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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE SIXTH JOINT
ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE ECA CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN
MINISTERS OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND AU CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE**

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Committee of Experts of the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 21 to 26 March 2013.

A. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were represented: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Labour Organization (ILO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Organization for Migration (IOM); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); World Bank (WB), World Health Organization (WHO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and World Food Programme (WFP).

5. Observers were present from the following organizations: Action Aid International (AAI); African Advisory Board; African Centre for Development Capacity Building (AFCAB); African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD); African Centre For Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD); African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC); AMYRIS, Cote d'Ivoire Association for Export Promotion (APEX-CI); The Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP); African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD); Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI); Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA); Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU); International Organization for the Francophonie (OIF); Africa Governance and Monitoring Project; African Advisory Board; African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF); African Centre for Development Capacity Building; African Export Import Bank; African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA); African Monitor (African Voices for Africa's Development); Association of African Central Banks (AACB); Central Bank for West African States (BCEAO); Centre for Constitutional Governance; Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU); Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI); Columbia University; Congress of African Economists; Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CODA); Gates Institute; Mo Ibrahim Foundation; OXFAM International; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); United States Mission to the African Union (USAU); Packard Foundation; African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP); Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT); African Advisory Board (AAB); Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Ivorian Centre for Economic and Social

Research (CIRES); East-West Centre (EWC); European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM); Ivorian Employers' Association; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); University of the Congo; University of Thies, West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA); William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

B. Account of Proceedings

Opening of the Meeting [agenda item 1]

6. Opening statements were made by Mr. Dieudonné Bouddhou, the Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau of the Conference, Mr. Abdallah Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA and Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs. The meeting was opened on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire by H.E. Ms. Nialé Kaba, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister responsible for Finance and the Economy.

Opening statements

7. In his opening statement, Mr. Dieudonné Bouddhou, Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau of the Committee of Experts of the Joint Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, welcomed participants to this year's conference. He thanked the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for their hospitality and for hosting this year's conference in the beautiful city of Abidjan.

8. Mr. Bouddhou congratulated Her Excellency, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission and His Excellency, Mr. Carlos Lopes Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA on their recent appointments as Heads of the two premier African institutions. He also commended the staff of the two institutions for their hard work in preparing for this year's conference.

9. Mr. Bouddhou further noted that the theme of this year's conference, "*Industrialization for an Emerging Africa*", was both timely and important, as it would help focus attention on the challenges of achieving structural transformation in Africa through resource-based industrialization. He highlighted some of the notable activities implemented by ECA and AU Commission as follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of last year's conference under the guidance of the outgoing Bureau. These included organization of the eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII), which focused on the theme of natural resources for development; the African Governance Forum; establishment of the African Minerals Development Centre at ECA to support implementation of the African Mining Vision; and support to African countries in the context of climate-change negotiations. He expressed profound gratitude to all the members of the outgoing Bureau for their support and collaboration in making these achievements possible.

10. Mr. Abdallah Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, in his statement, said that the Conference had become the main platform for policy dialogue and consensus building on pertinent economic and social development issues of concern to Africa. The Conference also provided strategic statutory guidance to the work of ECA and the AU Commission.

11. Mr. Hamdok provided an overview of recent economic and social conditions in Africa and highlighted some of the main activities undertaken by the ECA secretariat in support of the development agenda of member States. Africa grew at the impressive rate of 5 per cent in 2012,

driven primarily by high commodity demand and prices and supported by improved macroeconomic policies. However, growth had been uneven across countries and sectors, and had not led to significant job creation and poverty reduction. Policies and strategies were needed to ensure inclusive and equitable growth that would benefit the majority of Africans. In this regard, deliberations on the theme of this year's conference would help in devising appropriate strategies and policy recommendations for accelerated resource-based industrialization in Africa.

12. The Deputy Executive Secretary highlighted the important role of ECA in support of Africa's development, including enhancement of the continent's voice in global processes for discussions on climate change, trade, and articulation of Africa's common position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; promotion of South-South cooperation for infrastructure development, trade and agriculture development and addressing of the problem of illicit financial flows from Africa. ECA had also undertaken a major study on Africa's relationship with Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).

13. In his statement, Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs, noted that the discussion on the theme of industrialization for an emerging Africa was long overdue because Africa only accounted for 12 per cent of global GDP. Nonetheless, the continent could also count on a youthful population, available for using the continent's vast natural resource endowment to achieve rapid industrialization and structural transformation. This year's Conference, therefore, provided an opportunity to discuss the measures for promoting commodity-based industrialization that would add value to Africa's natural resources, create jobs for the youth in particular, and reduce poverty. For industrialization to take off, longstanding shortfalls in the areas of infrastructure, human resources, finance, and science and technology had to be addressed. The AU Commissioner further noted that since 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now African Union, it was an opportune time to reflect on the development achievements and challenges over the past 50 years in order to define the AU agenda for the next 50 years.

14. On behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, H. E. Ms. Nialé Kaba, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister responsible for Finance and the Economy, welcomed participants to Abidjan and to this year's Conference. She thanked the AU Commission and ECA for the honour bestowed on her country in hosting this year's Conference. She expressed appreciation for the fact that the meeting also demonstrated the tremendous goodwill and support of other African countries for the recovery and resurgence of Côte d'Ivoire.

15. Ms. Kaba noted that the choice of the theme of this year's conference, "*Industrialization for an Emerging Africa*", underscored the centrality of industrialization for Africa's development. She highlighted some of the major challenges and obstacles that African countries had to tackle in the context of industrialization, including the need to promote inclusive growth; the need to convert Africa's natural resources into high-value added goods; and the importance of diversification and structural transformation. The Minister went on to share her country's experience with industrialization. She stated that Côte d'Ivoire aspired to attain the status of a middle-income country by the year 2020, a goal that was being pursued within the context of the country's national programme on industrialization that was adopted in 2012 and which was currently being implemented. The plan focused on promoting the private sector as the driver of economic growth and industrialization. It was also expected to help attract foreign direct investments. The outcome of the meeting, she said, would help Côte d'Ivoire in finalizing its industrial policy.

16. Following her opening statement, the Minister, on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, declared the meeting of the Committee of Experts of the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development officially open. She wished the participants fruitful deliberations.

Adoption of the Agenda and Election of the Bureau [agenda item 2]

17. The following agenda was adopted by the Committee:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Bureau and Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
3. Recent Economic and Social Developments in Africa
4. Review of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda
5. Assessment of Progress on Regional Integration in Africa
6. Harnessing the Demographic Dividend for Africa
7. Presentation of the Theme of the Conference: Industrialization for an Emerging Africa
8. Implementing the Rio+ 20 Outcomes in Africa
9. Presentation of Statutory Issues
10. Any Other Business
11. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Report of the Committee of Experts and the Draft Resolutions
12. Closure of the Meeting

18. The following officers were unanimously elected by the Committee to form the new Bureau:

Chairperson:	Côte d'Ivoire
First Vice-Chairperson:	Kenya
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Algeria
Third Vice-Chairperson:	Lesotho
Rapporteur:	Cameroon

Recent Economic and Social Developments in Africa [agenda item 3]

19. A representative of the secretariat provided an overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa. Overall, growth remained strong in 2012, reaching 5 per cent, which was

above the global average, despite the global slowdown and uncertainty. However, economic performance varied across subregions and sectors and growth continued to depend on commodity exports, despite notable diversification into non-primary commodity sectors. Growth prospects for 2013 were assessed as solid despite the slowdown in the global economy, but were subject to various risks. Progress on social development was also slow and challenging, as inequality, hunger, poverty, poor quality education, underemployment and unemployment remained issues of concern. The presentation emphasized that structural transformation, underpinned by value addition, was vital for poverty reduction, inclusive growth and improved social conditions in Africa and would have to rest on enhanced domestic resource mobilization.

20. In the general discussions that followed, several participants noted that positive growth rates did not always translate into high-quality growth nor was it sufficient for inclusive development. Growth, it was agreed, should be accompanied by economic diversification and value added for it to be sustainable and inclusive.

21. Accelerated industrialization could contribute to sustainable and inclusive development in Africa. However, it was necessary to identify and properly articulate the different development options or models available to the continent as the most viable options. In this regard, some participants underscored the need for an indepth human resources study or audit to establish the status of the continent's human resources capacity and / or the gaps, in order to determine an appropriate development path for the continent. In the same vein, the importance of developing indigenous mechanisms to finance Africa's innovation and industrialization was emphasized.

Review of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda [agenda item 4]

22. Under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the status of implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa in 2012, highlighting major progress as well as challenges. In terms of progress, both primary enrolment and completion rates had improved with approximately 70 per cent of African children completing primary school. Gender equality had also improved in primary schools but was slow at other levels. For instance, only eight countries had met the target of 30 per cent of women in parliament. Significant strides had also been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria but despite these improvements, major challenges persisted in the areas of poverty reduction, food security and health, with nearly half of the continent's population still living on less than US\$1.25 per day, with high income inequality, maternal and child mortality as well as unemployment and underemployment rates, and with the incidence of vulnerable employment reaching 76 per cent. The presentation underscored the need to accelerate progress towards achieving the current MDGs, with particular emphasis on achieving food security.

23. The second presentation focused on the ongoing regional consultations for an African common position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda being prepared by AUC, ECA, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa, in response to a request from the AU Heads of State and Government. A draft common position was recently adopted in Tunis, covering four priority areas, namely, economic transformation, technological innovation, human development, and financing and partnership. A number of enablers of development had also been identified, including peace and security, good governance, institutional capacity, and infrastructure development. The Committee of Experts was requested to review the draft African Common Position and provide their comments and views, which would then be transmitted to the Conference of Ministers for their consideration and endorsement, before submission to the AU Heads of State and Government for adoption at its

summit in May 2013. The African Common Position was expected to serve as an input to the General Assembly discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda that would replace the MDGs.

24. The discussions that followed highlighted a number of important points and recommendations as follows:

(a) African countries were invited to adopt a multi-sectoral approach in health interventions, in order to fast-track progress in that area;

(b) Increased investments in agricultural production and agro-processing were needed, as a strategy to accelerate achievement of food security through food self-sufficiency;

(c) African countries were invited to play a leading role in defining and shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in order to ensure that it would truly address Africa's development needs;

(d) A Post-2015 Development Agenda should be sufficiently inclusive, without necessarily increasing the range of development goals and indicators contained in the MDGs framework and the process should be pursued through a bottom-up approach rather than through the traditional top-down approach that has characterized the formulation of previous development agendas or frameworks;

(e) Reliable statistics and the capacity to develop appropriate indicators for measuring and tracking progress in Africa's development were very important;

(f) The ongoing discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda should allow for necessary adjustments to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs between now and 2015.

Assessment of Progress on Regional Integration in Africa [agenda item 5]

25. The presentation by the secretariat queried the extent of progress made after 50 years of efforts at achieving regional integration in Africa. The modest achievements included establishment of a common market and customs union in Eastern Africa and the design of several projects to promote integration, notwithstanding the challenges of financing. Progress had also been made in setting up institutions of integration such as the AfDB and the Pan-African Parliament, while discussions were well underway for establishment of the African Monetary Fund (AMF) and the African Investment Bank, among others.

26. Several challenges impeding regional integration in Africa were highlighted. The free movement of persons was still ineffective; financing of projects on integration continued to depend largely on external contributions; micro-sovereignty was still rife and remained an obstacle to political integration; linguistic differences continued to hamper unity on the continent; statistics, a fundamental element of sovereignty, had been neglected; intra-African trade remained low at 10 per cent of the continental total; and the creation of a single currency was far from becoming a reality, with over 40 currencies currently in circulation on the continent.

27. The discussion on regional integration in Africa should revisit the major debate on integration approaches proposed by Presidents Nyerere and Nkrumah at independence, to see if any of these was suitable for Africa today. Nkrumah had called for rapid integration so that sovereignty

tendencies would not inhibit the drive toward integration, while Nyerere had called for a gradualist approach to integration based on the development of regional pillars.

28. Following the discussion, the Committee recommended that:

(a) Governments should ensure more stakeholder involvement and inclusiveness in Africa's integration processes and programmes, particularly for ordinary citizens, civil society and the private sector;

(b) Governments should ensure increased resource mobilization to support the development of small and medium enterprises in Africa, as a way of boosting indigenous production and intra-African trade as catalysts for regional integration;

(c) Governments should implement strategies for Africa's integration and development plans;

(d) Governments should alleviate the infrastructure constraints by increased investment, with a view to enhancing regional integration and boosting trade among African countries;

(e) ECA should undertake a comparative study on the gradualist and rapid approaches to African integration recommended by Presidents Nkrumah and Nyerere), including the detailed timelines, costs and other implications of the two approaches, which could serve as a basis for making an informed choice between the two approaches.

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend [agenda item 6]

29. Under this agenda item, an interactive media presentation called ENGAGE was made by a representative of the secretariat, focusing on harnessing the demographic dividend for Africa. The presentation noted that reducing high fertility could create opportunities for economic growth if the right kinds of educational, health, and labour-market policies were in place.

30. The presentation drew attention to the favourable experiences in Asia which were now referred to as the "Demographic Dividend" and highlighted the role of the pace of the demographic transitions in those countries. In particular, the decline in infant and child mortality, followed by declines in fertility, and the supportive role of key health interventions, such as maternal and child survival and birth spacing through family planning, were highlighted. The replication of these trends in several African countries was evident, for example in Botswana, Morocco and South Africa, and the potential for Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda to follow suit was mentioned.

31. The two discussants on the ENGAGE presentation highlighted the relevance of the demographic dividend for Africa and called on African countries to actively adopt their own approaches to realizing the benefits and accelerating economic growth.

32. During the general discussion, several participants shared their country experiences and also raised questions about the interactions between many development factors and processes and the certainty of the success of various approaches. In particular, the applicability of demographic transition and dividend experiences from outside Africa was discussed. The Committee recognized that the demographic transition, i.e., the declines in child mortality and fertility, was bound to occur. The heterogeneity of transitions across African countries was also recognized. The discussion also focused on how to influence the pace of those declines and what social and economic policies were

necessary to accelerate them. The Committee further recognized that realization of the demographic dividend would need to be customized to the circumstances of each country.

33. African countries needed to find their own paths to the demographic transition and could define their own vision for achieving the demographic dividend. They did not necessarily need to follow other regional models and, in fact, the African demographic dividend could prove to be quite unique in structure, process and character. The discussion concluded with several member State participants indicating their interest in pursuing the dividend and learning further about what combination of social, health and fiscal policies would best provide for sustainable economic growth and in particular, job creation.

34. The following recommendations emanated from the session:

(a) The demographic dividend did not have a single solution that fitted all member States. Each country should develop its own approach to realizing the dividend, taking its own specific circumstances into account. Moreover, the approaches should take into account the importance of culture in each setting;

(b) The interventions needed to address the demographic dividend would require a multi-sectoral approach. In particular, investments in education, health, nutrition and job skills training were critical to enhancing the demographic change required to set the stage for realizing the demographic dividend for African countries;

(c) Immediate responses were needed for youth as entrants into the labour force and family formation. Securing their productive future should evolve from identifying efficient models of job creation, by those responsible;

(d) The vision for the future must be defined by African countries and they should continue to ensure that the MDGs were met and that the post-MDG goals enabled each country to realize the demographic dividend;

(e) African countries should integrate demographic dimensions in all development programmes, and strengthen the link between the demographic dividend and economic growth, including promoting inclusive development.

Presentation and discussion on the theme of the Conference: *Industrialization for an Emerging Africa* [agenda item 7]

35. Under this agenda item, two presentations were made by the secretariat to introduce the theme of the Conference. The first presentation, based on a document entitled, "*Reaping the benefits of value addition and linkage development in Africa*", reviewed the current state of value addition and industrialization in Africa and the positive growth trajectory of the continent. The presentation highlighted the benefits and weaknesses of industrial development, indicating that resource-based industrialization was an imperative that was both possible and beneficial for Africa. The benefits of resource-based industrialization and moving up the value chain included: employment creation, income growth, dynamic benefits and efficiency gains. Furthermore, value addition would develop fiscal, consumption and production linkages. Success of linkage development depended mainly on the competitiveness of local firms and the effectiveness of government policy. The successes of Argentina, Malaysia, Thailand and Venezuela had demonstrated how resource-based industries could be developed by mobilizing domestic entrepreneurship and implementing effective industrial policies. African countries should, therefore,

capitalize on their resource endowments and the commodity price boom, while taking into consideration the global, regional and national dimensions of linkage development. Africa should also take advantage of regional and continental policy initiatives, such as AIDA, the African Mining Vision (AMV), the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and the AU Declaration on the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

36. The second presentation on the theme of the Conference addressed five major issues related to industrialization in Africa. First, the presentation underscored the need for the continent to industrialize, noting that industrial development had tremendous transformative potential because of its role as the engine of economic development and catalyst of innovation and trade. Second, Africa's enormous potential to industrialize was highlighted. The continent had 60 per cent of the world's arable land, although only 10 per cent of its agricultural products had any form of value addition. Furthermore, Africa was endowed with many sources of energy and a significant amount of the world's mineral resources were located on the continent. Third, Africa's industrialization was delayed, in part, by the continent's colonial heritage that strongly influenced its economic structure. Fourth, industrialization was a pre-condition for economic emergence and was necessary for achieving structural transformation. Fifth, and regarding the path to industrialization, the presentation suggested the following: imposing a minimum charge on export of primary commodities to encourage local production and value addition; moving away from economic growth based on primary products; ensuring financial sovereignty; and implementing an energy policy that responded to the needs of industrialization.

37. The Chairpersons of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) provided the subregional perspective on the theme of the Conference as reflected in the outcomes of the meetings of the ICE, which were held recently in the five subregions of the continent. The ICE meetings had addressed similar themes and issues related to industrialization in their respective subregions.

38. Mr. El Eulmi, Officer representing the Secretary of State in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of forecasts and statistics, Government of Algeria, summarized the main outcomes of the 28th session of the ICE for North Africa on the theme, "*Promoting diversification and sophistication for structural transformation in North Africa*", which took place from 26 February to 1 March 2013 in Rabat, Morocco. The presenter explained that in addition to ensuring harmony with the theme of the Conference of Ministers, the choice of the theme of the ICE was also in response to the request made at the 27th session of the ICE, for ECA to undertake a study on diversification in North Africa. The 28th session of the ICE made recommendations in the following five main areas: (a) institutional reforms and good governance; (b) the role of the State; (c) support for sectors with high value addition; (d) an integrated approach that incorporated all relevant sectors; and (e) regional integration and cooperation.

39. Mr. Tohougbe Yehouan Anatole, Technical Adviser, Sustainable Development, State Ministry of Planning and Development, Cote d'Ivoire, presented a report on the main outcomes of the 16th session of the ICE, which was held 18-19 March 2013 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on the theme, "*Inclusive green growth to accelerate socioeconomic development in West Africa*". The ICE meeting commended the recent strong macroeconomic trends in the West Africa subregion, and highlighted the challenges that needed to be addressed, including reliance on the export of commodities, governance deficits, insecurity, high youth unemployment, and the lack of decent jobs. The meeting urged member States to harmonize their training curricula to facilitate labour mobility, promote technical and vocational training, prioritize the agricultural sector, and deepen regional integration in the subregion through the harmonization of macroeconomic and sectoral policies.

40. Ms. Chantal Elonbat-Mbedey, Director of Regional Integration in the Ministry of Economy of Cameroon, presented a report on the outcome of the 29th session of the ICE which was held from 27 February to 1 March 2013 in Libreville, Gabon on the theme, “*The green economy in Central Africa*”. The presenter noted that the vision of the CEMAC subregion was to achieve emerging country status based on industrialization by the year 2025. To this end, each country in the subregion had its own programme for emergence and transformation. The presentation also highlighted the progress made by the countries in the areas of infrastructure especially in energy and transportation, agriculture, and conservation. On the factors needed for successful industrialization, the presentation highlighted the following: well-designed national industrial strategies based on the realities of each country; improved access to finance by small and medium enterprises; promotion of private-public partnerships; and capacity development especially of women entrepreneurs. The importance of political will was also underscored.

41. Professor Ben Turok, member of the South African Parliament, opened the general discussions with brief remarks on the salient points made in the various presentations. Using the experience of South Africa, he emphasized the importance of value addition, focusing on the linkages between the mining and manufacturing sectors. Over the years, South Africa’s high port charges had led to lower competitiveness of the country’s manufactures and had encouraged exports of raw materials, essentially contributing to the country’s de-industrialisation.

42. Overdependence on mineral resources for economic growth was unsustainable, and countries should use their natural resources to develop the manufacturing sector. In addition, countries should identify factors, such as skills, entrepreneurship, technology, infrastructure and transport costs, that could be leveraged to support value addition. Similarly, African Governments had a responsibility to reduce the constraints to industrialization, such as enclave development of the mining sector, and to address identified bottlenecks. Citing the example of mining and manufacturing, Professor Turok highlighted the need for disaggregation of industrial statistics for the accurate measurement of value addition. He also highlighted the need for countries to protect their infant industries, urging them to examine their respective value chains and take decisive actions in support of increased benefits from the exploitation of natural resources.

43. The general discussions highlighted several important issues related to industrialization and value addition, including: industrial plans, strategies and policies; data and statistics; creating an enabling environment; financing of industrialization; innovation and technology transfer; and capacity development.

44. The Committee noted that the lack of coherent industrial policies at the national, regional and continental level, and across sectors had hampered the industrialization process in Africa. In this regard, it underscored the need for well-designed and articulated plans at the national and regional levels that were coherent with continental frameworks, such as AIDA. Such policies should promote inclusive and sustainable development with clearly defined roles for the State and the private sector based on their comparative advantage, including appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks. In addition, countries must consider the global policy space in which they were operating. In this regard, member States voiced concerns over global trade schemes that were favouring the export of raw commodities over products with value addition.

45. Participants highlighted the importance of statistics and data in formulating and monitoring industrial policy. In this regard, several key areas in which accurate economic statistics are necessary for effective policymaking were highlighted: natural capital accounting, employment and the informal sector, and sectoral and product disaggregation vis-à-vis value addition.

46. The need for good governance, including political stability, accountability, strong institutions and macroeconomic stability, was also underscored as part of the necessary enabling environment for industrial development. In addition, infrastructure, especially energy and transportation, were cited as key enablers.

47. Most of the participants identified the lack of adequate financing as a major constraint to Africa's industrialization efforts. Large-scale industrialization was agreed to be a complex undertaking that required domestic, regional and external resource mobilization. In this regard, it was noted that regional development banks, and financial institutions such as AfDB had an important role to play in helping African countries to mobilize resources for industrialization, including supporting the implementation of key continental initiatives on industrialization.

48. Other key factors identified for successful industrialization were innovation and technology, including research and development; and capacity development through improvements in the education system, to emphasize technical and vocational training.

49. Based on the presentations and discussion, the following key recommendations were made:

(a) Design and implement industrial policies driven by clear visions, national ownership and effective leadership, focusing on value addition, sectors with high growth potential, including deliberate policies to protect infant industries;

(b) Adopt appropriate policies to reduce export of raw materials and enhance value addition;

(c) Identify and maximize the policy space available within existing global trade regimes as part of national industrial policy formulation;

(d) Strengthen subregional and regional integration through implementation of CFTA to enable the harmonization of industrial and other strategies and to open markets for African enterprises;

(e) Ensure coordination of different structures and institutions involved in industrial development at the national, subregional and regional levels, such as those dealing with mining, energy and finance, in order to enhance effectiveness in formulating and implementing industrial policies;

(f) Ensure multi-stakeholder involvement and contribution to the industrialization process, in particular the private sector;

(g) Take concrete measures to increase energy sources in order to boost productivity and competitiveness;

(h) Develop statistical capacity and infrastructure to produce comprehensive, reliable and comparable data for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation;

(i) Develop curricula that focus on education, training and skills development in line with each country's specific needs and requirements;

(j) AUC to sensitize member States on existing continental frameworks and roadmaps for industrialization;

(k) ECA and AUC to provide assistance to member States in the design and implementation of industrial strategies that were consistent with existing regional policy frameworks, such as AIDA;

(l) ECA to undertake a study on the role of women in the industrialization process;

(m) AfDB and other development finance institutions at the national, subregional and regional level to provide support in mobilizing resources for national and regional industrial projects;

(n) African countries should make financing of industrialization a key priority in their planning and development, including allocating adequate resources and creating an enabling environment for domestic resource mobilization;

(o) AfDB and other national and subregional development finance institutions were invited to assist in raising financing for national and regional industrial projects and for transport, energy and communication facilities.

Implementing the Rio+20 outcomes in Africa [agenda item 8]

50. Under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat made a presentation on progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The objective of the presentation was to seek endorsement and guidance on the effective implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes in Africa. The Rio+20 outcome document entitled “The future we want”, largely addressed and reflected Africa’s concerns, interests and priorities, as articulated in the African Consensus Statement to the Conference adopted at the regional preparatory meeting in October 2011. Africa should continue to act strategically and capitalize on the political momentum for sustainable development that Rio+20 had generated, in order to ensure that the conference outcomes were translated into concrete programmes of action to accelerate progress towards sustainable development in the region.

51. The presentation drew attention to the November 2012 Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM), jointly organized by the ECA, AUC, AfDB and UN-DESA. The Africa-RIM focused specifically on the implications of the Rio+20 outcomes for Africa. The outcomes of the Africa-RIM constituted Africa’s collective input to the post-Rio+20 follow-up process, and provided a framework for Africa’s engagement in the global processes and implementation of Rio+20 outcomes. It was within this context that ministries responsible for planning, economy and finance were urged to actively engage in the implementation of the Africa-RIM outcomes. Implementation of the Africa-RIM outcomes would require taking into consideration a number of issues or questions, including: the adequacy of the principles and priorities identified in the outcome document; determining how the SDGs could be universal in nature, while also taking into account regional specificities; and key constraints and challenges in achieving sustainable development.

52. The Committee underscored the importance of Rio+20 and the sustainable development agenda as key enablers of Africa’s development as they highlight issues of key concern to the continent. Notable among these is the protection and sustainable exploitation of Africa’s natural resources. In this regard, the meeting discussed the importance of national capital accounting and labour market statistics in support of Africa’s sustainable development agenda. The need for parliamentary oversight over natural resource transactions to ensure transparency and accountability was also emphasized by the meeting. The Committee further underscored the need to use

indigenous knowledge as a means of addressing common environmental problems and sustaining Africa's natural capital.

53. The following recommendations emerged from the discussions:

(a) Member States were invited to take the the African Mining Vision and the Land Policy Initiative into account in their efforts to harness natural resources;

(b) The Committee recommended that Ministers responsible for finance, planning and economy should take the lead in implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes, including incorporating them into national development policies, strategies and plans;

(c) Member States were invited to facilitate the establishment or strengthening of coordination mechanisms at national and sub-national levels as well as the design of the institutional framework for sustainable development at the global, regional and subregional levels;

(d) The meeting also recommended that there should be coherence and synergy between ECA, AUC and AfDB, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes in Africa, including through the urgent preparation of a Regional Action Plan.

(e) Parliaments were invited to provide oversight for the exploitation of natural resources, to ensure that all exploitation contracts included provisions that would benefit the local population, generate wealth, and protect the environment;

(f) Member States were invited to carefully consider the potential contribution of local and indigenous knowledge and technology in the ongoing consultations on the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, including for the harnessing of natural resources;

(g) Member States were invited to ensure that natural resource and social capital accounting would be part of the discussions in the context of the programme of work on measuring progress to complement GDP, called for by Rio+20;

(h) Member States, AUC and RECs were invited to harmonize policies for the exploitation of natural resources, particularly for transboundary resources; and

(i) Member States were invited to report labour-market statistics on a quarterly rather than annual basis.

Presentation of Statutory Issues [agenda item 9]

A. ECA Statutory Issues

(a) *Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action*

54. Under this agenda item, the secretariat presented a review of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which was the fourth global specific programme (2011-2021) for LDCs. The messages arising from the presentation included: (i) African LDCs experienced improved performance as measured by Gross National Income per capita, Economic Vulnerability and Human Asset indices; (ii) LDC exports were more diversified, signalling reduced exposure to economic shocks; (iii) LDCs were still largely dependent on primary commodities and extractive industries despite improvements; (iv) despite improvements in

economic structure, African LDCs were experiencing increased instability in agricultural production and a rise in the number of victims of natural disasters; (v) enrolment and gender parity had improved at primary school level but less so at tertiary levels; and (vi) under-five child mortality had declined significantly but access to safe water and sanitation remained limited.

55. Regarding countries eligibility for graduation, the Secretariat pointed out that two African countries were eligible. In this connection the Secretariat highlighted that Equatorial Guinea has met the graduation criteria for the second time in a row hence eligible for graduation, while Angola has met the criteria once.

56. The Secretariat concluded its presentation with some policy recommendations addressed to both LDCs and the international community, notably:

(a) A call for an increase in ODA allocations to productive sectors including infrastructure to promote economic resilience to shocks;

(b) LDCs and development partners support the manufacturing sector to promote value addition and economic diversification;

(c) LDCs gain increased access to climate financing to strengthen their resilience to disasters and climate related shocks;

(d) LDCs, with the support of development partners, invest in improving availability and quality of social services; and

(e) LDCs are urged to use regional integration and cooperation as strategies to expand trade and create jobs.

57. In the discussion that followed, the Committee commended ECA for the presentation and called for the institutionalization of the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for LDCs at the Conference. In addition to the recommendations of the Secretariat, the Committee recommended that ECA and AUC should institutionalize the review on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, devote more time to this review, organize discussions on a theme and ensure an adequate representation of LDCs at the joint annual conference.

(b) New ECA strategic directions

58. The Secretariat made a presentation to the Committee on the New Strategic Direction of ECA to support the transformative development agenda of Africa. The presentation recalled earlier reform exercises carried by the ECA to reposition itself. Among others, the presentation pointed to the remarkable transformations that have occurred in the global environment, including the new phase of globalisation and the fundamental shifts in global economic power, which have seen the emergence of many countries of the global South as new centres of economic powers. These global transformations have coincided with remarkable changes on the African continent itself, including its status as one of the regions with the highest economic growth rates in the world. This has been accompanied by commendable improvements in governance, facilitated by the emergence of a range of national and regional institutional mechanisms and norms, alongside significant reductions in conflict across much of the continent.

59. Against the background of these global and regional transformations, the ECA has had to reposition itself in a manner that would enable it to better support the continent's transformative

development agenda. The meeting was briefed on the extensive consultative processes that have accompanied the ECA's repositioning exercise, including the engagement of all the major stakeholders of the organisation – African heads of state and government, Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning, African Ambassadors, multilateral and bilateral partners, and more importantly, the staff of the ECA. The meeting was presented with the key elements of the ECA recalibration, which consist of a refocusing of its work programme and shift in its working and delivery methods.

60. In the discussions that followed, experts expressed their strong support for the reform initiative that the ECA has embarked on. In particular, the meeting lauded the ECA's prioritization of the generation of data (statistics) on various social and economic aspects of Africa's development agenda, as this was recognised as the only way that the continent would be able to control the narrative of its realities. Similarly, participants recognized the centrality of capacity building on the continent, in light of the continent's capacity gaps that are a real challenge to the implementation of policy proposals and the realization of development goals.

61. The meeting recommended that an assessment should be made on the progress that the continent has made in its integration efforts, with a view to identifying the gaps in the process and establishing strategic plans with clear targets and timelines including mechanisms to monitor achievements. Importantly also, it was recommended that the ongoing discussions on the transformation of ECA should be broadened, in a manner that will provide opportunities for African peoples, through civil society, to contribute to the reform and transformation agenda

(c) Update on the Statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

62. The Secretariat made a presentation on the changes, mainly comprising updates and edits, introduced in the Statutes of IDEP by its Governing Council following a thorough review. The Secretariat pointed out that the updates on the Statutes were informed by (i) the ongoing reform in ECA, which has positioned IDEP as the sole training hub of the Commission, (ii) the mandates received by the Governing Council from the Annual Conference of African Ministers for a strategic repositioning of the Institute; (iii) the deepening of the training collaboration between IDEP and several departments of the AUC; and (iv) the need to align the Statutes of IDEP with the actual workings and functioning of the Institute.

63. In its presentation, the Secretariat provided an overview of the changes introduced in the Statutes, which have affected the following articles (i) Article I – Purpose and functions of the Institute – paragraph 1.a; (ii) Article I – Purpose and functions of the Institute – paragraph 1.b; (iii) Article III – Status and organization of the Institute – paragraph 2; (iv) Article 4 – The Governing Council - paragraph 2; (v) Article 4 – The Governing Council - paragraph 4.a; (vi) Article 4 – The Governing Council -, paragraph 7.

64. In the context of the updated Statues, the secretariat also noted that the IDEP Governing Council had endorsed a proposal for the Chairperson of AUC to appoint a member of the Commission at the level of a commissioner to become a member of the Governing Council, while the Director of Economic Affairs should become a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of IDEP.

65. In the ensuing discussion, the Committee welcomed and endorsed the updates introduced into the Statues of IDEP. The Committee sought clarification on the types of resources available to support the work of the Institute which at present is funded by the UN Secretariat, the ECA, the

member States, and some partners. The Committee further sought clarification on the accreditation and collaboration procedures adopted by the Institute when training sessions are organized outside of IDEP's headquarters of Dakar. The importance of developing targeted, tailor-made trainings was also stressed during the rich debate. Equally, the Committee further stressed the need to focus on capacity building and technical assistance in support of member States in the context of ECA's ongoing restructuring and refocusing.

66. The Secretariat welcomed the observations made by the Committee and explained the current modalities of the Institute details of which are included in its Annual Management Reports, the procedures for accreditation which it is building for courses organized outside of its headquarters, and the partnerships it has already forged or is negotiating with African universities and think tanks such as the University of Johannesburg, the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, the University of Nairobi, the University of Ibadan, Universite Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, the University of Yaounde II, the University of Casablanca, etc. The Secretariat also noted that tailor-made training has grown in the IDEP portfolio of activities as one of the most important modalities for delivering its courses. The Institute training mandate has been further reinforced and boosted by the transfer of all ECA training activities and associated workshops to IDEP as part of the ongoing restructuring of the Commission.

67. Most participants commended the efforts of IDEP in responding to the training needs of member States and called for more resources to be made available to the Institute in order to expand its capacity to offer training at the highest level of quality and relevance. The AUC expressed its satisfaction with its growing collaboration with IDEP which it observed spans several domains such as regional integration, gender, and social policy, and encouraged member States to extend robust support to the Institute as it strives to respond to their expressed needs. Member States further encouraged IDEP to expand its database of African experts who could be called upon as resource persons for its training activities, a recommendation to which the Secretariat responded positively by informing participants of the availability on its website of an application that allows experts to register themselves on its database. The delegation from South Africa registered its appreciation of the work which IDEP has been carrying out in its country, and informed delegates that it was actively pursuing the payment of its financial contribution to the Institute. The delegation from Guinea similarly announced an impending series of training activities to be hosted in Guinea by IDEP for the benefit of Guinean planning officials. The Committee welcomed the collaboration which IDEP had established with various African universities and related institutions in the decentralized delivery of its training programmes.

(d) ECA Annual Report, Revised Strategic Framework for 2014-2015 and Programme Budget for 2014-2015

68. Under this agenda item, the secretariat presented the ECA Annual Report (E/ECA/COE/32/5), the Revised Strategic Framework for 2014-2015 and the Proposed Programme Budget for 2014-2015.

69. The presentation of the annual report highlighted the main achievements during the period between April 2012 and March 2013. The presentation focused on major achievements and impact of ECA under the following ten substantive subprogrammes: macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development; food security and sustainable development; governance and public administration; information and science and technology for development; regional integration, infrastructure and trade; gender and women in development; subregional activities for development; development planning and administration; statistics; and social development.

70. The Committee's attention was drawn to several achievements consisting of important meetings and conferences, and key flagship publications. With regard to meetings and conferences, the Secretariat mentioned the 8th African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) on "Harnessing and governance of Natural resources for Africa's Development"; the 2nd Annual Conference Climate Change and Development in Africa and Africa Regional Implementation meeting for the 20th UN Commission on sustainable development and meetings of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows. Regarding publications, the Secretariat drew the attention of the Committee on: the Economic Report on Africa (ERA) 2012: Theme: Unleashing Africa's potential as a pole of global growth; the 2012 Africa MDGs report; the 4th Sustainable Development Report on Africa; the 3rd African Governance Report (AGR III): Elections and the management of diversity in Africa and; the 5th report of Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA V). During the period under review, subregional activities for development consisted in increasing capacity of and technical services to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and member States in the areas of youth employment, gender equality, statistics, social development and regional integration. Equally, IDEP expanded its training programmes and developed e-learning platforms.

71. Regarding the Revised Strategic Framework for 2014-2015, the Secretariat pointed out that although a Strategic Framework had been endorsed during the last ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, organized in March 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a number of important developments at the global and regional levels have necessitated a revision of the ECA Strategic Framework for the biennium 2014-2015. Key among these are the outcomes of the Rio+20; the consultations on a post-2015 development agenda; and the Decision of AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 20th ordinary summit (Assembly/AU/Dec.450 (XX)) in January 2013, which endorsed the refocusing of ECA to support the transformation agenda of Africa.

72. These developments led ECA to retool itself and recalibrate its programmes to: (i) take a frontline role in generating necessary original data and knowledge; (ii) ground its policy research and advocacy on clear and objective evidence; and (iii) promote policy consensus and offer meaningful capacity development, and advisory services in key thematic fields. The Secretariat highlighted the new structure of ECA's Strategic Framework, which includes the following subprogrammes: macroeconomic policy; regional integration and trade; innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources; statistics; capacity development; gender and women in development; subregional activities for development; development planning and administration; and social development policy.

73. Following the presentation of the Revised Strategic Framework for 2014-2015, the Secretariat informed the Committee that in the context of the Programme Budget for 2014-2015 new programmes and activities have been designed which are aligned the revised Strategic Framework.

74. In the discussion that followed, the Committee endorsed the revised ECA's Strategic Framework and the accompanying Proposed Programme Budget for 2014-2015 and welcomed the focus on statistics. The Committee called for strengthened synergies between ECA's activities and those of AUC and ADB. The Committee also pointed to the need for ECA reform that was more inclusive in its approach both within and outside ECA.

B. AUC Statutory Issues

75. The secretariat presented the statutory issues of the African Union, including: (a) Report on the establishment of a Pan-African Stock Exchange; (b) Draft statutes of the African Monetary

Fund; (c) Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa; (d) Alternative Sources of Funding the African Union; (e) Update on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation; and f) Report of the fifth African Private Sector Forum.

76. The secretariat informed the meeting that an independent experts' Workshop was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2012 to validate the draft interim report of a technical study on the establishment of a Pan-African Stock Exchange. The Workshop had recommended some necessary steps to be undertaken including obtaining a commitment of a regional group to establish a regional market and setting up working parties for the various stakeholders, among others.

77. On the draft statutes of the African Monetary Fund (AMF), the secretariat reported that a meeting of experts from selected member States had been organized in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in October 2012 to discuss the statutes of the AMF. The said meeting had agreed on all articles of the statutes with reservations from some member States on Article 7, Section 1, on authorized share capital, callable capital and paid-up capital. The revised statutes were being presented for recommendation to the Conference of Ministers for endorsement.

78. The secretariat presented the status of implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA). The presenter noted that so far, 27 African countries had signed but only eight had ratified the Charter. He highlighted the importance of fast-tracking the signing and ratification of the Charter by countries for its entry into force. He also mentioned the progress made by the various statistical working groups under SHaSA. He highlighted the importance of civil registration and vital statistics system and commended the decision by the Heads of State and Government to institutionalize the biennial meeting of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of civil registration. He concluded his presentation by calling on countries to allocate adequate resources to support the work of the various working groups under SHaSA.

79. The Guinean delegation drew attention to the work done by the pilot group on innovative financing, which was at the core of development, within the framework of the post-2015 agenda. In addition, the Guinean representative informed participants about a meeting on innovative financing to be held from 3 to 5 July 2013 at Conakry, and invited African countries, international organizations, private sector partners and civil society to participate actively in this important event.

80. The secretariat reported that the fifth African Private Sector Forum was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 5 to 8 November 2012 under the theme, "*The role of the private sector in promoting investment and agro-industry in Africa*".

81. Referring to Decision 465 of the 20th AU Summit, the representative of the Government of Guinea presented the measures and arrangements planned for operationalizing the triangular coalition and South-South cooperation in support of the post-2015 agenda. He informed the meeting that South-South cooperation would support Africa's regional integration, and implementation of the Istanbul Plan of Action, which was an appropriate framework for mobilizing new development finance sources. He underlined that a regional capacity development project was under preparation by the Guinean Government with the support of AU and ECA. The Committee commended the work done for establishment of the coalition. Nevertheless, it requested that the report prepared by the working group should be translated into the working languages of the Union and be submitted at the extraordinary meeting of the Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance and Planning to be held in May 2013 alongside the 21st Summit of the African Union.

82. In the discussions that followed, the Committee of Experts commended the work accomplished on the establishment of the Pan-African Stock Exchange. Nevertheless, the Committee requested that the translated study report be made available to all member States to allow them to make concrete contributions.

83. On the AMF statutes, the meeting noted that additional work was required, particularly on defining the minimum start-up capital required for the Fund to be operational and sustainability subsequent to its establishment. The meeting urged AUC to undertake an analysis to assess the impact of the Eurozone crisis and the response of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in relation to the objective of the AMF. Further, it was requested that the statutes be sent to all member States to provide political space for national consultations on the document. In this regard, it was agreed that an extraordinary session of the AU Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance would be necessary to finalize and adopt the statutes.

84. The Committee of Experts took note of the report and requested countries that had not signed and ratified the Charter to take the necessary steps to do so and also requested AUC to continue to play the lead role in coordination and implementation of SHaSA with the support of AfDB, ECA and other partners, in order to produce quality, harmonized data to inform the African integration agenda.

85. On Alternative Sources of Funding the African Union, the meeting was updated on the progress on the study. It requested AUC to finalize the study as per the July 2012 Decision to undertake a comprehensive study of all options, to provide quantifiable data on the expected impact on all member States.

86. The Committee of Experts noted the update and proposals on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the report of the fifth African Private Sector Forum.

87. The Committee of Experts welcomed the efforts of the Government of Guinea to establish South-South cooperation and a triangular coalition in support of Africa post-2015. However, it requested that the document be submitted to all delegations for discussion prior to consideration by the Ministerial Conference.

88. The Committee of Experts made the following recommendations:

(a) An extraordinary session of the AU Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance should be organized before the AU Summit in May 2013 to consider the technical study report of the establishment of a Pan-African Stock Exchange, the statute of the African Monetary Fund and the study on Alternative Sources of Funding the African Union South-South cooperation and the triangular coalition in support of Africa post-2015;

(b) AUC should make the report on the eurozone crisis available; and Member States should provide their remarks and comments on the AMF statutes not later than 15 April, 2013 to AUC.

Any Other Business [agenda item 10]

89. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Report of the Committee of Experts and the Draft Resolutions [agenda item 11]

90. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the draft report of its meeting (as contained in document E/ECA/COE/32/L, AU/CAMEF/EXP/Draft/Rpt(VII)) together with the six draft resolutions for consideration and adoption by the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Several delegations made comments and observations and proposed amendments to the report as well as the draft resolutions. After extensive discussions on some of the resolutions, the Committee unanimously adopted the report, including the draft resolutions as amended. The six draft resolutions amended by the Committee are attached to this report for consideration and adoption by the sixth Joint AU and ECA Conference of Ministers.

Closure of the Meeting [agenda item 12]

91. Closing remarks were made by the AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba; Mr. Abdallah Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; and Prof. Lambert N'Galadjo, Chairperson of the Committee of Experts.

92. In his closing remarks, Dr. Mkwezalamba thanked the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the meeting. He commended all the participants for their hard work and contribution to the discussions during the meeting. He highlighted some of the issues on the agenda of the meeting and the major recommendations made. In particular, he noted that the draft African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to be adopted by the Conference of Ministers would help to define Africa's priorities and goals on the new development agenda, to ensure Africa's interests. The Common Position would be transmitted to the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government for their adoption in May 2013. Dr. Mkwezalamba informed the meeting that this would be the last meeting he would be attending as Commissioner for Economic Affairs as his tenure had come to an end. He, therefore, expressed his deepest gratitude to the Committee for the support he received during his tenure and wished the Committee well in its future endeavours.

93. In his closing remarks, Mr. Hamdok expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting this important meeting and the warm hospitality shown to all delegations. He thanked all distinguished delegates for their active participation. He congratulated the new Bureau on their election and thanked all the participants for their useful contribution to the discussion. He highlighted some of the main issues discussed by the Committee of Experts and said he was sure that the recommendations adopted by the meeting would inform critical decisions to be taken by the Ministers. He observed that the Conference had taken place at a time when Africa was on the rise and its image positively defined. He affirmed that these positive changes would continue to inform the ECA work programme in this regard. He thanked the Committee of Experts for the support to the ongoing reforms being undertaken by the secretariat and the Chairperson of the Committee of Experts for an excellent job in moderating the various sessions. He also paid tribute to Dr. Mkwezalamba for his work over the past eight years as AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs.

94. In his closing remarks, the Chairperson of the Committee of Experts, Prof. Lambert N'Galadjo Bamba, thanked all the participants for their cooperation and hard work. He said that the recommendations which had been adopted would help put industrialization at the centre of the African development agenda. The Chairperson of the Bureau also expressed his deepest gratitude to the staff of AUC and ECA for their hard work, particularly in producing the report of the meeting

under tight deadlines, in four languages. He further expressed gratitude to interpreters and translators, the staff of the hotel, and all those who had made the meeting of the Committee a success.

95. He then declared the meeting closed.

RESOLUTIONS

907 (XLVI) Industrialization for an Emerging Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Acknowledging that Africa's recent strong economic performance, its vast untapped human and natural resource endowments and the dynamic changes that characterized the global economic structures, powers and markets over the past decade create real opportunities as well as challenges for the continent to promote industrialization and foster sustainable and shared growth, and inclusive economic transformation, create jobs and reduce poverty,

Further acknowledging the endorsement of the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development Action for Africa (AIDA) and the African Mining Vision (AMV) by the African Heads of States within the AU Summit in 2007 and 2009 respectively as continental frameworks for industrial development for enhancing economic diversification, value addition and harnessing mineral resources for sustainable development inter alia,

Recognizing that in order to industrialize and transform its economies, Africa needs to effectively implement policy actions at national, regional and continental levels, including coordinated effective long-term development plans and industrial strategies to address constraints and harness emerging opportunities from increased South-South cooperation and other development partners for Africa's economic and social development,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on formulating a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from least developed country status:

1. *Calls on* African Governments to adopt and implement a coherent industrial policy in order to speed up and deepen value addition of local production, linkages between the commodity sector and other economic sectors to allocate resources within the national budget for industrial development;

2. *Urges* African Governments to create appropriate inclusive and transparent institutional industrial-policy mechanisms to develop prioritized country-specific, industrial-policy roadmaps for value addition in close collaboration with stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, research and innovation institutions;

3. *Also urges* African Governments to develop appropriate policies that focus on adding value locally, fostering local participation in the value chain, removing red tape and streamlining regulations, as well as securing technical and financial assistance for developing linkages;

4. *Further urges* African Governments to adopt appropriate strategies to link indigenous firms to regional and global supply chains, including customized supply-chain development programmes for these firms to remain competitive;

5. *Urges* African governments and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to negotiate regional trade arrangements and foster intra-African trade including fast-tracking implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area agreement and regional trade arrangements to

improve regional infrastructure, harmonize customs procedures and measures to address tariff and non-tariff barriers;

6. *Encourages* African countries to address tariffs and non-tariffs barriers, infrastructure constraints and bottlenecks including cross-border infrastructure as well as feeder roads linking agricultural producers to processing centers and use commodity access to secure favorable infrastructure financing besides leveraging public–private partnerships for infrastructure provision;

7. *Calls on* African countries to improve policy coherence and implementation through coordination among ministries and other stakeholders, including the private sector in line with AIDA and AMV;

8. *Also calls on* African countries to improve coordination at regional and continental levels, and closely align national industrial development frameworks with the priorities of the accelerated industrial development of Africa Action Plan while working together to develop a united vision on how to influence the global economic agenda and help shape the outcomes of globalization for the benefit of Africans;

9. *Further calls on* African countries to allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) and other regional initiatives on industrialization;

10. *Requests* the AUC and UNECA to undertake a study and recommend the appropriate strategies and mechanisms to encourage and support homegrown high-tech technologies, indigenous knowledge, and knowledge-based innovation including the establishment of regional technology centres in each Regional Economic Community;

11. *Further calls* on the ECA and AUC to develop a coherent approach that will assist African countries to build capabilities and effectively pursue industrialization based on their comparative advantage; and

12. *Requests* that ECA in collaboration with the Office of the High Level Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to assist LDCs and LLDCs develop Industrial policies as a basis for resource-based industrialization and economic diversification.

908 (XLVI) Refocusing and recalibrating the Economic Commission for Africa to support Africa's structural transformation

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Decision of AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government (Assembly/AU/Dec.450 (XX)), which endorses the strategic reorientation and refocusing of ECA to support accelerated structural transformation of Africa,

Further Recalling the terms of reference of the Commission as adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 671A (XXV) of 29 April 1958 and amended by its resolutions 974 D.1 (XXXVI) of 5 July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Cognisant of General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 which call for the role of the regional commissions to be strengthened,

Further cognisant of General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/288, the Outcome Statement of Rio+20, which invites the UN regional commissions and other regional organizations to support developing countries to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction as well as promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,

Taking Note of General Assembly resolution 67/266 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, which mandates the regional commission to undertake operational activities for development at the national, sub-regional and regional levels,

Noting with appreciation the consultative process being undertaken in the African region on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and stresses that the priorities of the agenda include among others structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; innovation and technology; gender equality, and human development,

Welcoming efforts of African countries to embark on broad structural transformation and achieve middle-income status, which is anchored on the promotion of good governance, sound macro-economic policy-making and management, better planning of the economy, effective management of natural resources and climate change, harnessing the potential of its demographic dividend, boosting domestic resources mobilization, achieving gender equality, and investments in physical infrastructure and human capital,

Taking note of the paper by the Executive Secretary entitled ECA new strategic directions for the transformative development of Africa (E/ECA/COE/32/10); the Revised Strategic Framework/Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014-2015 (E/ECA/COE/32/15); the Proposed Programme Budget for the period 2014-2015 (E/ECA/COE/32/12) and Statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (E/ECA/COE/32/14),

1. *Calls on* ECA to enhance its capabilities with regard to evidence-based policy research, generating high quality and real time data and statistics, and providing enhanced advisory services, and capacity development to member States;

2. *Mandates* the Executive Secretary to realign the programmes and priorities of the ECA to the new strategic orientation with a view to support the transformative development agenda of the Africa Union;

3. *Endorses* the revised Strategic Framework and related Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2014-2015;

4. *Also Endorses* the updated statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) as the specialist training institution responsible for economic policy design and management, and development planning, monitoring, and evaluation; and Requests the Executive Secretary of the ECA to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations towards the issuance of the appropriate administrative advice to ensure its effective implementation;

5. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide required support to ECA to enhance its work in accordance with Africa's priorities and in line with the Decision of the African Union Heads of State and Government.

909 (XLVI) Realizing and Harnessing Demographic Dividend in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that Africa's demographic dividend represents an opportunity for the continent to experience broad-based social development and accelerated economic growth as a result of population changes more conducive to stimulating economic growth with significant impact in reducing poverty,

Noting that for Africa to realize and capitalize on its demographic dividend, it is essential to increase and sustain investment in women and youth, especially education for girls, maternal new born and child health and meeting unmet needs of women for comprehensive reproductive health services including family planning,

Further noting with appreciation the ongoing work in this area by the AUC and ECA with the support of UNFPA, AfDB, and other partners such as USAID, Gates Foundation, and Packard Foundation among others,

Convinced that to realize gains from Africa's demographic dividend, greater efforts are required to improve governance, transparency and accountability,

1. *Commits to:*

- Ensure effective integration of job creating, social, demographic and health factors into broader development strategies and policies especially in the formulation of medium-term strategic plans;
- Harnessing its demographic dividend to build its comparative and competitive advantage through appropriate human development strategies;
- Ensure equitable, sustained and effective investments in the health and education sectors, as well as in science and technology;
- Increase investments in maternal newborn and child health especially comprehensive reproductive health services, enhancing nutrition security and promoting health care of older population;
- Integrate new entrants to the labour market and the working poor into the formal economy through labour policies that create full and productive employment and decent work opportunities for all especially youth facilitating equitable social protection systems for all;
- Strengthen Accountability mechanisms that rally all relevant development partners, build on empowering people and enhancing their effective participation in society.

2. *Requests* ECA and AUC to develop a Continental Demographic Dividend Initiative that will allow the African continent to accelerate economic development and contribute to the African renaissance;

3. *Invites* multilateral agencies, bilateral partners, foundations, think tanks, NGOs, research institutions, universities to work with AUC, ECA and AfDB to provide technical assistance, expertise and financial resources to enable member States to act to realize and capture the benefits of their demographic dividends;

4. *Requests* the AUC to bring the Continental Demographic Dividend Initiative and the contents of this resolution to the attention of the AU Conferences of Ministers of Health, Ministers of Social Development, Ministers of Industry, Ministers of Education and Ministers of Youth Development; and

5. *Also requests* the AUC to establish a research fund to facilitate research activities on the demographic dividend in Africa, with support from member States and development partners.

910 (XLVI) African common position on the post 2015 development agenda

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the progress being made by the continent towards attaining the MDG targets and conscious of the challenges that still remain in efforts to attain all the MDGs by 2015,

Recalling the decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union requesting the AUC in collaboration with ECA and AfDB, to submit to the Assembly annual status reports and related statistics on Africa's progress towards the Goals,

Cognizant of the limited role that was played by African stakeholders in shaping the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs,

Recalling the Decision of the African Union Heads of State and Government in July 2012 which requested the AUC, AfDB, and UNDP to deepen consultations on the post 2015 development agenda with the objective of identifying African priorities,

1. *Takes note of* the draft report on the Progress in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa 2013 and recommends its adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in May 2013;
2. *Calls upon* countries to allocate adequate resources to fast track MDGs;
3. *Takes note of* the draft African Common Position which reflects Africa's priorities for the post 2015 development agenda;
4. *Calls upon* the AUC, ECA, AfDB, and UNDP to establish an African technical working group to translate Africa's priorities for the post 2015 development agenda into concrete goals targets and to feed them into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process and the post 2015 global agenda;
5. *Further calls* upon all African countries and RECs to own, support, advocate and create alliances on the African common position to enable Africa to speak with one voice on the global discussion to chart the post 2015 development agenda.

911 (XLVI) Statistics and Statistical Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Reiterating the importance of statistical information for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and policies and for fostering Africa's economic and political integration,

Noting the progress made by the ECA, AUC, and AfDB in developing and implementing continental frameworks, strategies, initiatives such as the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, and the continental gender statistics programme aimed at supporting the African integration agenda,

Recognizing that despite the progress made to date, there is still a lot to be done to bring the statistical development of this continent to the level that will effectively help it support and own its development narrative,

Welcoming the central role devoted to statistics within the repositioned ECA in its quest to generate research, policy knowledge and consensus, and to offer capacity development and advisory services in different thematic areas contributing to the development agenda of African countries,

Also welcoming the decision of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on the Creation of the African Union Institute for Statistics,

Further welcoming the offer by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to host the African Statistical Training Centre when established,

1. *Commends* countries which have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics, and calls on those which have not done so to sign and ratify it as expeditiously as possible;
2. *Resolves* to allocate adequate resources for the production and use of statistics in line with the principles of the African Charter on Statistics;
3. *Requests* the AUC, AfDB, ECA, UNDP to create a working group for the development of indicators for the post 2015 development agenda based on the priorities identified under the African common position and to come up with a draft list of indicators by the end of 2013;
4. *Calls upon* the AUC, ECA and AfDB to devote the next meeting of Director Generals of National Statistical Offices to promote the production and use of detailed economic statistics including natural capital accounts, with a view to adequately supporting the transformation of African economies;
5. *Urges* the ECA, AUC and AfDB to prepare a five-year strategic plan for the Pan African Statistical Training Center to be submitted to the meeting of Director Generals of African National Statistical Offices by November 2013;

6. *Requests* the AUC, AfDB, ECA, and RECs to prepare a strategic plan for the operationalization of the African Union Institute for Statistics and to organize an expert group meeting with the view to defining ways and means for its implementation as per the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union;

7. *Calls on* national statistical institutes to establish coordination units within their establishments to ensure regular gathering of statistical data, based on harmonized instruments developed by SHASA STG1;

8. *Requests that* the capacity of the statistics division of the AUC should be built to enable it to coordinate its statistics production strategy on governance, peace and security; and

9. *Urges* UNDP, AfDB, ECA, the African Governance Institute and other development partners to continue to support the efforts of AUC to implement the SHASA STG1 action plan.

912 (XLVI) Extraordinary African Union Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance

The Conference of Ministers,

1. *Takes note of* the Report of the Experts' Meeting for the Validation of the Statutes and Annexes of the African Monetary Fund (AMF), the Report of the Experts' Workshop for the validation of the Draft Interim Report of the Technical Study on the establishment of a Pan African Stock Exchange, and the progress report on Alternative Sources of funding the African Union (AU);

2. *Requests* the African Union Commission to transmit the revised Statutes of the AMF, the Draft Report of the Technical Study on the establishment of a Pan African Stock Exchange, and the revised study on Alternative Sources of Funding the AU. Member States should provide their comment to the AUC not later than end of June 2013;

3. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission to convene an extraordinary AU Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF) on October/November 2013 to consider the revised Statutes of the AMF, the Draft Report of the Technical Study on the establishment of a Pan African Stock Exchange, and the revised study on Alternative Sources of funding the AU and South-South and triangular coalition in support of Africa post-2015;

4. *Invites* all African Union Member States to participate at this extraordinary Conference;

5. *Requests* that adequate financial resources be committed towards the successful convening of the Conference.