assist member States to develop frameworks for the harmonization of policies in support of the regional integration policies. UNECA is already offering similar support on the alignment of national policies to SADC in the area of mining, energy, gender etc.

41. The representative of the University of Eduardo Mondlane Centre for Studies on Regional Integration (CEDIR-UEM) in Maputo, Mozambique presented key recommendations adopted at the Maputo Forum on 29 May 2009 on the proposed Framework for Mainstreaming Regional Integration in National Development Plans and the related support to be provided. These included the following:

a) The UNECA Secretariat, Centre of Studies on Regional Integration and SADC Law and other partners should refine the frame and ensure policy coherence. In addition to the setting up of institutional structure and the actual process of mainstreaming regional integration in national plans, the framework should also provide options on operationalizing it. It should contain allocation of responsibilities among member States, taking into account each member state’s capacity. This specification will prompt member States to act more speedily. The language in the framework should be aligned with that used in the regional legal instruments and as provided for in SADC’s Treaty.

b) The Forum constituted a Group to be known as ‘Friends of ECA-SA and CEDIR-UEM’ and recommended that UNECA should provide leadership for this Think Tank which will participate and advise SADC and its member States on matters relating to domestication of regional integration. UNECA-SA should also as soon as possible come up with modalities for the functioning of the Think Tank by inter alia, establishing a portal for e-discussions.

c) UNECA-SA should support universities in the SADC region in providing technical advisory services including short-term lectures on regional integration directly or through the Centre of Studies on Regional Integration and SADC Law at the UEM as one practical way of mainstreaming regional integration in the university curriculum.

d) UNECA-SA was requested to present the recommendations of the Forum to the SADC Secretariat for endorsement by Member States

44. The Committee underscored the necessity to align regional integration priorities to national realities. In this regard, the UNECA was requested to provide specific guidelines to facilitate the mainstreaming of the regional integration agenda based on the Framework adopted by the May 2009 Forum in Maputo, Mozambique.

45. However, member States will still have to customize these guidelines in line with their priorities and to ensure national ownership. These efforts need to be supported by the international community in terms of technical support and for sharing experience. While financing should primarily be from domestic resources, external sources for technical support and knowledge exchange should be encouraged.

46. On the proposal to establish a ministry of regional integration in each country as called for by the African Union, it was concluded that member States should consider the proposal according to their respective needs. The need for broad-based awareness building on the benefits of regional integration, particularly its contribution to poverty alleviation, with a view to entrenching national ownership of the process was emphasized.

47. The opportunities provided through the management of transboundary natural resources such as water, forestry, wildlife and tourism should be exploited as a catalyst for regional integration. Such an approach would also serve as an incentive for private sector participation in regional integration. The Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative and the Zamcom initiative are cases in point.

48. Among the outstanding issues is the partial ceding of national sovereignty in line with the Windhoek Declaration 2001, the signing and ratification of protocols and the financing of regional infrastructure projects.

Proposed Programme Plan for the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Sub regional Office-Southern Africa (UNECA-SA) (Agenda item 6)

49. The Director of UNECA-SA outlined the overall objective of the UNECA 2010-2011 work programme is to assist African countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes that will lead to sustainable economic growth and social development. The proposed biennial programme of work and priorities are grounded on UNECA's two pillars of "harnessing regional resources to meet Africa's development priorities" and meeting Africa's special needs and emerging global challenges.

50. This work is organised around ten sub programmes, namely:

- i. trade, finance and economic development;
- ii. food security and sustainable development;
- iii. governance and public administration;
- iv. information and science and technology for development;
- v. economic cooperation and regional integration;
- vi. gender and women in development;
- vii. sub regional activities for development (implemented by the 5 sub regional offices);
- viii. development planning and administration;
- ix. statistics; and
- x. social development.

The activities proposed in the 2010-2011 Work Programme reflect UNECA's commitment to the implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Declaration of 2006.

51. UNECA-SA's work programme is anchored to UNECA's global strategic orientation. The objective of the 2010-2011 work programme is to strengthen the capacities of member States to

integrate based on the priorities of the sub region UNECA-SA delivers its work programme through partnership with continental, sub regional and national institutions in order to leverage comparative advantages of these institutions in its implementation of the Multi-Year Programme.

52. The Meeting was informed that the programme of work had been reviewed by the UNECA Conference of Ministers at its recently concluded 2009 session in Cairo, Egypt and invited the 15TH ICE Meeting to consider and endorse the proposed programme of work of UNECA-SA.

53. While the meeting commended UNECA for an informative report which clearly outlined the office's work, they urged UNECA to increase its visibility on the ground especially with respect to how countries can access UNECA services. In this respect, member States sought clarity on the modalities for accessing the services offered by UNECA-SA. Technical assistance is primarily delivered through advisory services and capacity building. In view of the time required to source requisite expertise, member States are urged to factor in enough lead time in their requests for assistance. In the light of resource limitations, the main vehicles for enhancing UNECA-SA visibility are the dissemination of publications and convening meetings that bring together various stakeholders.

54. On the issue of how UNECA engages with partners, the Committee was informed of the strong working relationship and collaboration with other continental partners such as the African Development Bank and the African Union forming a tripartite secretariat to collectively respond. In addition, UNECA-SA works with sub regional partners such as the Development Bank of Southern Africa. In the light of its renewed strength and capacity, the Development Bank of Southern Africa reaffirmed its commitment to working with UNECA in the spirit of the existing Memorandum of Understanding, with a particular focus on gender.

55. With respect to the private sector and civil society, UNECA-SA makes deliberate efforts to mainstream the activities of the private sector and civil society in its work programme, including by involving them in the ICE and other meetings and joint initiatives in order to incorporate their views in thematic issues of mutual interest. For instance, the forthcoming expert group meeting on agri-business will involve the private sector in the identification of business

opportunities in the sector. This is further reinforced by specific units dedicated to issues of the private sector and civil society respectively at UNECA headquarters.

56. Regarding questions raised on UNECA-SA's approach to addressing gender issues, the Meeting was informed that UNECA has adopted a two-pronged approach by mainstreaming gender in all its work and maintaining a dedicated programme on gender. The major thrust of the dedicated programme is to coordinate the continental policy response, facilitate consensus-building, provide a platform for policy dialogue and develop tools to monitor and evaluate achievements in advancing gender equality.

57. The Committee took note of the Report and endorsed the 2010-2011 Work Programme.

Presentation on UN System-wide Support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme (Agenda item 7)

58. Reference was made to the General Assembly Resolution mandating the coordination of UN response to the African Union and its New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development. In the light of this mandate, the Regional Coordination Mechanism seeks to provide a platform to bring coherence and synergy in the activities of the UN agencies and organizations at the regional level and ensure a collective response. The presentation further outlined the procedures followed by the Regional Coordination Mechanism around thematic clusters to achieve a multi-sectoral response involving multiple agencies.

59. The 9th Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in reiterating the importance of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the coordination mechanism proposed the establishment of a sub regional coordination process to ensure alignment with priorities of each sub region. The establishment of sub regional coordination mechanisms should involve consultation with Regional Economic Communities.

60. The Committee was invited to suggest modalities of establishing these mechanisms.

61. In reacting to the proposal, participants highlighted the complexity posed by:

- i. agencies' diverse mandates and governance arrangements;
- ii. the readiness of the RECs to work with in such arrangements; and
- iii. asymmetries between the geographic coverage of agency mandates and those of the RECs, which were a major challenge.

This notwithstanding, the need to establish the Sub regional Coordination Mechanisms was endorsed.

62. Accordingly, the Committee requested UNECA to take the necessary action to initiate the Sub regional Coordination Mechanisms.

Any Other Business (Agenda item 8)

63. The representative of the Eduardo Mondlane University of Mozambique informed the Meeting of the initiative to establish a Centre for Studies on Regional Integration and SADC Law and invited the Committee to take note and endorse the Centre as a regional centre of excellence. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the initiative and its potential contribution to the mainstreaming of the regional integration agenda in SADC laws. While endorsing in principle the initiative, the Committee requested that the University circulate supporting documentation. Namibia and Zimbabwe requested to UNECA for assistance to mainstream regional integration in their development plans.

Date and venue of the next meeting (Agenda item 9)

64. It was agreed that the sixteenth ICE meeting should take place in early April 2010 and before the Conference of Ministers of Planning in consultation with the Government of Malawi, which has indicated its interest to host the meeting.

Adoption of the report (Agenda item 10)

65. The Committee adopted the report and the recommendations.

66. While appreciating the importance of the ICE meetings, the Committee noted the need for systematic follow-up on the recommendations of the ICE. In response, the UNECA-SA Director explained that similar to any other legislative and statutory body, the ICE engages in consensus-building on topical policy issues with a view to obtaining member States' endorsement of regional frameworks and assisting them to align their own policies to regional programmes. In this context, it is the responsibility of member States to implement the ICE policy outcomes with the support UNECA.

67. As a way forward, the UNECA Secretariat would:

- widely disseminate the findings and recommendations on mainstreaming regional integration into national plans;
- in close collaboration with the Development Bank of Southern Africa, try to deepen the study on domestic resource mobilization focussing on best practices and key lessons for policy actions; and
- keep the Bureau informed on the next steps in establishing the Sub regional Coordination Mechanisms including providing a report at the next ICE meeting on the progress made.

Closure of the ICE Meeting (Agenda item 11)

68. The Director thanked all the participants for their active and useful contributions during the three-day intense deliberations. She paid special thanks to the Government of the Republic of Zambia for hosting the ICE meetings despite competing and heavy demands that the Government faced. She also thanked the rapporteurs, interpreters, media, office staff and all the people that had worked to make the meeting a success. She emphasised UNECA-SA's strong desire to embrace and work with the media as partners in development.

69. The Chairman of the 15th ICE Meeting joined the UNECA-SA Director in thanking all the delegates for their invaluable contributions during the deliberations. He congratulated the ECA for organising a successful ICE Meeting. The Chairman stated that the ICE was an important platform for developing practical policy recommendations/ options for member States in the sub-region. He urged delegates to take back the key recommendations that had emerged from the Meeting to their principals and work out the necessary modalities of how to systematically reflect these in their own national plans. He observed that countries in the sub-region were at different levels of development and that recommendations had accordingly to reflect this reality in order to remain relevant. The Chairman also noted that traditional sources of revenue were declining rapidly and were unsustainable in the light of the current global economic meltdown. He thus urged Member States to be innovative in seeking to diversify their sources of revenues and accord a special focus on enhancing capacity to mobilise domestic resources for development.

70. Finally, the Chairman wished all the participants that had come from outside Zambia safe passage back to their respective countries.

71. A vote of thanks was given by the delegate from Swaziland on behalf of the participants to the Government of the Republic of Zambia for its hospitality.

ANNEX I

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