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## Notification

### **Fifty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**

**Addis Ababa, 15–21 March 2023**

1. Pursuant to rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Africa, the present document serves as a notification that the meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at the fifty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Africa will be held at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, Africa Avenue, Bole International Airport, Addis Ababa, from 15 to 21 March 2023.
2. The ministerial segment will be preceded by a preparatory meeting, the forty-first meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Conference of Ministers, which will open at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 March. The ministerial segment of the Conference of Ministers will open at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 20 March.
3. The Committee of Experts will meet from 15 to 17 March 2023. The ministerial segment of the Conference of Ministers will take place on 20 and 21 March 2023.
4. The fifty-fifth session of the Commission will be focused on the theme, “Fostering recovery and transformation in Africa to reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities”. High rates of growth in the past two decades have resulted in reduced poverty levels in Africa, with the share of the population living in extreme poverty decreasing from 55 to 35 per cent between 2000 and 2019. Nonetheless, a staggering 667 million people (39.2 per cent of the total population) still lived in extreme poverty in 2022. Alarming, global shocks are turning millions of vulnerable people into the continent’s new poor, reversing decades of progress. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has pushed an additional 55 million Africans below the poverty line and the impact of the war in Ukraine is expected to further compound the challenge. Even when growth rates were high in Africa, not everyone benefited equally. For example, between 2004 and 2019, the top 10 per cent of wage earners received about 75 per cent of total income. High inequality, along with high levels of poverty, creates a vicious cycle in which structural bottlenecks persist, rendering the population in Africa perennially vulnerable to both economic and non-economic shocks. The ability of African countries to effectively tackle poverty and inequality is now severely constrained, given declining economic growth, narrowing fiscal space, rising debt, commodity shocks and tightening global financial conditions. The risk of missing the poverty and inequality targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, is higher than it has ever been before.

5. The aim of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission is thus to renew focus and action on reducing poverty, inequality and other factors that leave the African population continuously vulnerable to those scourges. Recovery efforts must be pro-poor and inclusive, with a view to fostering a new social contract that offers equal opportunity for all. Considerable opportunities to reach those goals exist on the continent and beyond, including through activities carried out in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area, green investments, digital transformation and reforms to the global financial architecture.
6. The plenary meetings of the Conference of Ministers will commence with a high-level policy dialogue on the theme for 2023, which will be followed by plenary meetings on a series of sub-themes. High-level panellists from within and outside Africa will guide the discussion, which will be informed by the recent findings contained in the concept note and technical background materials and will be aimed at building a consensus on priority areas for action.
7. Delegations are requested to submit to the Secretary of the Commission, by 15 February 2023, the names of accredited representatives and, as appropriate, alternate representatives and advisers who will participate in the session.
8. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers must be submitted to the Acting Executive Secretary prior to the first meeting of the session. Please send a copy of the credentials by 14 March 2023 to the Secretary of the Commission at [eca-soc@un.org](mailto:eca-soc@un.org) and submit the original on site at the conference venue.
9. Participants should register online and attach their letter of accreditation. Online registration for the session will be available on the dedicated website at <https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/cfm2023> beginning in February 2023. Information on the session will also be available on the website.
10. On-site registration will also take place from 13 to 20 March between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and on 21 March between 8 a.m. and noon at the designated registration site, where pre-registered participants will be able to pick up their badges.
11. The provisional agenda, the provisional annotated agenda, the programmes of work, a detailed information note, and technical and working papers for the meetings can be accessed online. To access documents prior to the meetings, delegates are requested to visit the above-mentioned website and download any copies required.



12. Communications concerning the meeting of the Conference of Ministers should be addressed to:

Secretary of the Commission  
Economic Commission for Africa  
Tel.: +251 (0) 11 544 3511/+251 (0) 11 544 3981  
Fax: +251 (0) 11 551 2233  
Email: [eca-soc@un.org](mailto:eca-soc@un.org)

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