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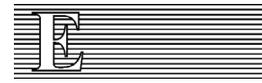
Forty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa



**AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION**

*First session of the Conference of
African Union Commission
Specialized Technical Committee on
Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic
Planning and Integration*

**Eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union
Specialized Technical Committee on Finance,
Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and
Integration and the Economic Commission
for Africa Conference of African Ministers of
Finance, Planning and Economic Development**



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**Proceedings of the Eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union
Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs,
Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission
for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and
Economic Development**

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Introduction

1. The eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development were held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 March 2015, under the theme: “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development”.

2. Agenda 2063 was adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa in January 2015. The Agenda represents a new vision for Africa, setting out priority areas for the continent’s development over the next 50 years. It takes into account such national, regional and continental frameworks as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Minimum Integration Programme, along with Africa’s own development experience, as guided by the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Strategy and the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community.

3. The aim of the Joint Annual Meetings was to exchange views on ways of deepening public awareness and knowledge of Agenda 2063 and of mobilizing and strengthening commitment in support of Agenda 2063; to identify practical ways in which the first 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 could be funded; to outline the roles of different actors in the implementation of Agenda 2063, including the financing of the first 10-year plan and domestication of the Agenda in national and regional

plans and frameworks; and to identify and consider how to strengthen appropriate partnerships for the financing and implementation of Agenda 2063 and the first 10-year plan. The discussions and the resulting recommendations were articulated around key issues related to Agenda 2063 in general and its first 10-year implementation plan in particular, including implementation arrangements and capacities; integration in national and regional development plans; monitoring and evaluation; financing strategies; stakeholder participation; partnerships; and communication and outreach.

4. The Meetings were structured into four plenary sessions: the first on implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development; the second on the domestication of Agenda 2063: regional and national dimensions of the first 10-year plan; the third on financing Agenda 2063: strategies for domestic resource mobilization and partnerships; and the fourth on financing for development: Africa’s perspective.

5. The present report comprises eight sections, corresponding to the items of the agenda. The opening of the Meetings, including the attendance and a summary of the opening statements, is covered in section I; section II presents the outcome of the election of the bureau and the adoption of agenda and programme of work for the Meetings; and the proceedings themselves are set out in sections III–VIII.

6. The Ministerial Statement and resolutions approved at the Meetings are appended to the present report in annexes I and II, respectively. The report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts is appended to the report as annex III.

I. Opening of the Meetings [agenda item 1]

A. Attendance

7. The eighth Joint Annual Meetings were attended by representatives of the following member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

8. The following regional economic communities were represented: Central African Economic and Monetary Community, Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States, East African Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Southern African Development Community.

9. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Office to the African Union,

United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

10. The following Member States of the United Nations were represented: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

11. Also present were the African Development Bank, the Central Bank of West African States, the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank, the New Partnership for Africa's Development Business Foundation, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

12. Observers were present from the following organizations: Action Aid, Action Aid International, Action Jeunesse pour le Développement, African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development, African Leadership Forum, African Monitor, Association of African Universities, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, British Broadcasting Corporation, Capacity and Development Services, Center for Democratic Development, Indian Ocean Commission, Community Emergency Response Initiative, Development Initiatives-Africa Hub, Development Research and Training, European Union, Fikir Leselam Development Organization, Freann Financial Services Limited, Geological Society of Africa, GK Kanki Foundation, Global Education, African Capacity-Building Foundation, Global Fund, Information Network Security Agency, Institute for Conscious Global Change, Institute of Development Studies, Integrated Seed Sector Development, International Organization for Migration, International Trade Union Confederation, League of Arab States, MED Confederation, Mzalendo Trust, Nurses Across the Borders Africa and Asia, Ohaha Family Foundation, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, International Organization of la Francophonie, Overseas Development Institute, Oxfam International, RMA Capital, One Campaign, Plan International, Save the Children, Statistics South Africa, National Bureau of Statistics, Third World Network, Transparency International Cameroon, Uganda Women Network, Afri-

can Monitor, United States Agency for International Development, University of Cape Town, University of Münster, University of Oxford, University of Waterloo, West African Economic and Monetary Union, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, World Vision International, World Wide Fund for Nature, World Wide Web Foundation.

B. Opening statements

13. The eighth Joint Annual Meetings were opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 31 March 2015, by Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, who delivered the keynote address on the theme of the Meetings. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Mactor Ould Diay, First Vice-Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the Conference of Ministers and Minister of Finance of Mauritania, Mr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Mr. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda. The opening session was moderated by Ms. Zeinab Badawi, a BBC journalist.

14. Mr. Ould Diay said that the key determinants of the successful implementation of Agenda 2063 were the readiness of member States to integrate the Agenda into national development plans, the availability of financial resources, and the human and institutional capacity of member States. Ensuring synergy and alignment between continental and national plans was crucial. Africa would not prosper unless the needs and aspirations of its peoples were taken into account in its development plans. Agenda 2063 – an aspirational document prepared through a bottom-up, participatory process – would enable member States to meet the desires of Africans. He ended by stressing the importance and timeliness of the debate on the theme of the Meetings.

15. Mr. Lopes warmly thanked Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, the Government and the people of Ethiopia for their customary hospitality, and noted with appreciation the socioeconomic transformation of Ethiopia and the energy with which national reforms were being undertaken. He underlined the strategic partnership between the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, and commended the significant contribution made by the President of the Bank over the previous 10 years. He also commended the Chairperson of the African Union

Commission on her leadership of the Agenda 2063 process.

16. He reaffirmed that the Economic Commission for Africa remained focused on serving its member States' policy priorities and capacity development needs through interventions aimed at influencing policy, with a view to supporting Africa's transformation. Despite relatively high growth in Africa over the previous 15 years – driven by a commodity super-cycle and strong internal demand – without diversified economies the continent would remain prone to exogenous shocks and would stay trapped in the paradox of strong growth coexisting with high unemployment and extreme poverty. The Commission, in its efforts to bring coherence to policy priorities at the national, regional and continental levels, had continued to call for accelerated industrialization, which it saw as key to the structural transformation of African economies.

17. Highlighting the key factors constraining trade and industrialization in Africa, he pointed to Africa's narrow production and export base, which was dominated by low-value products such as raw materials and primary commodities. That was compounded by very high trade costs, tariffs and non-tariff barriers, which were hampering intra-African trade and the continent's access to international markets. Africa had no alternative but to increase its share of global exports. In that regard, African trade policies had played a major role in hampering the continent's ability to excel. As the 2015 edition of the Economic Report for Africa had explained, the delink between trade and industrial policies in Africa had led to high levels of protectionism with no tangible benefits in terms of improved productivity. The situation was being exacerbated by rent-seeking behaviour, which precluded the harnessing of dynamic comparative advantages. Tariff structures, which often did not reflect industrial policy considerations, were instruments that brought inconsistency between trade and industrial policy frameworks. Member States should adopt the approach referred to as "smart protectionism", which would make the rules work for Africa.

18. Pursuing trade reforms in a strategic manner was a means of promoting and strengthening a country's competitiveness and creating favourable conditions for enhanced participation in value chains. A dynamic services sector could exert wide-ranging spillover effects that could boost productivity and enhance value along the chain. It was vital

that negotiations for a continental free trade area also encompassed intra-African trade in services.

19. Trade could support industrialization, but harnessing that opportunity required a coherent policy framework. African countries needed to ensure that the sequencing of trade liberalization was consistent with their transformative agenda and commitment to regional integration by prioritizing the reduction of tariffs and the removal of non-tariff barriers within Africa. He appealed to all participants to realize that the continent could no longer afford to negotiate trade agreements as if industrialization did not matter to Africa.

20. African countries needed to explore the linkages between political decisions and their coherence with trade and industrial policies and development strategies. Political decisions were all about taking risks. Taking risks could be viewed as an intentional and managed interaction with uncertainty, unpredictability, and immeasurability which offered the potential to gain or lose something of value. It was vital that Africa overcome the perception of the continent as a place of risk – which was a purely subjective judgement that might or might not be valid – and that it learn to take its own risks.

21. Ms. Dlamini-Zuma noted that the Meetings were taking place at a critical time for African development. Integrated approaches, paradigm shifts and coordination were vital. The adoption of Agenda 2063 at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, in January 2015, had been preceded by more than two years of extensive consultations with a diverse cross-section of African constituents. Agenda 2063 was intended to ensure that Africa became an integrated, people-centred, peaceful and prosperous continent, and played a dynamic role on the global stage. In order to achieve Agenda 2063, the continent needed to invest in its human capital, through adequate spending on education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation. There was also a need for a skills revolution in order to achieve shared prosperity.

22. Calling for a paradigm shift to operationalize Agenda 2063, she highlighted the critical role of the agricultural sector in meeting the Agenda's goals. Noting that 2015 was the year of women's empowerment and that women made up the majority of the agricultural workforce, she said that the African Union would be leading a campaign to consign the hand-held hoe to museums, while making improved

equipment, technology, finance and extension services accessible to women and young people in order to integrate them into national, regional and global agribusiness value chains. Together with ensuring women's representation in decision-making at all levels and in all spheres of life, that would bring about the people-centred industrialization and structural transformation espoused in Agenda 2063.

23. Infrastructure development was critical for the improvement of trade. Under the first 10-year plan of Agenda 2063, infrastructure development would be accelerated with a view to ensuring the free movement of people and goods by air, road and rail. That was achievable, as demonstrated by the example of the Economic Community of West African States, where people could move freely within the community without visa requirements. The East African Community was following the same path and in both cases many benefits had been reaped. Lastly, it was vital to ensure that Agenda 2063 was characterized by the implementation of practical initiatives.

24. Mr. Kagame said that the Meetings offered a good starting point if wisely used. While it was more or less common knowledge that Africa needed to be integrated, prosperous, stable and more integrated, there was still some value in reviewing plans so that the continent could understand why it was not where it ought to be.

25. He put forward three thoughts on how Africa could start to build new momentum. First, the region needed to move away from thinking of development as something to do with money from outside the continent and start focusing on and making better use of what it already possessed and could mobilize domestically. Second, Africa must start deciding for itself what it wanted to do with its resources, as opposed to doing what external donors wanted. In other words, external support should not dictate the continent's choices for the continent. Such an approach would make the continent more dynamic, help it to achieve its goals and ensure that it no longer had to contend with unfulfilled pledges for funding and other assistance. Third, the continent would achieve the goal of a united Africa faster if it collaborated more closely in efforts towards sub-regional collaboration. In that regard, there were quick wins to be made by simply applying political will. For instance, the Northern Corridor infrastructure projects had already led to the free movement of East Africans, a significant reduction in non-tariff barriers and large drop in mobile phone roaming costs

within the subregion. In addition, the private sector needed to play a prominent role if the continent was to create the prosperous economies that it sought through Agenda 2063. Governments and the private sector needed to work together, not only in financing but also in planning and implementation, right from the outset.

26. To achieve the ideals of Agenda 2063, Africa needed to act with urgency and to take real ownership of the Agenda. It must not continue thinking that others would do the work for it and wait in vain for that to happen, while the world waited for Africa itself to act.

27. Mr. Dessalegn said that the theme of the current Joint Annual Meetings – “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development” – was of particular significance. The Meetings offered an important forum for discussing and laying the groundwork for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and agreeing on Africa’s common position prior to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was taking place in Addis Ababa in July 2015. The outcome of the Meetings would also feed into the continent’s input to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. Agenda 2063 was the logical continuation of recent developments in Africa, and represented a collective effort and opportunity for the region to regain the power to determine its own destiny. Agenda 2063 would be a source of inspiration for the development of national and regional sustainable development plans.

28. Financing a transformative development agenda would require substantial resources. It was therefore imperative that available resources were used more effectively and strategically, which might also help to catalyse additional financing from the public and private sectors. In that connection, he noted Africa’s untapped domestic resources and underscored the crucial role of those resources in sustaining the continent’s remarkable economic growth. He called upon the ministers and other delegates attending the Meetings to make domestic resource mobilization the top priority in their discussions. The potential for domestic resource mobilization was enormous; examples of such mobilization could include improved tax administration, widening of the tax base and mobilization of private savings.

29. That said, however, for some countries official development assistance was still the largest

source of external financing and was critical to the achievement of development goals. In that regard, Africa must press its partners to meet their commitments, focus its resources on those most in need, increase spending on infrastructure, agriculture and agro-processing, and strengthen support for sustainable industrialization and domestic resource mobilization. In addition, the continent should press for a trade package focused on least developed countries at the tenth ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which would be taking place in December 2015, and a stronger voice for African countries on the boards of international financial institutions.

30. Mobilization of resources from both the domestic and the international private sectors was also key to achieving a transformative Agenda 2063. A vibrant domestic private sector would boost tax collection, while the international private sector could play an important role in technology transfer, skills enhancement and delivering infrastructure in partnership with public entities. He drew attention to the need for investment in monitoring mechanisms for financial flows in order to ensure the efficient use of funds and mutual accountability. Early and continuous monitoring would ensure that achievements, obstacles and future tasks could be identified and that implementation would be both effective and timely.

31. He concluded by reiterating the Ethiopian Government’s readiness to support Agenda 2063. He then declared the Meetings officially open and wished the ministers fruitful deliberations.

II. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work [agenda item 2]

32. The following countries were unanimously elected by the Joint Annual Meetings to form the new Bureau:

- a. Chair: United Republic of Tanzania
- b. First Vice-Chair: Egypt
- c. Second Vice-Chair: Gabon
- d. Third Vice-Chair: South Africa
- e. Rapporteur: Guinea

33. Mr. Harrison Mwakyembe, Chair of the newly elected Bureau and Minister for East African

Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, thanked the participants for electing his country to chair the Meetings.

34. He noted that, despite the robust growth rates recorded in the region over the past two decades, Africa should remain cautious because that growth was not sufficiently inclusive and did not reach marginalized groups such as young people and women. Agenda 2063 had been carefully crafted by African Governments as a blueprint for sustainable development for the following five decades to provide current and future generations with prosperity for all. It had put the African people first by focusing on the development of strategic sectors. Implementing Agenda 2063 required a change in mindset. He called for African governments, the peoples of Africa and those of African descent to come together to own and implement the Agenda.

35. In addition to better development planning and a change in mindset, there was also a pressing need to transform Africa's agriculture from a low-productivity base to a sector that was aligned with industrialization. That required reliable and affordable infrastructure services, which remained a considerable challenge.

36. Other fundamental requisites for inclusive and sustainable development were industrialization with value addition, skilled human capital, integration into the global economy, and transparent and accountable institutions. Promoting intra-African trade by fast-tracking regional integration efforts, such as the continental free trade area, was also important. For that to happen Africa needed improved governance and political stability.

37. While recognizing the need for Africa to accelerate its efforts to mobilize domestic resources, he maintained that, if the continent's financing needs were to be fully met, it was crucial that Africa nurtured current strategic partnerships and forged new alliances.

38. He concluded by emphasizing that Africa was at a crossroads and that the choices which it made would determine the destiny of future generations. He called upon member States to commit themselves to implementing Agenda 2063 by providing adequate development finance.

39. The Meetings adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meetings

2. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work
3. High-level ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the Meetings, "Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development"
4. High-level panel sessions
5. Consideration of the report and major recommendations of the meeting of the Committee of Experts
6. Consideration and adoption of the draft ministerial statement and the draft resolutions
7. Other matters
8. Closing of the Meetings

III. High-level ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the Meetings, "Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development" [agenda item 3]

A. Dialogue

40. The panellists for the high-level ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the Meetings included Mr. Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia; Mr. Ashraf al-Araby, Minister of Planning and Administrative Reform of Egypt; Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa; Ms. Bineta Diop, President, Femmes Africa Solidarité; and Ms. Antoinette Sayeh, Director of the Africa Department of the International Monetary Fund.

41. Ms. Badawi, the moderator, prompted the panellists to share their views and experiences on a wide range of issues related to the implementation of Agenda 2063, with a particular emphasis on planning, mobilizing and financing the continental development strategy. The questions posed by the moderator and the participants, and the responses from the panellists, revolved around awareness of Agenda 2063 at the national level, the alignment of the Agenda with national development plans, the capacity of African countries and institutions to implement the Agenda, and the role of the private sector, women and young people and the United Nations in the implementation process. There was also some discussion about infrastructure development and the blue economy.

1. *Awareness-raising*

42. In the course of the dialogue, there was wide agreement among panellists and participants on the critical need to promote awareness of Agenda 2063 – and also other vision documents – among all national stakeholders, if they were to be successfully implemented. It was acknowledged that, in the context of pressing developmental needs, it was difficult to gain the confidence of the public in long-term developmental priorities and goals and that participatory processes could help overcome resistance to such vision documents and their commitments. The importance of careful outreach strategies was emphasized, highlighting measures such as the incorporation of Agenda 2063 into school curricula, the preparation of materials in local languages, and effective media engagement, including the use of social media. It was suggested that it would be easier to secure public support for the shorter-term implementation plans.

2. *Alignment of vision documents*

43. The importance of aligning global, regional and national development strategies was acknowledged. Several African countries had in place vision documents which shared goals and targets with Agenda 2063, the global post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals currently being developed. It was also noted that Agenda 2063 was being used as a guiding document in several countries for the elaboration of new development strategies. The importance of ensuring coherence in the implementation of the different vision documents was highlighted, especially in the context of regional economic communities and cooperation with development partners.

3. *Engagement of women and youth*

44. Participants emphasized the importance of engaging and mobilizing women and young people for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063. The role of women and young people as partners and economic actors needed to be recognized, and their involvement should be both supported and scaled up through better access to finance, improved property rights (particularly in land), and capacity development in the area of business skills. It was noted that, while women were already heavily engaged in agriculture, the transformation of their role should go

beyond agriculture and include the blue economy. Attention was also drawn to the role that governments could play in encouraging private sector investment in women.

4. *Capacity development*

45. Emphasis was placed on the importance of capacity development for the implementation of Agenda 2063. The production and use of statistics for decision-making, and also for the monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives, was identified as an area where the capacity of African countries and institutions had to be strengthened.

5. *Internal finance*

46. Participants underscored the need for Africa to rely on domestic resources to finance its development and stressed that external financing should only be complementary to resources mobilized internally. Domestic savings were insufficient to finance Agenda 2063, which made it critical to supplement those savings with external funding sources, including funding raised through South-South cooperation. In that context, the private sector could contribute substantially to the implementation of Agenda 2063, particularly through public-private partnerships. Capital markets constituted another source of financing that could be explored.

6. *Illicit financial flows*

47. It was noted that a significant share of Africa's resources, including national reserves and revenues generated from natural resources, were kept outside the continent. That practice was attributed to the unsatisfactory performance of the continent's banking system. It was further noted that illicit financial flows from Africa compounded the challenge of financing the continent's development. In the light of the challenges outlined, there was an urgent need for African countries to improve their banking systems, to strengthen their tax administration, to improve their budget management practices and to adopt innovative resource mobilization strategies. Moreover, resources mobilized had to be used efficiently and, in that regard, measures had to be introduced to minimize leakages. Participants roundly deplored the paradoxical situation obtaining in Africa, whereby huge sums of money were leaving

the continent, while it continued to face significant financing gaps, notably in the infrastructure sector.

7. Infrastructure development

48. There was wide agreement that infrastructure, in particular clean and sustainable energy infrastructure, constituted a core element of Agenda 2063. The availability of adequate infrastructure was critical to attainment of the objectives of Agenda 2063, and also those of the national development plans of African countries. That applied in particular to sectors such as agriculture and rural development, where road construction and electrification were urgently needed to support the transformation process. The important role of the private sector in the development of Africa's infrastructure was acknowledged. It was noted, however, that the private sector's involvement in that regard had been insignificant and its performance weak. Governments must therefore formulate appropriate policies to encourage the private sector to be involved and to enable it to thrive in the infrastructure and energy sectors.

49. The meeting noted that so-called "soft" infrastructure – namely, policy arrangements such as the regulation of infrastructure services and the removal of non-physical barriers to transport – was as important as "hard" infrastructure (physical assets) to economic development. Policy reforms in the infrastructure sector had reduced transport costs and delays along the Northern Corridor, which linked the port of Mombasa in Kenya with the landlocked countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda and the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

8. Public-private partnerships

50. Public-private partnerships constituted a practical modality for involving the private sector in the implementation of Agenda 2063 in general and in the continent's infrastructure development in particular. For that to materialize, countries had to develop and implement appropriate legal frameworks for such partnerships with a view to building trust in the private sector. They also had to build their national capacity to negotiate public-private partnerships, and to harmonize their partnership frameworks to facilitate the implementation of regional projects. Experience had shown that the in-

roduction of appropriate policies could significantly increase private investment in infrastructure development. For instance, the public sector used to dominate investment in telecommunications in Kenya but improvements in the regulatory environment had significantly boosted private sector investment.

9. Public sector involvement

51. Despite the huge scope for private sector involvement, the public sector would continue to play an important role in Africa's infrastructure development, particularly in view of the massive infrastructure financing gap across the continent. It was therefore important for governments to understand the limits of private sector involvement in Africa's infrastructure development. It was equally important that infrastructure development should be viewed from a regional standpoint, given that physical connectivity was a critical dimension of regional integration. In that regard, participants expressed their approval of the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, held in June 2014, that had provided a platform for project sponsors to engage with investors on the implementation of 16 regional projects.

10. Blue economy

52. Attention was drawn to the importance of the blue economy, characterized by the development of ocean resources, particularly for small island States. It was noted, however, that the economic engagement of African countries with the oceans was limited, by and large, to extractive activities. That limitation underscored the need for African countries to diversify their activities, so as to generate wealth from the ocean. They must implement policies that would facilitate the involvement of women and young people in ocean-related economic activities. The blue economy was particularly vulnerable to climate change and that also had to be taken into consideration in policy formulation.

11. Role of the United Nations

53. Participants in the dialogue reviewed the important role of the United Nations in the implementation of Africa's development programmes. They highlighted the similarities between the targets and goals of the 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 that were being articulated and the

United Nations sustainable development goals. For its part, the United Nations was promoting flagship projects, such as the initiative under Agenda 2063 to construct a high-speed railway across Africa. It also supported the effective monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives. In that regard, it was involved in the process of establishing a mutual accountability framework designed to examine the extent to which Africa and its development partners had delivered on their commitments to the continent's development.

54. The 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, which formed part of a joint African Union-United Nations declaration signed in 2006, provided a framework for the provision of United Nations system support to Africa's development initiatives. A successor programme to the 10-year programme was being developed through the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme. It was up to the African Union to indicate how the United Nations could assist in the implementation of Agenda 2063. It was noted that the United Nations had reacted to the emergence of NEPAD by adopting General Assembly resolutions in support of the programme.

B. Recommendations

55. The following recommendations emerged from the dialogue:

- a. The African Union Commission should develop an outreach strategy for Agenda 2063. As part of the outreach strategy, member States should incorporate Agenda 2063 into school curricula and local languages should be used to raise awareness of Agenda 2063, including through the social media;
- b. Member States should align their national development plans with Agenda 2063 and ensure coherence in the implementation of national and regional plans;
- c. Member States should implement policies that support the involvement of women and young people in economic activities;
- d. Member States should develop and implement policies that attract private sector in-

volvement in the implementation of Agenda 2063. They should develop laws and legal frameworks on public-private partnerships that are harmonized at the regional level;

- e. Member States should diversify their activities to generate wealth from ocean resources. In this regard, they should develop and implement policies that facilitate the involvement of women and young people in ocean-related economic activities. They should also develop and implement policies that protect the blue economy from the adverse impacts of climate change;
- f. The African Union should indicate how the United Nations could assist in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

IV. High-level panel sessions [agenda item 4]

A. Domestication of Agenda 2063: regional and national dimensions of the first 10-year plan

1. Discussion

56. The panellists for the session included Ms. Mariam Mahamat Nour, Minister of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation of Chad; Mr. Elham Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission; Ms. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission; Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency; and Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning.

57. The session was moderated by Mr. Amadou Mahtar Ba, co-founder and Chair of All-Africa Global Media. Introducing the session, Mr. Ba stressed the importance of domesticating Agenda 2063 as an important component of its implementation, and noted the connections between the issue and the high-level ministerial policy dialogue on the

theme of the conference held earlier in the day. He also put the domestication of Agenda 2063 into the context of the global development agenda, including the post-2015 Agenda. To kick-start the panel discussion, he posed questions on the three following issues: the extent to which Agenda 2063 had been domesticated into national development plans and strategies; the initiatives taken by member States and regional economic communities to implement Agenda 2063; and the challenges arising in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

58. Where the status of the domestication of Agenda 2063 in national development plans and strategies was concerned, the panellists observed that the majority of African countries had long-term visions with were in line with Agenda 2063. Indeed, Agenda 2063 had itself been developed in consultation with existing national and regional development plans. There was general consensus among the panellists regarding the ownership of Agenda 2063, including its financing. In that regard it was suggested that domestic resource mobilization was key to the successful implementation of Agenda 2063, which also required the buy-in of all stakeholders, including the private sector and parliamentarians.

59. The panellists noted that, in the process leading to Agenda 2063, African countries had embarked on a number of initiatives, including formulation of the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda, the goals and objectives of which were similar to those of Agenda 2063. In addition, a results framework had been developed to ensure the accountability of the 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063. In developing some of the flagship projects under Agenda 2063, such as the high-speed train initiative and the single African air transport project, the African Union Commission had consulted African member States and the regional economic communities, with the result that a number of member States had volunteered to be part of the pilot projects. In monitoring progress, the African Union Commission would discuss the implementation modalities of the Agenda with member States and report back to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government every two years.

60. Notwithstanding certain achievements scored in the implementation of the Agenda 2063, effective execution of the projects had been hampered by a number of factors. Those included insufficient resources, governance issues, lack of ownership, inadequate dissemination and popularization of Agenda

2063 and associated plans at the national level, and the scarcity of legislative instruments to accommodate the domestication of continental frameworks. The panellists also observed that the poor state of infrastructure in the continent and the limited availability of data to monitor progress posed additional obstacles to implementation of Agenda 2063. In that context, emphasis was placed on the importance of energy and connectivity infrastructure.

61. In the ensuing discussion, participants stressed the importance of government leadership and full involvement in the implementation of Agenda 2063 through its first 10-year implementation plan. In sharing country experiences, participants reaffirmed the consistency of their national development strategies with Agenda 2063. Some, however, requested that the African Union Commission should devise domestication guidelines to facilitate the integration of Agenda 2063 into national and local-level plans and strategies. In addition, they emphasized the need to develop measurable indicators to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the first 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063.

62. In response to the perception that Africa already had many policy frameworks, the panellists observed that each of those frameworks were tailored to specific sectoral issues, and those in turn underpinned the overarching framework of Agenda 2063. Accordingly, it was agreed that investments in agricultural transformation, infrastructure development, trade and other areas were essential to drive implementation of the Agenda. Participants also emphasized the need for Agenda 2063 to be championed and owned by member States through wide consultation with all stakeholders.

2. Recommendations

63. The following recommendations emerged from the discussions:

- a. There is a need to develop an integrated and multisectoral approach in developing flagship projects to achieve the holistic goals of Agenda 2063. All stakeholders should be involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the first 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and have their specific needs reflected in the plan;

- b. The 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 should be disaggregated to highlight projects at the continental, regional and national levels, and member States and regional economic communities should define outputs that would help in achieving the goals of the Agenda and recommend projects to be included in the plan;
- c. Member States and the regional economic communities should integrate Agenda 2063 and the projects which form part of its first 10-year plan into their respective national and regional development plans;
- d. The African Union Commission should devise domestication guidelines to facilitate the integration of Agenda 2063 into national and local-level plans and strategies;
- e. The implementation of Agenda 2063 should be a shared responsibility among all line ministries, parliaments and the private sector in member States;
- f. The African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the member States, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, African stakeholders and external partners, should work on a strategy for financing, including through the mobilization of domestic resources, the implementation of the Agenda 2063 flagship projects and, in particular, the first 10-year implementation plan, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, which should be effectively implemented;
- g. The African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, should develop measurable indicators to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the first 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063.

B. Financing Agenda 2063: strategies for domestic resource mobilization and partnerships

1. Discussion

64. The panellists for the session included Mr. Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana; Mr. Trevor Manuel, Deputy Chair, Rothschild Group; Mr. Raphaël Mokoko, Deputy Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning of the Congo; Mr. Nhlanhla Musa Nene, Minister of Finance of South Africa; Ms. Frannie Léautier, co-founding partner and Chief Executive Officer, Mkoba Private Equity Fund; and Mr. Wu Hongbo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

65. The session was moderated by Ms. Lerato Mbele, BBC journalist. To initiate the discussion, she raised the question of how Agenda 2063 could stimulate the remodelling of African economies, leading to their modernization and promoting further industrialization. She also wondered how the continent could empower women and young people as entrepreneurs and creators of jobs, encouraging them to be more inventive and innovative, while promoting the rule of law and ensuring contract protection and civil liberty.

66. In response, the panellists considered to what extent resources could be directed to the objectives of agenda 2063 without placing undue fiscal strain on governments. They highlighted the need for accountability on the manner in which government spent the money in their budgets and drew attention to the important role which bonds and the international financial market could play in providing adequate financial resources for Africa's transformation. Taxation also had an important function to perform in the domestic resource mobilization process within the continent, as did trade facilitation and the enhanced performance of small and medium-sized enterprises. They stressed the importance of tracking illicit financial flows, so that domestic resources could be used for Africa's transformation: in that regard, recourse should be had to those national, regional and global institutions mandated to combat money laundering and other threats to financial systems.

67. Attention was drawn to the lack of political will, which had impeded efforts to tackle Africa's challenges in the past, and to the importance of enhancing the credibility of African leaders through the implementation of Agenda 2063 and of strengthening its appropriation by relevant stakeholders. Private sector participation in the economy, including through public-private partnerships, was seen as key to successful implementation of Agenda 2063,

together with greater integration and collaboration with other African countries. In that regard, it was the shared responsibility of African countries, including their governments, private sectors, and civil societies, to design the instruments necessary for attainment of the Agenda's goals and objectives. To that end, the Agenda should be broken down into achievable and measurable targets in the first 10-year implementation plan.

68. Panellists recalled that the United Nations, through its member States, was discussing financing issues associated with the post-2015 development agenda and that a zero draft had been formulated as the possible basis for an outcome document of the Third Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. In that context, they reflected on similarities between the challenges faced in financing Agenda 2063 and the post-2015 development agenda and considered what African governments could do to stimulate flows of private capital into Africa. While private equity was growing in importance in the financial sector, in particular for long-term finance, there were still constraints in Africa on the full use of those resources for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and investments in such enterprises should be scaled up through private equity to ensure that they met the financial imperatives of Agenda 2063. In addition, diaspora bonds were highlighted as an important means of channelling remittances towards the attainment of Africa's economic and social transformation.

69. In the ensuing discussion, participants emphasized that unlocking the investment potential of the continent would require taking advantage of previously underused financial mechanisms, such as private equity funds, diaspora bonds, international markets and pension funds. In addition, they stressed the need for the continent to tackle the issue of the perception of Africa as a place of high risk by providing credit guarantees to private companies and improving the institutional and regulatory environment in which private companies operated.

70. They emphasized that Africa's development projects should as far as possible be initiated with domestic finances. Africa could make use of institutions such as its stock exchanges and the regional market to raise investments for small and medium-sized enterprises. Land and property tax collection could be used to mobilize increased domestic resources. In that respect, they underlined the challenge of good governance for proper use of domestic resources and

stressed the need to encourage central banks to use available finances at their disposal for domestic investments in line with their mandates. They further argued that weak domestic resource mobilization strategies and increased illicit financial flows were the result of poorly negotiated deals and agreements, which required the strengthening of legal facilities and regulatory frameworks in African countries.

71. Attention was drawn to the need to design and strengthen strategies aimed at increasing the rate of return on both domestic investment and investments from outside African countries, in particular the diaspora, and to raise the profile of small and medium-sized enterprises with potential investors, including venture capital investment institutions. Those should bring ideas, investment and partnerships to foster Africa's development. African countries should also use their land resources to develop their still underdeveloped mortgage markets, thus giving ordinary individuals and small and medium-sized enterprises greater access to capital.

72. Participants underscored the need for timely and credible statistics in improving the way in which the African narrative was being presented. They stressed that Africans must speak with one voice in making decisions and agreements that affected Africa's standing on the global arena. In that regard, African countries must understand exactly what investors were looking for and design strategies to enhance industrialization and add value to African products. Appropriate regulatory frameworks were needed to facilitate those undertakings. The role of development institutions was also emphasized, primarily in relation to partnerships and the implementation of strategies to boost finance for development. There was wide agreement that African countries should have more ownership of their projects and development initiatives, and that development partners should better align their support, to ensure that the beneficiary countries achieved their development priorities and goals.

2. Recommendations

73. In the light of their discussions, the participants formulated the following recommendations:

- a. African countries must track and curtail illicit financial flows, with a view to using the resources thus released for the continent's development needs. Accordingly, all mem-

ber States should support the current efforts by the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to track illicit financial flows;

- b. Member States should take advantage of untapped sources of funding such as international financial markets, pension funds, diaspora bonds and other instruments to bridge the financial needs of the continent in meeting its transformation goals under Agenda 2063;
- c. Member States should provide the right institutional and regulatory incentives with a view to create an enabling and conducive environment for private sector engagement in public projects, including through well designed frameworks for public-private partnerships.

C. Financing for development: Africa's perspective

1. Discussion

74. The panellists for the session were Ms. Cristina Duarte, Minister of Finance of Cabo Verde; Mr. Seth Terkper, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Ghana; Ms. Elsie Kanza, Senior Director, Head of the Africa Department, World Economic Forum; and Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The session commenced with a brief presentation by Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission.

75. The moderator was Mr. Jean Karim Fall, editor-in-chief of *France 24*, who launched the discussion by raising salient issues related to Africa's perspective on financing for development. Those issues included the rules of operation of international cooperation to meet the development financing needs of Agenda 2063, external debt, the current governance architecture of the international financial and monetary institutions, the impact of the environmental factors on Agenda 2063, and the need to expand the mandate of African central banks.

76. In his introductory statement, Mr. Maruping highlighted the importance of the domestication of Agenda 2063 and encouraged all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to be effective partners in its implementation. He saluted the efforts being made to prepare member States for the third International Conference for Financing for Development, including the regional consultation on financing for development and the second caucus of governors of African central banks, and called upon participants to make active contributions to the preparations for the conference.

77. In their statements, the panellists highlighted the need to strengthen the continent's leadership and ownership of its policies, with a view to forging new and strong partnerships that would support its development agenda. Robust institutions and innovative policies were needed, to ensure that debt played a positive role in the financing for development process and also in addressing the challenge of illicit financial flows, which represented a major drain on Africa's resources. On the issue of expanding the mandate of African central banks, they stressed that the banks should remain independent and retain as their principal mandate the maintenance of macroeconomic stability. At the same time, the independence of central banks should not hinder the deployment of innovative financing mechanisms, crowdfunding schemes and systems like the M-Pesa initiative in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

78. Panellists reflected on the possible routes by which African countries should seek access to funding. The experience of Ghana was cited to demonstrate how countries graduating from lower-income status should pursue access to international capital markets to meet their funding requirements. Other avenues to be explored included private sector participation in public-private partnerships, philanthropic and non-philanthropic funds, such as the Africa50 Infrastructure Fund under the African Development Bank, and increased domestic resource mobilization. They argued that African debt should be leveraged in a manner that shifted the burden away from the taxpayers and stressed the need for African countries to join forces in demanding reform of the international tax treaties, thereby giving greater taxing rights to source countries. One panellist warned, however, against excessive borrowing from private equity and called for strong measures to address the hemorrhaging of Africa's resources through, among other

practices, profit shifting, tax evasion and tax avoidance and as a consequence of investor-State dispute settlements, which tended to be biased against the State.

79. In the ensuing discussion, participants highlighted the need to rely on domestic resources as the main vehicle for financing development, in particular over the following 10–20 years, when levels of available capital on the continent would continue to rise. Incentives were needed to encourage the development-oriented allocation of resources and to increase the efficiency of State-owned enterprises through strengthened public-private partnerships and marketing tailored to the needs and specific features of individual countries. The roles of urbanization and the demographic dividends were highlighted as important means of enhancing domestic resource mobilization and efficient resource use: thus, without proper investment in women and young people, Africa's development would not meet the needs of its people.

80. There was general consensus that central banks should remain independent and autonomous to ensure macroeconomic stability and safety of reserves. Participants also highlighted the need to develop local capital markets to alleviate exchange rate risk. In addition, the right conditions must be set in place to ensure a fairer distribution of resources, including macroeconomic stability, appropriate labour laws and fiscal reforms.

81. Acknowledging that great strides had been made towards increasing revenue, enhancing growth through social protection, improving tax buoyancy through payroll reforms and procurement rules, and embarking on new and innovative sources of finance, participants called for more attention to be paid to issues of tax evasion and avoidance and the investor-State dispute resolution agreements, which were generally unfavourable to African countries. They drew attention to important challenges identified in Agenda 2063, such as maintaining appropriate budgetary policies that would cater for both short-term and long-term needs, and the issues of market risks and volatility and their impact on both external and domestic debts.

2. Recommendations

82. In the light of those discussions, the participants put forward the following recommendations:

- a. Member States should continue to invest in the training, health and job creation needs of women and young people;
- b. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should establish a continental infrastructure development fund which will target the environmental, urbanization and trade issues and the transformation of rural communities;
- c. Development partners should meet their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to overseas development assistance and to increase that to 1 per cent by 2020;
- d. African central banks should consider supporting the development of initiatives to improve domestic resource mobilization, such as the M-Pesa initiative in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, and enabling regulations on crowdfunding;
- e. Member States should continue to pursue prudent macroeconomic management to ensure debt sustainability, in line with the effective mobilization of resources and overall national development plans and strategies;
- f. Member States should strengthen their tax regulation systems to address illicit financial outflows, and establish alternative dispute resolution mechanisms which are more balanced and which ensure that African governments do not incur unreasonable litigation costs;
- g. Member States and regional economic communities should establish stable and flexible labour laws to facilitate and encourage the movement of capital and labour within the continent;
- h. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should take steps to establish a pan-African stock market;
- i. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should strengthen the environmental impact assessment capacities of member States to ensure environmental protection and sustainability.

D. Presentation of the communiqué of the Second Caucus of African Central Bank Governors

83. Mr. Yohannes Ayalew, Vice-Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia, presented the communiqué adopted at the second caucus of African central bank governors, held in Addis Ababa on 29 March 2015, on the theme of the perspectives of African central banks on sustainable development financing.

84. As set out in the communiqué, where domestic resource mobilization was concerned, African central bank governors committed themselves to continuing to provide a conducive macroeconomic environment; supporting the development of an inclusive domestic financial sector with adequate and affordable access by small and medium-sized enterprises, individuals and households to a full range of financial services; further deepening the domestic financial sector by providing medium and long-term financing, including reform of the pension system, and developing the microfinance subsector; improving the regulation of the financial sector, using appropriate micro and macro prudential measures; and supporting efforts to promote public-private partnerships.

85. They underscored the importance of international resources, including overseas development assistance and foreign direct investment, and called for an extension of debt-relief measures, such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, to those African countries that had not yet benefited from them. They committed themselves to the continuous building of buffers to promote the financial stability of African economies and to mitigate against domestic and external shocks; to supporting the development of such financial instruments as diaspora bonds to channel remittances into development programmes and projects; and to working for international and regional mechanisms to reduce the costs of remittances, with a view to increasing the inflows of remittances into the continent. They also expressed support for the creation of regional payment systems and capital markets to facilitate trade and investment.

86. They reiterated the need for the reform of international financial institutions and monetary

systems to give a greater voice to African countries; they called for the strengthened regulation and supervision of financial markets and institutions which were currently under-regulated; and they encouraged credit-rating agencies to provide more accurate and balanced assessments of African economies. They undertook to strengthen the tools for stress-testing of the financial sector, and to deepen cooperation and coordination in the implementation of anti-money-laundering laws. They committed themselves to harnessing the use of technology in extending financial services and in building regulatory capacity for financial stability. In that context, they undertook to provide capacity-building services and financial support to improve the quality of data for the formulation and implementation of policies.

87. The participants took note of the communiqué and requested the central banks to play a more active role in the tracking and reporting of financial flows, and to contribute to capacity-development with a view to improving the monitoring of data for policy planning and implementation.

V. Consideration of the report and major recommendations of the meeting of the Committee of Experts [agenda item 5]

88. Under the agenda item, participants considered the report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts, together with the Committee's major recommendations, set out as nine draft resolutions. Following discussions on some issues in the report and the resolutions, participants took note of the report and approved the nine resolutions with some amendments. The report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts is attached to the present report as annex III.

VI. Consideration and adoption of the draft ministerial statement and draft resolutions [agenda item 6]

89. Under the agenda item, participants considered a draft version of the ministerial statement of the meeting, made general comments and observations on various sections of the draft statement and proposed minor amendments.

90. Following those observations, the draft ministerial statement was unanimously adopted, as amended. The resolutions put forward by the Com-

mittee of Experts and approved by participants during their consideration of the Committee's report, under agenda item 5, were also adopted. The Ministerial Statement is appended to the present report as annex I and the resolutions as annex II.

VII. Other matters [agenda item 7]

91. No other matters were raised at the meeting.

VIII. Closing of the meeting [agenda item 8]

92. Concluding remarks were made during the closing session by Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, and Mr. Mwakyembe.

93. In his statement, Mr. Mwencha called upon the ministers to speak with one voice in implementing Agenda 2063. He reiterated the importance of the domestication of Agenda 2063, not only in governmental deliberations and forums but also in all contours of public life, and underscored domestic resource mobilization as the key aspect of transforming Africa into a competitive economic environment. To that end, African countries must overcome their financial reliance on development partners, which was not only unsustainable but also undesirable. Following the current meetings, he looked forward to the opportunity to deliberate on African development policy issues in a much larger context, during the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015.

94. Mr. Hamdok said that the important deliberations at the current meeting had come at a most opportune time and had significantly contributed to understanding African development challenges from a global perspective. He reiterated the keen anticipation expressed by Mr. Mwencha for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. He believed that the Joint Annual Meetings made possible the articulation of a common and systematic African position on development finance that would be delivered with one voice during the forthcoming conference in July 2015. Accordingly, he applauded the ministers for having raised Africa to the top of the global agenda on financing development and for having engaged the rest of the world in that endeavour.

95. Turning to the format of the Joint Annual Meetings, he proposed a slight change for future such conferences, to enable representatives of member States to be directly involved in the process leading to the setting of the agenda and programme of work, an arrangement which he believed would improve the quality of deliberations. He also proposed that planners, development practitioners, activists, State and non-State actors should all be more closely engaged in that annual process, which should become an important date in their calendars.

96. For his part, Mr. Mwakyembe expressed his firm conviction that Agenda 2063 was testament to the single vision and single strategy for Africa adopted by all the continent's leaders. He urged everyone involved to ensure that Agenda 2063 became a reality, and not a far-fetched dream. In conclusion, he urged all participants to provide feedback on the organization of the Joint Annual Meetings, with a view to improving future such events and ensuring that participants' needs were fully met.

97. Following those remarks and the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 31 March 2015.

Annex I

Ministerial Statement

We, African ministers of finance, planning, economic development and integration,

Meeting in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 March 2015 for the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,

Welcoming the presence of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, the President of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame, former Heads of State and Government, the governors of our national and regional central banks, and other high-level dignitaries and special guests,

Having deliberated on the theme “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development” and having saluted the fact that Agenda 2063 emerged from consultative processes and will help African economies to overcome their continued vulnerabilities, including their dependence on the extraction and export of raw materials,

Therefore declare:

1. Agenda 2063, the long-term vision for the continent, encapsulates the hopes, aspirations and expectations of Africans for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena. Agenda 2063 should serve as the vision for the structural transformation of the continent.
2. The foundation for Agenda 2063 lies in present conditions. We note that economic growth in Africa rose from 3.7 per cent in 2013 to 3.9 per cent in 2014, which is relatively good in global terms, albeit still far below the double-digit growth needed for structural transformation. Although the medium-term economic outlook for the continent remains favourable, there are downside risks that could adversely affect its growth prospects, such as the fall in the price of oil and other commodities, the slow economic

recovery in developed countries, tighter global monetary policies, weather-related shocks, and political instability in some of our countries.

3. While our countries have made appreciable efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals, much remains to be done to achieve inclusive and equitable development in Africa. We remain committed to tackling poverty and inequality, providing productive employment and decent jobs for young Africans, empowering our women, and prioritizing the welfare of African children to ensure a robust and vibrant 2063 generation. These noble objectives require us to implement policies to stimulate productive activities for men and women so as to enable Africa to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend, including scaling up investments in the areas of education and health. We also commit ourselves to prioritizing investments in the well-being of young people through access to high-quality education. We therefore reiterate our full support for a post-2015 development agenda that should take into account the key goals set out in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063.
4. The fragile foundations of social services in several of our countries were revealed during the Ebola outbreak, which had a devastating impact on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. We note with appreciation the material and financial support provided to those countries by other African countries and the African private sector. We renew our unequivocal support for the Governments and peoples of the three countries and welcome the pledges made thus far by the international community to support them. We appeal for immediate steps to be taken to restore growth and enable recovery in those countries, including debt cancellation.
5. The successful implementation of Agenda 2063 will depend to a great extent on strong linkages between the planning, mobilizing and financing of the processes of structural transformation. We welcome the intention to split Agenda 2063 into separate ten-year development plans to facilitate its implementation. We are aware that African countries have had varying experiences with de-

- velopment planning, but successes in other regions show that inclusive, well-articulated and well-resourced development plans play a critical role in spurring structural transformation. We therefore commit ourselves to improving planning processes in our countries by strengthening institutional and human capacities at various levels.
6. High-quality statistical information and data are essential for the proper planning and measurement of development outcomes. Africa should generate its own data to enable it to better monitor and track economic and social targets, including the goals and objectives of Agenda 2063. A data revolution in Africa would afford our continent the opportunity to interact with diverse data communities and to embrace a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies, which would enable the continent to produce disaggregated data, including gender-disaggregated data, for decision-making, service delivery and citizen engagement. An African data revolution should be built on the principles of openness across the data value chain and a vibrant data ecosystem driven by national priorities and inclusive national statistical systems. In this regard, we underscore the importance of strengthening existing pan-African statistical institutions, as well as other similar institutions agreed to by Heads of State and Government, to support the implementation of the first ten-year plan of Agenda 2063.
 7. It is important to harmonize national, sub-regional and continental development plans in the context of Agenda 2063. We take note of the commonalities existing between certain national plans and Agenda 2063. It will also be important to leverage continental frameworks articulated under the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa action plan, the Africa Mining Vision, the Boosting Intra-African Trade initiative, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Social Policy Framework for Africa. The coordinated implementation of these frameworks will be instrumental in achieving Africa's structural transformation objectives.
 8. African people must be mobilized in support of Agenda 2063, as their participation is essential for its successful implementation. This requires the building of political coalitions in support of structural transformation, with the public and private sectors, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, the media, the academic sector and others all taking ownership of the process. We also call upon our countries and pan-African institutions to popularize Agenda 2063, especially among young Africans, through advocacy, education and communication strategies, and the provision of appropriate skills to underpin structural transformation.
 9. Adequate and predictable financing is indispensable for the successful implementation of development plans and strategies. While official development assistance has been helpful, it is a fragile platform on which to base a structural transformation agenda. Agenda 2063 needs to be anchored on domestic resource mobilization, through effective tax policies, savings mobilization, and the use of other financing mechanisms such as pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, diaspora bonds and remittances. We urge African central banks and pan-African institutions to increase their support for efforts to boost the continent's socioeconomic transformation and its financing.
 10. We are gratified that the final report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, the establishment of which we had advocated, was the subject of a special declaration by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. Apart from reducing the resources available on the continent for development, illicit financial flows have a negative impact on governance and undermine efforts to add value to Africa's natural resources before they are exported. We endorse the recommendations set out in the report and call upon the international community to complement Africa's efforts to track, stop and repatriate illicit financial flows.
 11. Financing is also vital for the implementation of global agreements relating to sustainable development, such as the post-2015

development agenda and the sustainable development goals. Accordingly, we endorse the draft document entitled “Financing for development: Africa’s perspectives” as a living document that takes into account the outcomes of the regional consultations held in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is to take place in Addis Ababa in July 2015. We urge Africa to continue to speak with one voice throughout the International Conference on Financing for Development process. We also urge African negotiators to do their utmost to ensure that Africa’s interests and concerns are reflected in the final outcome document, including in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, international resources for development, international financial and technical cooperation, external debt, the international monetary and trading system, international trade, technology innovation, capacity-building and strong follow-up mechanisms.

12. We acknowledge that in addition to planning, mobilization and financing, other key issues will affect the implementation of Agenda 2063. African countries will need to articulate credible macroeconomic frameworks that can underpin the planning process. Infrastructure development initiatives can help to boost production capacity, reduce transaction costs and promote structural transformation. We identify with the priority infrastructure projects contained in Agenda 2063, as well as those being overseen directly through the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative. We call for policies to be drawn up for the harmonization of laws, rules and regulations at the national, subregional and continental levels.
13. We remain cognizant of the key role of industrialization in the process of structural transformation. It is important to scale up ongoing efforts made in this regard by African countries, such as improving the policy environment in order to promote investment in manufacturing, taking steps to increase the domestic processing of commodities and raw materials, promoting backward and forward linkages, fostering national and regional value chains and improving the competitiveness of national economies.

These efforts must, however, be complemented by actions to enhance the role and use of science, technology and innovation, as well as the mobilization of aid for trade at the international level. We also recognize the critical role of the private sector in industrialization and urge African countries to ensure that the concerns of domestic entrepreneurs are integrated into industrialization and trade policies.

14. We recognize that the export of primary products has contributed to growth in Africa. We are also aware, however, that the continent’s continued dependence on exports of raw commodities deepens the fragility of its economies. We are of the view that Africa can change this trajectory through a process of commodity-based industrialization that makes systemic use of regional integration, especially intra-African trade. Particularly important in this regard are regional value chains, better negotiation of international trade agreements and trade finance. We believe that Africa should invest more resources into the production of higher-value-added goods, which are globally more competitive and also capable of boosting the volumes of intra-African trade.
15. We are witness to a growing segmentation and decentralization of global processes of production. The increasing cost of labour in Asia and improvements in the business environment in African countries are factors that make Africa attractive for the relocation of manufacturing activities. Africa needs to develop industrialization and trade policies that leverage these trends, and we need to allow our countries to tap into evolving global and regional value chains as part of a strategic entry into industrial development and technological upgrading. Accordingly, we reaffirm that there is a strategic link between industrialization and trade, and that, under the right conditions, they can reinforce each other and place Africa on the path to structural transformation. Properly utilized, this link can help to solve the paradox of high unemployment and extreme poverty coexisting with robust growth.
16. We recognize the need for the appropriate sequencing of trade policy at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, in line with

industrial policy needs and development objectives. We urge African countries, when negotiating trade and investment agreements, to assess the impact of those agreements on industrialization and economic transformation. Given that regional integration is Africa's priority, emphasis should be placed on plans and policies that promote that objective. We recognize the imperative of fast-tracking the establishment of the continental free trade area, in view of its potential impact on industrial development.

17. We are aware of the potential of the continental free trade area to bring about an enlarged market that facilitates economies of scale and promotes harmonization and coordination of trade instruments. The continental free trade area will also help to resolve the challenge of multiple and overlapping memberships of regional economic communities and to improve regional infrastructure and interconnectivity. Accordingly, we agree to support the negotiations for the establishment of a continental free trade area, which will cover trade in goods and services. We urge the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa to accelerate the development of the planned Africa Regional Integration Index, which can be used as a tool to assist in the continental free trade area negotiations.
18. We are aware that Africa is the region in the world most affected by greenhouse gas emissions, even though it generates the fewest of such emissions and has the weakest capacity to adapt to their effects. Africa should adopt a progressive and ambitious stance in the climate change negotiations to be held in Paris in 2015, with a view to securing a binding agreement. We insist that an agreement in Paris must fulfil the recommendations contained in the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and address the key pillars of the Regional Cooperation Framework of the Bali Process, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We urge the adoption of science-informed and evidence-based policy, planning and practices to make African development sustainable, more resilient and less vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate variability and change. Low-carbon development pathways to a green economy or a blue economy can also unlock new economic opportunities.
19. We recognize the importance of partnerships to support the implementation of Africa's development vision. We are also aware of the need for Africa to enter into new forms of partnership that are anchored on greater equality and mutual respect and that are truly beneficial for the continent, especially for its transformative agenda. In this regard, we strongly encourage our countries to explore South–South and triangular cooperation in order to leverage the opportunities offered by emerging economic powers. We urge our traditional partners, however, to continue to support our development efforts.
20. We endorse the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and call for its full and effective implementation. In this connection, we urge African landlocked countries to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies, in order to ensure its effective implementation. We also call upon the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and all other regional and subregional organizations to provide the necessary support to African landlocked countries through their respective work programmes and in accordance with their respective mandates.
21. We note that the progress made by African least developed countries towards achieving the goals and targets of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) has been uneven, and call upon development partners to provide enhanced and preferential official development assistance to African least developed countries. We reiterate the need to institutionalize the review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to ensure that African least developed countries are adequately represented in that review. We welcome the offer of the Government of Italy to host a ministerial meeting on structural

transformation and graduation for African least developed countries, in June 2015. We request the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and other partners, to organize an African regional meeting in preparation for the proposed ministerial meeting in Italy.

22. We welcome the continued strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa as a means of ensuring coherence in the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. We therefore appreciate the decision to convene a session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa during our meeting. We note that the

United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union will expire in 2016 and we salute the initiative taken by the United Nations and the African Union Commission to formulate a new framework as a successor to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, for a renewed United Nations–African Union partnership on Africa’s integration and development agenda.

23. We thank the Government and people of Ethiopia for their continued hospitality to the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa and for the courtesies afforded to us to ensure the success of our meetings.

Annex II

Resolutions of the eighth Joint Annual Meetings

The ministers attending the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, hereinafter referred to as “the Conference of Ministers”, adopted the following resolutions.

928 (XLVIII). Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling decision Assembly/AU/Dec.565(XXIV) adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, in which the Assembly, among other things, adopted the Agenda 2063 framework document and the popular version of Agenda 2063;¹ requested the African Union Commission to intensify measures aimed at popularizing Agenda 2063; further requested member States and the regional economic communities to accelerate the domestication of Agenda 2063 and integrate it into their respective development initiatives and plans; and also requested the African Union Commission to finalize all necessary consultations on the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 with a view to submitting it to the African Union policy organs at their June 2015 meetings,

Appreciating the strong collaboration between the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank in formulating and popularizing Agenda 2063,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made and the measures taken in the elaboration and finalization of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063,

Noting that several member States and regional economic communities are in the process of developing

successor plans to their current national and regional development frameworks,

Recognizing the importance of identifying and addressing the capacity requirements for the implementation of Agenda 2063, including the first 10-year implementation plan, and the importance of developing human and institutional capacities, systems and work processes,

Recognizing also the need for solid data, including baseline data, and the institution of periodic reviews, for the tracking of progress, and the need to revitalize and strengthen national statistical and planning systems,

Welcoming the proposed study on capacity needs for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the recognition of the need to build critical skills in statistics, planning, negotiation and other areas,

1. Urges the African Union Commission, in the finalization of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063:

- a. To further improve on the milestones, targets and strategies contained in the plan;
- b. To explore synergies and opportunities for the harmonization of the objectives, targets and indicators of Agenda 2063 and those of the post-2015 development agenda;
- c. To establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks;
- d. To clarify roles and responsibilities and strengthen coordination mechanisms with relevant partners and stakeholders;
- e. To remove and avoid imposing specific targets on public expenditure and to maintain flexibility in fiscal policy and budget allocations in accordance with countries' priorities, specific characteristics and levels of development;

2. Requests member States to review the draft 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and provide comments thereon to the African Union Commission by 30 June 2015;

3. Calls for the holding of expert meetings and ministerial committee meetings to review the implementation and financing plans of the flagship projects prior to their submission to the Assembly of the African Union;

¹ Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, third edition, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, January 2015.

4. Urges member States to take all necessary measures to popularize Agenda 2063 at all levels and to incorporate it into their national plans;
5. Calls upon the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities and other stakeholders to support member States in incorporating Agenda 2063 into their national plans;
6. Urges member States, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and all regional and external stakeholders:
 - a. To consider the financing of Agenda 2063 in a manner that takes into account, first, domestic resource mobilization; second, the leveraging of existing and new financial intermediation vehicles to be created; and, third, access to finance facilitation resources such as project development funds and guarantee and risk-sharing facilities;
 - b. To address the issues of illicit financial flows, natural resource rent maximization and regional capital market development;
 - c. To deepen the examination of the strategy for the domestic and external financing of Agenda 2063;
7. Undertakes to involve civil society and the private sector in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;
8. Calls upon the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to organize a multi-stakeholder consultation on the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 by 30 September 2015;
9. Also calls upon the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to employ South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063;
10. Requests the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish by 31 March 2016 an economic development observatory, mandated with setting in place an early warning system for risks to African economies and

proposing measures to mitigate their possible consequences.

929 (XLVIII). Third International Conference on Financing for Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Taking note of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/204 of 20 December 2013, on follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014, on modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which calls upon the regional commissions, with the support of regional development banks and other relevant entities, to hold regional consultations, as appropriate, the outcome of which could serve as input to the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Welcoming the steps taken by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session to convene inclusive and transparent intergovernmental consultations, with the participation of major institutional stakeholders, in relation to the financing for development process,

Welcoming also the fact that the third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, and will be at the highest possible political level, attended by Heads of State and Government, relevant ministers, including ministers for finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation, special representatives and other representatives,

Welcoming further the draft document entitled “Financing for development: Africa’s perspectives”,

Noting the contributions of the regional consultation held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015 in the lead-up to the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Noting also the January, April and June 2015 consultations of the negotiation process for the formulation of the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Emphasizing the importance of producing an ambitious outcome document at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular in order to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda,

Stressing that the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development should take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the right to development, while at the same time respecting the development policy space of African countries for the implementation of their poverty eradication and sustainable development programmes,

Highlighting the importance of taking into account the priorities of Africa as identified in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda, the African Agenda 2063 and the continental programmes embedded in the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

1. Endorses the draft document entitled "Financing for development: Africa's perspectives" as a living document, taking into account inputs from the Chair's summary of the proceedings of the regional consultations held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015;

2. Requests the African groups of negotiators in New York to use the draft document entitled "Financing for development: Africa's perspectives", as an input in negotiating the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development and urges Africa to speak with one voice throughout the International Conference on Financing for Development process.

930 (XLVIII). African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Reaffirming the commitments to sustainable development made by African countries at major United

Nations conferences and summits, notably at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1997 special session of the General Assembly on the five-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 2000 Millennium Summit, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and also those contained in multilateral environment agreements and in declarations and decisions of the Assembly of the African Union,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/290, in which the Assembly referred to the decision contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", to establish a high-level political forum on sustainable development which would subsequently replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, and decided that the high-level political forum should provide political leadership and guidance, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, and enhance the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling also the recommendation contained in the outcome document of the African regional implementation meeting for the follow-up processes to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,² that the Economic Commission for Africa should convene the Africa Regional Political Forum in preparation for the sessions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with other relevant partners,

Acknowledging the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and the annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Noting with appreciation the work on the sustainable development goals currently being undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and other partners,

2 Outcome Document of the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting for the Post-Rio+20 Follow-up Processes.

1. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to take all necessary steps to convene on a biennial basis the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;
2. Undertakes to work in close collaboration with national Governments to support the convening of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;
3. Encourages member States to scale up their commitment to and support for the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

931 (XLVIII). Data revolution and statistical development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that the implementation of Agenda 2063 will require comprehensive, accurate and timely data,

Building on its resolution 923 (XLVII) on the post-2015 development agenda,

Reiterating the importance of statistics information for fostering Africa's economic and political integration and for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, policies and initiatives, such as Agenda 2063, the extraordinary summit on employment, poverty eradication and inclusive development, and the post-2015 development agenda,

Recalling that at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Malabo on 26 and 27 June 2014, the Assembly of the African Union asked the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Development Programme to organize a high-level conference on the data revolution,

Taking into account the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, which called for a data revolution to make information and data more available, more accessible and more broadly disaggregated,

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force in April 2014 of the African Charter on Statistics,

Noting the progress made by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank in developing

and implementing continental frameworks, strategies and initiatives such as the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics, and the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme,

Recognizing that there is a lack of reliable data on key indicators of labour markets, migration and informal economy that can be used to monitor and evaluate progress made on commitments such as the Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa,

Noting that several African countries are graduating to middle-income status,

1. Endorses the report of the High-level Conference on the Data Revolution, adopts its recommendations and calls upon member States, the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other development partners to implement it;

2. Resolves to lead the African data revolution, bringing together diverse data communities and using a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies, with a view to providing timely and disaggregated data for decision-making, service delivery, citizen engagement and information to drive Africa's social, economic and structural transformation;

3. Undertakes to ensure that the African data revolution is built on the principle of openness across the data value chain and on vibrant data ecosystems driven by national priorities and anchored in national statistics systems that are inclusive of all data communities and stakeholders;

4. Commits itself to providing adequate funds for the data revolution and data communities to ensure their sustainability;

5. Commends member States that have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics and calls upon those that have not done so to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;

6. Requests the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the relevant agencies of the United Na-

tions to create a working group for the development of indicators for the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 (2014–2023);

7. Calls upon member States to participate actively in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses;

8. Requests member States to implement the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics and the African Union Commission to ensure that the programme is integrated into the Africa Peer Review Mechanism;

9. Requests the African Union Commission and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia to accelerate the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics, to be based in Tunis, and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, to be based in Yamoussoukro, to ensure better coordination and harmonization of statistics in Africa;

10. Calls upon development partners to strengthen the capacity of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa working group on the labour market and the informal economy, in order to produce better statistics and implement the framework for work statistics put forward at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in Geneva from 2 to 11 October 2013;

11. Calls upon member States to conduct labour force surveys on a regular basis in order to obtain data on the status of employment in their countries, and requests the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration, with the support of development partners such as the African Development Bank, the European Union and the World Bank, to strengthen the production of migration statistics in Africa with a view to improving the monitoring of the Joint Labour Migration Programme;

12. Calls upon the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to fast-track the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;

13. Requests the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to develop an index measuring the emerging-economy status of African coun-

tries, in line, among other things, with the guidance in Agenda 2063 and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda.

932 (XLVIII). African Social Development Index

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that, despite the unprecedented rates of economic growth in Africa since the turn of the millennium, exclusion continues to hinder economic and social development,

Mindful that the path towards an inclusive structural transformation requires social policies that will provide equal opportunities for all and will convert economic growth into direct improvements to people's lives,

Noting that this transformation process requires people-centred policies,

Acknowledging that, during the second session of the Committee on Gender and Social Development, in 2011, member States requested the Economic Commission for Africa to develop a tool to measure progress towards inclusive development,

Taking note of the significant number of member States that participated in the elaboration and piloting of the African Social Development Index, as a policy tool that reflects the particular context of Africa and was designed by experts from the continent,

Recognizing the efforts made by the Governments of Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal and Zambia in establishing national implementation teams and in participating as pilot countries in the development and application of the African Social Development Index,

Noting that the African Social Development Index assesses progress in addressing social inclusion in the Economic Commission for Africa country profiles,

Emphasizing that the African Social Development Index adopts a holistic and comprehensive approach to inclusive development by addressing not just poverty, but also the various dimensions of exclusion throughout the human life cycle, with a gender and geographical focus,

1. Welcomes the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa in developing the African Social Development Index as a policy tool to support

member States in their efforts to promote inclusive development and develop social and economic policies with a view to reducing human exclusion on the continent;

2. Encourages all member States to adopt the African Social Development Index and mainstream it into their national development plans, and to acknowledge the need to address human exclusion as a condition for progress towards inclusive development;
3. Recommends that the African Social Development Index become a standard reference point for assessing progress in social development on the continent;
4. Urges all stakeholders, including development partners, academic institutions and civil society organizations, to support African Governments in rolling out the African Social Development Index and in building national capacities to use the tool as a monitoring and policy instrument throughout the continent;
5. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Conference of Ministers at its March 2016 session on the implementation of the present resolution.

933 (XLVIII). Framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/1 adopting the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government supported the development and implementation of a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union,

Recalling also the Declaration signed by the United Nations Secretary-General and the African Union Chairperson on 16 November 2006 entitled "Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union",

Aware that the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union has since entered in effect and has provided an important vehicle for focused United Nations support for the capacity-building efforts of the African Union,

Aware also that the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union comes to an end in 2016 and that the African Union has called for a successor programme to be formulated to continue the United Nations-African Union partnership, based on Agenda 2063,

Aware further that the African Union Commission and the United Nations, under the auspices of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, have taken the initiative to draw up a framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027, which is anchored on Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan,

1. Commends all the stakeholders in the partnership – the United Nations entities and the African Union, including the regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development – on the efforts deployed to implement the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union;
2. Also commends the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, its clusters, subclusters and subregional coordination mechanisms for delivering invaluable support to the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
3. Welcomes the initiative to formulate the framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027;
4. Endorses the framework as the successor to the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union;
5. Requests the African Union Commission to submit the framework to the Assembly of the African Union for consideration and adoption at its twenty-fifth ordinary session in South Africa in June 2015, and for its subsequent transmittal to the General Assembly at its seventieth session in September 2015 for consideration and adoption as the new United Nations programme of support for the African Union;
6. Calls upon the General Assembly, bilateral and multilateral partners and the international community at large to lend their full support to the im-

plementation of the framework in tangible and enabling ways.

934 (XLVIII). Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/137, in which the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs, continues seriously to impede sustainable and inclusive development in African landlocked developing countries,

Recalling that the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action is to address in a holistic manner the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints,

Taking note of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan,

1. Endorses the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;
2. Invites African landlocked and transit developing countries, regional and subregional organizations and all other stakeholders to implement the Vienna Programme of Action in its priority areas of fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;
3. Urges concerned member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to mainstream the Vi-

enna Programme of Action into the programme of work of the Commission, as appropriate and within its mandate, and to submit analytical reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in its paragraph 75;

5. Calls upon the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and all other relevant regional and sub-regional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programme of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner in line with Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan;

6. Encourages the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, as appropriate, and in line with the sub-regional and national priorities of landlocked developing countries.

935 (XLVIII). Least developed countries in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling paragraph 149 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), which entrusts United Nations regional commissions and agencies with the responsibility of undertaking biennial reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling also paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 69/231, recalling paragraph 157 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in which the General Assembly was invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, which would be informed, among other things, by national and regional reviews,

Recognizing that 34 out of the 48 countries belonging to the United Nations category of least developed countries are on the continent of Africa, with corresponding implications and benefits for improved development circumstances,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action

for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,³

Welcoming the significant progress made by African least developed countries in reducing extreme poverty, child and maternal mortality and malnutrition and expanding access to primary education, and recognizing the need for continued strong partnerships to sustain progress in these areas;

Noting that African least developed countries have made mixed progress towards achieving the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action and continue to be confronted with multiple and complex development challenges,

Concerned that, during the initial years of implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, some of these countries have experienced reduced economic growth, with persistent narrow production and export bases, continued infrastructure deficits and an underskilled labour force, all of which factors have constrained their own ongoing efforts and those of their development partners to promote sustainable development, compounded by a decline in official development assistance resources,

Underscoring that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in African least developed countries rest with themselves,

Emphasizing that good governance, inclusiveness and transparency, and also domestic resource mobilization, are central to the development process of African least developed countries and that these efforts need to be given tangible and substantial international support,

Recalling the critical influence of international factors and stronger support measures by development partners on strong and sustainable economic growth and development in African least developed countries,

Stressing that partnerships between African least developed countries and development partners should be strengthened within the framework of shared responsibility and mutual accountability through renewed and strengthened global partnerships,

Expressing satisfaction at the proposals for specific least-developed-country deliverables, in particular for a technology bank and investment promotion regimes dedicated to the least developed countries,

³ A/69/95-E/2014/81.

as outlined in paragraphs 14 and 45, respectively, of resolution 69/231,

1. Calls for the adoption and full operationalization of specific least-developed-country deliverables, namely the technology bank and investment promotion regimes dedicated to the least developed countries;

2. Encourages African least developed countries to intensify their efforts to fulfil the commitments and recommendations of the Istanbul Programme of Action with the objective of graduating from the status of least developed countries;

3. Calls upon development partners to provide African least developed countries with additional, enhanced, preferential, concessional and most favourable treatment in the areas of finance, technologies, know-how and other resources, and to accord them differential and flexible treatment in respect of international commitments and obligations that are not commensurate with their capacity, needs and stage of development;

4. Commends the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the African Union Commission and other partner institutions on their commitment and technical expertise in taking forward the concerns and requests from African least developed countries;

5. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the African Union Commission and other partner institutions to continue to address the concerns and requests from African least developed countries, with a view to ensuring that those countries are able to satisfy the necessary graduation criteria;

6. Also requests the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to hold the next biennial regional review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 during the

tenth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

936 (XLVIII). Progress and further development of the African Risk Capacity Agency

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling decision Assembly/AU/Dec.417(XIX) of the Assembly of the African Union, adopted at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa in July 2012, to endorse in principle the proposal to establish the African Risk Capacity Agency as a specialized agency of the African Union, with a view to providing cost-effective contingency financing for participating countries seeking to improve their planning and preparation for and response to natural disasters,

Commending the secretariat of the African Risk Capacity Agency on the expedient implementation of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.417(XIX), the mobilization of over \$200 million for the continent, and the efficient operationalization of the Agency, which represents a new regional integration model,

Acknowledging that, as witnessed in the case of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, African Governments will require both stronger operational capacity – through their own health systems at the national level and through the African Centre for Disease Control at the continental level – and financing to cover the costs involved in containing disease outbreaks before they become pandemics,

1. Welcomes the progress report of the African Risk Capacity Agency on the establishment of its financial affiliate and on the drought insurance payments of \$25 million which it has triggered and transferred to States members of the African Union in the Sahel region ahead of other aid;

2. Requests the secretariat of the Agency, under the mandate set out in article 2 of the Agreement for the Establishment of the African Risk Capacity Agency, to help States members of the African Union to improve their capacities to plan and prepare for and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters, and to develop an outbreak and epidemic

insurance product to complement the efforts of the African Centre for Disease Control;

3. Requests the African Union Commission, with the support of the secretariat of the Agency, to explore how the institutional and financial structure of the Agency could be replicated to attract private capital for the achievement of the goals outlined in Agenda 2063, in particular those pertaining to agricultural, infrastructure or other large-scale projects, while maintaining continental standards for socially responsible investment;

4. Requests development finance institutions and partners to channel their support for risk management in Africa through existing African-led institutions;

5. Urges all States members of the African Union to sign the Agreement for the Establishment of the African Risk Capacity Agency, in order to benefit from the Agency's risk management advisory services, tools and expertise;

6. Calls upon development partners and institutions to support the African Risk Capacity Agency, which plays an important role in Africa's natural disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

Annex III

Report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Committee of Experts of the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Addis Ababa from 25 to 27 March 2015.

Part One

Procedural matters

1. Opening of the meeting [agenda item 1]

A. Attendance

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

3. The following regional economic communities were represented: Central African Economic and Monetary Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, Economic Community of West African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Southern African Development Community.

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Office to the African Union, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

5. The following Member States of the United Nations were represented: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. Representatives of the following bodies were also present: African Development Bank, Central Bank of West African States, Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank, Business Foundation of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development, Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development, Pan-African Postal Union.

7. Observers were present from the following organizations: ActionAid International, Action Jeunesse pour le Développement, African Capacity-Building Foundation, African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), Africa Leadership Forum (ALF), African Monitor, Association of African Universities, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, British Broad-

casting Corporation (BBC), Capacity and Development Services (CAPDEV), Centre for Democratic Development, Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI), Development Initiatives Africa Hub, Development Research and Training, European Union, Fikir Leselam Development Organization, Freann Financial Services Limited, Geological Society of Africa, GK Kanki Foundation, Global Education, Global Fund, Indian Ocean Commission, Information Network Security Agency, Institute for Conscious Global Change, Institute of Development Studies, Integrated Seed Sector Development, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Organization of la Francophonie, International Trade Union Confederation, League of Arab States, MED Confederation, Mzalendo Trust, National Bureau of Statistics, Nurses Across the Borders, Ohaha Family Foundation, ONE Campaign, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, Overseas Development Institute, Oxfam International, Plan International, RMA Capital, Save the Children, Statistics South Africa, Third World Network (TWN), Transparency International Cameroon, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), University of Cape Town, University of Münster, University of Oxford, University of Waterloo, West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, World Vision International, World Wide Fund for Nature, World Wide Web Foundation.

B. Opening statements

8. The opening session was chaired by Mr. Bouh Sid'Ahmed, First Vice-Chair of the outgoing Bureau, Technical Adviser at the Ministry of Finance of Mauritania. Opening statements were made by Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union; Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA; and Mr. Abraham Tekeste, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia.

9. In his statement, Mr. Maruping expressed thanks to representatives for their attendance and to the Government of Ethiopia for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegations. He noted the importance of the meeting in moving towards the finalization of the first ten-year plan of Africa's strategic structural transformation frame-

work adopted by the Assembly of the African Union: the African Agenda 2063. He stressed that African countries were committed to the structural transformation of their economies according to their own designs and adhering to their own set of priorities to realize the aspiration of their citizenry via the adoption of Agenda 2063, adding that the process would require collective action to ensure proper planning at the national, regional and continental levels, the mobilization of all stakeholders, and sustainable financing plans.

10. He noted the relevance of the discussion on Agenda 2063 at a time when the world was preparing for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015. He urged the Committee to ensure that it prepared effectively and wisely to ensure that Africa's voice could be heard, heeded and fully appreciated during the second and third sessions for the drafting of the outcome document of the third Conference on Sustainable Development, to take place in April and June respectively, and during the Conference itself.

11. He indicated that implementation of Agenda 2063 would also require international finance, reform of the international trading system and technology, innovation and capacity development, while ensuring that external debt loads were sustainable. He also stressed the need for accurate statistics in order for African countries to plan, monitor and evaluate their structural transformation programmes.

12. He applauded the African leadership for establishing, in 2008, the tripartite free trade area covering the countries of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC). He considered that action an important milestone in the integration process and called upon other regional economic communities to emulate the initiative.

13. Mr. Hamdok expressed appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its contribution to the organization of the meeting and its support for the Economic Commission for Africa in that process. He highlighted the impressive growth that Ethiopia had achieved, which reflected the broader progress made across Africa over the last two decades. He identified favourable factors such as a rising middle class, stronger macroeconomic management and development planning and high commodity prices

as key drivers of that growth. In spite of adverse events such as the Ebola crisis and the contraction in emerging markets, the medium-term outlook for Africa remained strong.

14. That said, however, growth on the continent had not translated into job creation; in most cases it had exacerbated inequalities, and generally had not been inclusive. African economies were still largely characterized by low-value economic activity, which impeded both participation in regional and global value chains and sustainable economic growth. Drawing attention to the importance of structural transformation for economic development and recognizing that free markets alone would not be sufficient in that process, he argued for the need for long-term development planning.

15. He stressed the importance of all stakeholders working towards tackling the challenges of implementing Agenda 2063, particularly through active participation in the forthcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development. He reminded participants that the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda had emerged from a collaborative region-wide effort. He hoped that actionable recommendations and specific strategies for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063 would emerge from the present meeting, particularly those encompassing mobilization initiatives, partnerships and compacts.

16. Mr. Tekeste, speaking on behalf of his country's federal authorities, welcomed participants to Ethiopia and to the meeting of the Committee of Experts. He congratulated the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa for organizing the meeting, which allowed for reflection on important continental matters. He noted that Agenda 2063 set a new vision for the continent with important implications in the areas of development planning citizen mobilization and financing for development. He noted that African financing needs were considerable, especially for regional integration, intra-African trade and infrastructure. He emphasized the importance of Africa tapping into its own pool of wealth to finance its agendas, particularly Agenda 2063.

17. In that context, he proposed concerted efforts towards securing finance and more effective and inclusive ways of channelling funds to where they could be most effective and to currently hard-to-reach markets. That would require a comprehensive

resource mobilization strategy targeting Africa's significant untapped resources that could cover critical investment needs in the areas of skills development, economic transformation and infrastructure development. In addition, it was necessary to integrate policy frameworks; specifically, Agenda 2063, into national and regional development plans, strategies and other initiatives, in order to ensure that African countries' goals were achieved and their aspirations were met.

18. Engagement with the private sector was pivotal for the success of Agenda 2063, as was ownership by all stakeholders, including young people, women and the diaspora. He called for action to ensure an enabling domestic environment for active public participation aligned with global sustainable development principles, including respect for human rights, inclusiveness and climate change adaptation and mitigation. He encouraged stakeholders to tap into international resources and ensure that Africa's voice was heard and strengthened in global policy development arenas, taking into account the specific needs and concerns of the continent. He stressed that deliberations at the present meeting would underpin the implementation of Agenda 2063 and be taken forward to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which he urged participants to attend. He reiterated the firm commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to Agenda 2063.

II. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work [agenda item 2]

19. The following countries were unanimously elected by the Committee to form the new Bureau:

- a. Chair: United Republic of Tanzania
- b. First Vice-Chair: Egypt
- c. Second Vice-Chair: Gabon
- d. Third Vice-Chair: South Africa
- e. Rapporteur: Guinea

20. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

- 1. Opening of the meeting
- 2. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work

3. Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa
4. Intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda
5. Data revolution
6. Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa
7. Presentation on the theme of the Conference: “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development”
8. Follow-up actions on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
9. Statutory issues
10. Other matters
11. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts and the draft resolutions
12. Closing of the meeting

Part Two

Account of proceedings

III. Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa [agenda item 3]

A. Presentation

21. The representative of the secretariat provided an overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa, highlighting the main messages from document E/ECA/COE/34/3-AU/STC/FME-PI/EXP/3(I). He said that Africa’s growth prospects remained strong (with growth of 5 per cent on average) and that the continent was making economic and social progress, despite regional and global challenges. The continent’s remarkable growth was underpinned by improved governance and macro-economic management, a growing middle class and rising aggregate demand, diversified trade and investment ties with emerging partners, and improved regional integration and diversified trade partnerships within the continent. In the medium term, however, the continent was vulnerable to downside risks re-

lated to falling commodity prices and the weak economic recovery of developed countries.

22. In terms of social development, Africa was continuing to make progress in areas such as poverty reduction, gender parity, representation of women in parliament, and health; however, underlying fundamentals to support long-term growth and structural transformation, such as high-quality education, remained inadequate. Despite the continent’s robust economic performance over the past decade, strong growth had not been able to reduce widespread poverty and create decent jobs for the continent’s youthful population. If that continued, the continent would be unable to take full advantage of its demographic dividend and achieve its development potential during the following decade.

23. Africa’s sustainable development required an increased focus on structural transformation and inclusive growth, through productive capacity underpinned by value addition and beneficiation of commodities and natural resources. In that regard, the continent should adopt policies to improve its business environment, close its human and infrastructure gap, reduce its financing gap by taking advantage of domestic resource mobilization, and foster competitive sectors by shifting labour from low-productivity sectors to higher productivity sectors such as industry.

B. Discussion

24. In the ensuing discussion, participants said that growth in Africa had been characterized by high levels of disparities between countries, low productivity and few employment opportunities. More emphasis should be placed on improving the continent’s economic and social infrastructure, with a view to encouraging private investors and tackling the impediments to private sector development and regional integration. There was also a need for social indicators to be developed, in particular those regarding the labour market, to enable the continent to produce accurate statistics on the labour market and to formulate adequate education policies, which were important because educational outcomes affected social inclusion and structural transformation. Participants agreed on the critical need to make the most of the continent’s demographic dividend. They also discussed the accuracy of certain indicators and highlighted the need for the continent to set up an alert mechanism to anticipate crises and measure the

impact on African economies (to be known as the Observatory of Economic Development), and the quality and sustainability of Africa's current growth and economic performance, with a view to identifying how to achieve the continent's full potential and ensure that growth was inclusive.

C. Recommendations

25. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. African countries should build on the progress made so far and continue establishing robust institutions that improve the business environment and promote economic governance and macroeconomic management, with a view to increasing resilience to external shocks;
- b. African countries should develop strategies to close the human capital gap and should implement education policies that will ensure that young Africans are equipped with the skills that the labour market needs, in order to make the most of the demographic dividend and ensure equal opportunities for all Africans;
- c. An early-warning mechanism should be set up (to be known as the Observatory of Economic Development), to anticipate crises and assess their potential impact on African countries;
- d. African countries should improve their physical infrastructure, in particular in the transport and energy sectors, to reduce the continent's infrastructure deficit, with a view to boosting intra-African trade, encouraging private investment and strengthening the processing sector, through effective structural transformation strategies.

IV. *Intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda [agenda item 4]*

A. Presentation

26. The representative of the secretariat gave a brief overview of the consultation process that led to the formulation of the common African position on

the post-2015 development agenda and its adoption by the Assembly of the African Union at its session held in January 2014. He compared the priority areas of the common position with those included in the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and showed that there was substantial convergence between the priorities identified in both documents.

27. He also compared the six essential elements for delivering on the sustainable development goals identified in the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda with the priorities set forth in the common position, indicating that science and technology were not included among the six elements identified in the Secretary-General's report, and were only mentioned in the section entitled "Mobilizing the means to implement our agenda". He also noted that, in the section dealing with justice, the Secretary-General's report focused on the rebuilding of societies crises and conflicts, while the common position emphasized prevention and the root causes of conflict. He compared the common African position with the positions of various countries on the post-2015 development agenda.

28. He presented the road map proposed by the co-chairs of the intergovernmental negotiation on the post-2015 development agenda and the road map for the development of indicators and monitoring mechanisms for the sustainable development goals. An African group of negotiators on the post-2015 development agenda had been established to coordinate efforts and ensure that Africa spoke with one voice, and to forge alliances with other regions with the ultimate goal of ensuring that Africa's priorities were integrated into the post-2015 agenda.

29. He also underscored the need for national consultations on the development of indicators for the sustainable development goals, culminating in a continental consultation on the topic that reflected African priorities and that would inform the final discussions on the development of indicators for the sustainable development goals.

B. Discussion

30. In the ensuing discussion, various participants highlighted the link between the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063. They enquired about the elements from the common Afri-

can position that had been reflected in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. They noted that it was also important to highlight the areas of divergence between the two instruments and to develop strategies to ensure that African negotiators spoke with one voice on the issues highlighted in the common African position. They underlined the need for more clarification and a deeper discussion on the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, including goals, targets and indicators, and called for the sharing of documentation relating to the process and the outcomes of those negotiations.

31. Other participants raised the issue of the development of indicators for the post-2015 development agenda and underscored the need to support countries in that regard. As part of the programme of action with regard to the indicators, a pan-African consultation on targets and indicators was scheduled to take place in May 2015 to ensure that they reflected Africa's key priorities.

C. Recommendations

32. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. The African Union Commission should keep countries informed about the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda;
- b. Member States should strengthen the capacity of African statisticians to formulate, apply and evaluate indicators. A regional mechanism should also be established for the development of indicators;
- c. Member States should conclude the sustainable development goals indicators urgently to meet the 2016 United Nations Statistical Commission deadline;
- d. Member States should take an active part in the formulation of targets and indicators for the sustainable development goals by organizing national consultations with stakeholders and participating in the continental consultation for the formulation of indicators that reflect Africa's priorities in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;
- e. The African group of negotiators should speak with one voice, coordinate its efforts

and adopt a strategy to ensure that the common African position is reflected fully in the outcome document on the post-2015 development agenda;

- f. All member States should support the African negotiators on the post-2015 development agenda.

V. *Data revolution [agenda item 5]*

A. Presentation

33. The representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the data revolution in Africa, structured around the following elements: update on the development of statistics in Africa; status of implementation of the African Charter on Statistics; status of implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa; update on the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics, to be based in Tunis, and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, to be based in Yamoussoukro; and data revolution in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

34. He said that great strides had been made in many areas of statistics in Africa, but that several challenges remained, including the lack of political will, inefficient resource allocation and weak capacities of national statistical systems. The African Charter on Statistics had entered into force, following ratification by 16 countries since April 2014, with 22 countries yet to sign or ratify it. He underscored the need to continue calling upon all African countries to ratify the Charter and to align their national statistical laws and strategies for the development of statistics with the principles of the Charter.

35. He also highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. Several working groups had made significant progress in various areas, including statistics on governance, peace and security, with the establishment of the City Group on Governance Statistics by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session; the 2010 round of the general population and housing census; the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme; the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Sta-

tistics; the Yamoussoukro Declaration, adopted in February 2015 at the third Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, on the institutionalization of 2015–2024 as the decade of civil registration and vital statistics in Africa; and the establishment of an Africa Day of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

36. He informed the meeting about the progress made toward establishing the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre. The African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Governments of Tunisia and Côte d'Ivoire, was to fast-track the process by allocating equipment and financial resources for their operationalization.

37. He also highlighted the importance of a data revolution, which would enable Africa to produce quality data and timely indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063. The data revolution would broaden the scope of what might be termed the “data ecosystems” in African countries.

B. Discussion

38. In the ensuing discussion, participants re-emphasized the role of and the need for reliable and credible data, particularly in the context of Agenda 2063. They observed that progress had been made in the development of governance indicators, but that much remained to be done in the area of national accounts. They highlighted the importance of institutional and human capacity, data quality, data standardization and statistical policy harmonization across the continent, and stressed the importance of full implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. A data revolution was of relevance for the closing of data gaps and streamlining of data sources of varying degrees of quality and reliability. The data revolution would also allow for the harnessing of new technologies and partnerships to close data gaps and needs in an innovative manner. It was important, however, to ensure that the concept of a data revolution was fully understood by all concerned. A high-level conference would be held as part of the present joint meetings, from 27 to 29 March 2015, to reach a consensus on the definition of Africa's new data ecosystem.

39. One of the main challenges raised was the limited staffing for the handling of civil registration

and vital statistics at both the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission. That challenge was being addressed by leveraging the knowledge of a core group of experts on civil registration and vital statistics, with support from the Government of South Africa. The low priority given to the generation, analysis and dissemination of statistics at the national level was also highlighted.

40. Participants discussed progress in the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre in the context of the harmonization and coordination of statistics and the strengthening of statistical capacity at the local, national, subregional and regional levels. The establishment of those institutions had been based on decisions adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its sessions held in January 2013 and January 2014, respectively. Participants noted that significant progress had been made toward operationalizing both the Institute and the Training Centre, and called for support for both institutions.

C. Recommendations

41. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. African countries that have not done so should fast-track the signing, ratification and domestication of the African Charter on Statistics;
- b. The Yamoussoukro Declaration on the institutionalization of 2015–2024 as the decade for repositioning civil registration and vital statistics in Africa's continental, regional and national development agenda should be implemented by countries;
- c. Individual countries should conduct the 2020 round of population censuses in a timely manner to ensure coherence and comparability with other countries;
- d. Countries should implement the African programme for the generation of governance, peace and security statistics, and the African Union Commission should ensure that it is integrated into the African Peer Review Mechanism;
- e. Countries should implement the Ouagadougou decision of 2004 on labour market measurements and the improvement of sta-

- tistics on informal and private sector investment;
- f. The Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission should urgently strengthen their internal capacity to implement the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, and should be supported by partners in this endeavour;
 - g. The African Union Commission should accelerate the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre and the strengthening of existing statistical training centres to ensure better coordination and harmonization of statistics in Africa;
 - h. The Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia should allocate adequate resources and equipment for the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre;
 - i. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should lead the mobilization of resources for civil registration and vital statistics.

VI. Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa [agenda item 6]

A. Presentation

42. The representative of the secretariat outlined the current status of regional integration, focusing particularly on infrastructure development. He observed that tremendous efforts had been made by all the regional economic communities in the area of regional integration. Some regional economic communities had gone further and signed a charter on economic and monetary integration.

43. Despite the achievements, he stressed that the implementation of regional integration continued to face both traditional and emerging challenges, such as poor infrastructure, poor governance, concerns over sovereignty, overlapping memberships of regional economic communities, and emerging epidemics, such as Ebola, which had severely affected West African countries. In response to those

challenges, African leaders had taken strong positions, including the decision taken in April 2013 in Port Louis at the sixth African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Regional Integration, which called upon the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to take the necessary steps to accelerate the regional integration agenda.

44. He also emphasized that infrastructure was key to accelerating regional integration and economic growth in Africa. In that respect, he stressed the importance of implementing regional and continental initiatives such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. He observed that there was a mismatch between infrastructure investment needs and the resources available. In view of that mismatch, he called upon African Governments to support and enhance the initiatives on innovative sources of financing, such as levying taxes on airline tickets, hotel bills and financial transactions.

B. Discussion

45. There was general agreement that regional integration would not be achieved without political will. The meeting heard that many decisions on regional integration had already been adopted by African leaders, but had not been implemented at the regional and national level. To address that challenge, the domestication of integration decisions agreed at both the regional and the continental level into national strategic plans was said to be critical. There were also calls for the implementation of regional integration initiatives to be accelerated, including the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. Furthermore, it was noted that attainment of the regional integration agenda was being negatively affected by the criteria set for assessing regional integration at both the regional and the continental level. Some of the targets that had been set for economic indicators were not realistic and needed to be revised.

46. Funding regional integration activities and programmes, particularly in infrastructure, remained a key challenge. Domestic resource mobilization would not meet all the infrastructure financing needs in Africa. Finding alternative sources for the financing of infrastructure development was described as crucial. South–South cooperation also had a key role to play in supporting the financing of infrastructure development. However, coordination remained a

concern that needed to be addressed. In addition, a suggestion was made for African central banks to take an active role in mobilizing funds to finance infrastructure development. In an effort to mobilize more funds, it was reported that Guinea, the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme planned to organize a forum to map out resources to support attainment of the goals of the post-2015 development agenda.

47. Limited capacity for regional integration at the national level remained a challenge as far as the negotiation and implementation of regional and national initiatives on integration were concerned. It was reported that a number of countries were not fully aware of some of the decisions that had been taken at the continental and regional levels with regard to integration. The need was therefore highlighted for member States to enhance awareness of regional integration issues at the national level, including via education and training. Some countries had already introduced initiatives to raise citizens' awareness of the benefits of regional integration. In addition, the need for quality data for the effective monitoring and assessment of regional integration issues was emphasized. On that matter, participants underscored the important role of intensive dialogue among pan-African institutions, such as the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme in enhancing the collection and analysis of data.

C. Recommendations

48. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. Member States should enhance knowledge-sharing, including education and training, on regional integration issues with key stakeholders;
- b. Member States should support and enhance the initiatives on innovative sources of financing, as decided by the Assembly of the African Union at its January 2015 session;
- c. African central banks should take an active role in supporting Governments in the mobilization of resources for regional integration initiatives, particularly in infrastructure,

using appropriate monetary and credit policies;

- d. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should strengthen the collection of data, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, business and industry structure, production and consumption, and the use of the International Comparison Programme, which provides information on consumption in Africa;
- e. Regional economic communities should revise the indicators used for assessing regional integration;
- f. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and member States should strengthen South–South cooperation and triangular cooperation in order to support African integration.

VII. *Presentation and discussion on the theme of the Conference: “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development” [agenda item 7]*

A. Presentation

49. Mr. Christopher Kachiza, Acting Director of Strategic Planning, African Union Commission, made presentations on the issues paper on the theme of the Conference, “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development”; on the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063; and on the financing and domestic resource mobilization strategy.

50. His first presentation provided the background to the development of Agenda 2063. That process had been guided by the African Union Vision and the solemn declarations adopted by the Assembly of the African Union during the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity. He defined Agenda 2063 as a strategic framework for the socioeconomic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years, which built on and sought to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development. It was a vision, a transformational framework and

a plan, building on past frameworks to position the continent in the changing global context.

51. Agenda 2063 sought to harness the continent's competitive advantages to eradicate poverty, while establishing enduring peace and stability and empowering women and young people. The initiative had been developed through wide consultations with stakeholders in various sectors on the continent. Agenda 2063 comprised a framework document and its popular version, which had been adopted by the Assembly of the African Union in January 2015, together with its first 10-year implementation plan, which was being developed for presentation to policy organs in June 2015. The implementation plan was built on seven aspirations shaped by the consultations and the technical studies that had been conducted. There were goals and priority areas for each aspiration to facilitate integration into the existing frameworks. The framework consisted of six chapters, ranging from a situation analysis to risks and mitigating strategies.

52. In the second presentation, he provided information on the progress made to date in the preparation of the draft 10-year plan, presented the structure and scope of the plan and the way forward for the completion of the draft. The plan was being developed pursuant to a directive from the African Union Executive Council. It consisted of priority areas, specific targets, indicative strategies, policy measures and the roles and responsibilities at the national, regional and continental levels to guide all stakeholders for the first 10 years of the implementation of Agenda 2063. The plan identified the key success factors and risks, and also mitigating strategies. It was built on the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity, accountability and transparency. Monitoring and evaluation constituted a key element of the plan, together with the imperative need to identify the skills required to implement the plan and the skills shortages that must be filled. Consultations with stakeholders had commenced, with a view to facilitating the adaptation of Agenda 2063 to national conditions and its implementation.

53. In the third presentation, he noted that the financing strategy took cognizance of ongoing and recently concluded domestic resource mobilization studies and initiatives. Those included the proposals of the High-level Panel on Alternative Sources of Funding for the African Union, led by the former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo; the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa,

led by the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki; the study on mobilizing domestic financial resources for implementing NEPAD national and regional programmes; and the African Union Commission's resource mobilization strategy.

54. The strategy recognized that the landscape for development finance had changed dramatically over the past decade, in terms of its actors, driving forces and financing instruments. Those instruments had evolved both institutionally and strategically from the traditional mechanisms of development cooperation, transforming development finance into a multipolar arena. The strategy had also prepared and categorized potential uses of funds and the corresponding resource mobilization and mediation vehicles, together with the actions to be taken to realize the specific domestic resource mobilization activity.

55. He outlined the challenges to unlocking financing, as well as the existing financing vehicles and institutional arrangements. Given their size and complexity, the financing needs of Agenda 2063 required Africa to consider the domestic and international financial markets as alternative sources of finance for most of its large-scale industrial projects, infrastructure projects and trade finance lines of credit.

56. Following those presentations, the representatives of Mauritania and the Economic Community of West African States presented subregional perspectives on Agenda 2063 for North and West Africa respectively. The representative of Mauritania noted that Agenda 2063 had been discussed at the previous meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for North Africa, held in Rabat in March 2015. The Committee had underscored the strategic dimension of the 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and identified financing as a critical constraint on its implementation. It had suggested a number of measures to overcome that constraint, including reforms of national financial systems to enhance the capacity of member States to mobilize savings and diversification of the sources of financing for development with particular attention to domestic resource mobilization. The Committee had urged external partners to fulfil their official development assistance commitments and recommended the creation of a financing fund for Agenda 2063 and the development of innovative sources of financing.

57. The representative of the Economic Community of West African States outlined factors that would have a positive impact on the implementation of Agenda 2063, including: strong statistical and development planning systems at the national level; sound monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and strong domestic resource mobilization capacities. He also underscored the importance of institutional settings at the national level, noting that countries required coordination at the ministerial level to ensure coherence among all ministries involved in the implementation of development plans and strategies.

B. Discussion

58. In the ensuing discussion, participants commended the presenter on the quality and comprehensiveness of his presentations. They noted that the framework document of Agenda 2063 had been adopted by the Assembly of the African Union. The current deliberations were therefore not intended to revise the document but to provide inputs for the first 10-year implementation plan, which was being elaborated. Several issues relating to the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 were discussed, most of which revolved around the role of statistics, monitoring and evaluation, capacity-building, and alignment of the continental plan with national and regional development plans. Participants agreed that member States should own and lead the implementation of the Agenda, and that this would compel the regional economic communities to align their actions accordingly. They also mentioned the pertinence of empowering key stakeholders in the implementation of the Agenda. Other areas covered during the discussion included the role of youth and gender empowerment, research and development, communications, and risk mitigation.

59. Participants highlighted the importance of adopting balanced economic and social policies, and of ensuring that policies were flexible and dynamic to allow for adjustments, in the light of any new developments.

60. Participants underscored the importance of data and data analysis for development, and stressed that decisions on Agenda 2063 should be anchored on credible evidence. There was therefore a need to support initiatives to strengthen African statistical capacity. It was essential to establish baseline information on priority areas of Agenda 2063, as that would enable progress in its implementation to be

measured in a credible manner. That required the articulation of relevant indicators through an inclusive process involving all major stakeholders. It was acknowledged that African countries differed in their level of social and economic development; Agenda 2063 therefore had to be implemented in a flexible manner. Countries had to adopt policies that were appropriate to their specificities, with a view to achieving the goals of Agenda 2063.

61. An in-depth discussion on monitoring and evaluating Agenda 2063 followed, in which participants emphasized the need for a clearly defined methodology to monitor and evaluate the continental plan. They underscored the necessity of periodically assessing the alignment of national and regional development strategies with Agenda 2063. In that regard, they expressed the view that member States and regional economic communities should include activities that would contribute to achieving the goals of Agenda 2063 in their development plans. In essence, the criteria to measure the alignment of Agenda 2063 with national and regional plans, as well as an accompanying monitoring framework, had to be elaborated. Participants stressed the need to be realistic in setting time frames for achieving the goals of Africa's development plans and cautioned against setting time frames that were unlikely to be met, thereby damaging the credibility of such plans. Some participants expressed the view that a time frame of 10 years was too long for an implementation plan, and others pointed out the need for effective coordination of all stakeholders at national and regional levels in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

62. Participants emphasized the need to critically review past and ongoing development initiatives in Africa, such as the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa, the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), among others, and to use lessons from those initiatives in preparing the implementation plan for Agenda 2063. That would help to avoid duplication of efforts and the waste of scarce resources. They noted that two of the fifty years of the Agenda had already elapsed and underscored the need to accelerate the preparation of the first 10-year implementation plan.

63. The importance of developing a communications strategy for Agenda 2063 was highlighted. Participants pointed out that the Agenda had to be

internalized in member States, since member States were central to its implementation. That called for an awareness-raising campaign to mobilize national support, from the public and private sectors, for its implementation. Overall, a good communication plan was critical for ownership of Agenda 2063 at the national and regional levels.

64. Participants identified capacity-building by member States, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission as critical to the implementation of Agenda 2063. They also noted that the extent to which countries required capacity-building varied across the continent in the light of differences in countries' levels of social and economic development. Hence, a uniform approach to capacity-building was unlikely to be successful on the continent. Participants identified statistics, development planning and negotiations as critical areas where capacity-building was required in order to enhance existing skills on the continent. Weak institutional capacities and the lack of reliable statistics hindered countries from formulating sound and effective development plans and from tracking their progress towards inclusive growth and economic transformation. In that regard, national statistics offices had to be strengthened to ensure their ability to generate timely, reliable and disaggregated statistics. Development planning skills were needed to ensure the sustainability of Agenda 2063, as the initiative would only be sustainable if results were locally owned and could be replicated and scaled up by member States. In terms of negotiating skills, member States and institutions tasked with planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Agenda 2063 had to develop and strengthen their human and institutional capacities to better negotiate with partner institutions and Governments on matters relating to the continent's development agenda.

65. Overall, participants agreed that implementation of Agenda 2063 could be a challenging endeavour. To facilitate the process, member States had to play a leadership role, starting with the alignment of their medium-term and long-term national development planning frameworks with the Agenda. For some countries, that should be a relatively straightforward task, since the aspirations of the Agenda were similar to theirs. That might, however, pose a challenge to countries that lacked the capacity to undertake the alignment exercise. It also required them to adopt a comprehensive approach to development. To be effective, the domestication and alignment ef-

forts should be extended to the district level, where the bulk of the population lived.

66. It was noted that the principle of subsidiarity would be applied in implementing Agenda 2063. Based on that principle, action would be taken by member States at the national level, by the regional economic communities at the subregional level, and by the African Union Commission at the continental level. Research and development were also identified as critical to the achievement of the objectives of Agenda 2063. Those objectives could only be achieved, however, if peace and security prevailed on the continent. In that regard, the flagship programme of Agenda 2063 that aimed to end armed conflicts by 2020 was commendable, especially as it focused on women and girls, who were particularly vulnerable to wars and conflicts.

67. Participants recognized the importance of the aspiration in Agenda 2063 that called for an Africa whose development was people-driven, one that relied on the potential of its people, particularly its young people and women, and one with well-cared-for children. They acknowledged that women's empowerment and gender equality were important dimensions of the Agenda, and emphasized the need to ensure that women's organizations were consulted and the needs and priorities of women taken into account in the development of the 10-year action plan for the implementation of the Agenda. Those needs and priorities also had to be factored into the goals, priority areas, targets and indicators of the African structural transformation framework.

68. Given the long-term horizon of Agenda 2063, participants emphasized the need to pay special attention to young people and children in the 10-year action plan for its implementation, considering that harnessing Africa's demographic dividend was an important dimension of the Agenda.

69. Participants recognized that the ability to mobilize resources for the implementation of development plans varied among African countries. Regarding public financial management, they underscored the need to reduce leakages caused by inefficiency and to optimize the mobilization of resources. That could be achieved by improving transparency and accountability through appropriate budgetary standards and government procurement practices. Countries were encouraged to leverage partner support to complement their domestic resources. The important role of the private sector, including small

and medium-sized enterprises, was highlighted by participants, who also stressed the need to create an enabling environment for both local and foreign private sector activity. The lack of available and accessible credit, both short and long term, was noted as a constraint to private sector development in Africa. Pan-African financial institutions, central banks and international financial institutions could all play a role in addressing that constraint, including through mechanisms such as guaranteed funds and support for public-private partnerships.

70. Participants emphasized the role of central banks in financing development. While recognizing that the actions of central banks had been limited by national legislation in the past, they also recognized the relevance of extending the role of the central banks from that of merely ensuring price stability to that of promoting employment and growth. Similarly, Africa needed not only to create new financial institutions but also to strengthen the existing ones and to set up mechanisms for their coordination. Some participants expressed the view that central banks should engage in dialogue on monetary cooperation and coordinate financing for development with other African financial institutions. It was noted that huge illicit financial flows were leaving the continent every year and that mechanisms should be put in place to limit such flows. The recovered funds should be directed to project financing.

71. Lastly, participants emphasized the crucial need for African countries to improve their domestic resource mobilization, including by expanding their tax base and improving their tax collection systems. They appreciated the focus on domestic resource mobilization and emphasized that all resources, whether mobilized internally or externally, should be allocated to projects and programmes covering the aspirations of Agenda 2063, including the empowerment of young people and women.

C. Recommendations

72. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. The African Union Commission should ensure that the selection criteria for projects in the 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 are determined through an inclusive process and taking into account geographical balance. All stakeholders, includ-

ing women's, young people's and children's organizations, should be involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the action plan and have their specific needs reflected in the plan;

- b. The 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 should be disaggregated to highlight bankable projects at the continental, regional and national levels, and should include annual and medium-term implementation benchmarks;
- c. Expert meetings and ministerial committee meetings should be held to review the implementation and financing plans of the flagship projects prior to their submission to the Assembly of the African Union;
- d. The African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and member States should develop strategies to mitigate risks such as wars and conflicts that divert resources from development projects;
- e. The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa should take the lead in evaluating past and existing development frameworks and should draw lessons from that exercise for the implementation of Agenda 2063;
- f. Member States and the regional economic communities should integrate Agenda 2063 into their national and regional development plans respectively, and should report, on an annual or a biennial basis, on progress made in the implementation of the Agenda. In this regard, they should define outputs that would help in achieving the goals of the Agenda and recommend projects to be included in the 10-year plan for the implementation of the Agenda;
- g. The capacity of the African Union Commission should be strengthened to ensure effective coordination of the implementation of Agenda 2063;
- h. The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with member States, should address identified capacity gaps;
- i. Member States and regional economic communities should accord more attention to the establishment of enablers for mobilizing

and financing development in line with the principle of subsidiarity, specifically, measures to accelerate the following efforts need to be prioritized: trade facilitation; financial market deepening and broadening; the preparation of bankable projects; and the production and use of labour market statistics;

- j. The African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the member States, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, African stakeholders and external partners, should work on a strategy for financing, and mobilizing domestic resources for, Agenda 2063, and should implement the strategy expeditiously;
- k. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should support the efforts of member States to strengthen their national development planning and management systems, which are essential for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063;
- l. The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa should mobilize the resources needed to come up with and implement strategies to popularize and raise awareness of Agenda 2063 among member States, with a view to encouraging all national stakeholders to take ownership of the Agenda.

VIII. Follow-up actions to the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 [agenda item 8]

A. Presentation

73. The representative of Zambia, as the Chair of the group of landlocked developing countries, made a statement about the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, which had been adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014.

74. He noted the special challenges associated with landlocked developing countries' lack of direct territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets. He invited member States, international, regional and subregional organizations and other stakeholders to implement actions outlined in the Vienna Programme of Action in the following six priority areas: fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance; international trade and trade facilitation; regional integration and cooperation; structural economic transformation; and means of implementation.

75. He called upon member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation. He reiterated the call, made in paragraph 75 of the Programme of Action, to regional economic commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to mainstream agreed actions into their programmes of work, as appropriate and within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

76. He also called upon the African Union Commission to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into its programme of work for Agenda 2063 with regard to infrastructure, the flagship projects and, in particular, the high-speed train project, to improve the connectivity of landlocked developing countries and their access to the sea in order to facilitate international trade and regional integration and cooperation.

77. Finally, he expressed confidence that member States, the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa would act upon the call made to them in that regard and take the necessary actions in support of Africa's social and economic transformation as articulated in Agenda 2063.

B. Discussion

78. Participants commended Zambia on its statement on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and expressed their support for the initiative.

C. Recommendation

79. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

The 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 should incorporate the measures set out in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, in line with the following six priority areas:

- a. Fundamental transit policy issues;
- b. Infrastructure development and maintenance;
- c. International trade and trade facilitation;
- d. Regional integration and cooperation;
- e. Structural economic transformation;
- f. Means of implementation.

IX. Statutory issues [agenda item 9]

A. African Union Commission statutory issues

1. Presentation

80. The representative of the secretariat presented the statutory issues of the African Union, as detailed below.

- a. Rules of procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration

81. He presented the rules of procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, pointing out that the Committee was one of 14 specialized technical committees established by the Executive Council of the African Union. The committees were all organs of the African Union and as such they should operate according to the rules of procedure to be adopted by the Executive Council. The rules of procedure of the various committees consisted of 33 similar articles, with the exception of article 5, which related to their power and functions.

- b. Progress report on the establishment of the African Union financial institutions and the study on the feasibility of a pan-African stock exchange

82. Recalling the provisions of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (also known as the Abuja Treaty) and the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the African Union financial institutions, he stressed the objective and activities to be carried out by the African Investment Bank, the African Monetary Fund, the African Central Bank and the pan-African stock exchange. He drew attention to the challenges faced and called upon member States to take appropriate measures with a view to speeding up the establishment of the institutions.

- c. Briefing on the outcome document of the African Private Sector Forum

83. He described the objective of the African Private Sector Forum and the outcome of the seventh edition of the Forum, held from 3 to 5 December 2014 in Nairobi. At the Forum, participants had called upon the African Union Commission to create an innovative platform for public–private dialogue, which would build on public–private dialogue schemes already in place at the local, national and regional levels, as highlighted in the study on private sector dynamics in regional economic integration and free trade agreements, which was carried out by the African Union Commission and the European Union. Participants had also called upon African countries to design special policies to facilitate the access of small and medium enterprises to private equity investment facilities and to encourage the creation of compartments for small and medium enterprises in national and regional stock exchanges.

- d. Preparation of the common African position on financing for development

84. He recalled that, as part of the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the African Union Commission was drafting a common African position based on the perspective paper of the African group of negotiators. The perspective paper emphasized that the Addis Ababa outcome document on financing for development should include significant financial and non-financial commitments to be mobilized from a variety of sources, as well as other forms of commitments to address, among other things, issues of infrastructure, industrial diversification, trade, economic

transformation, rural development and agriculture, education, health, women and young people, children, debt cancellation and alleviation, technology facilitation mechanisms, capacity-building, repatriation of illicit financial flows, reform of global governance institutions for economy and finance, strengthening cooperation in the fields of taxation, volatility of commodity prices, exchange rates, and the data revolution, with a view to supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve the sustainable development goals.

- e. Report of the meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs

85. He presented the outcome document of the sixth ordinary meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs, which had been held in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 September 2014. He emphasized the need for the Subcommittee to present its report to both ministers of trade and ministers of finance, given that customs departments in Africa had the dual role of collecting revenue and facilitating trade. The Subcommittee had made a number of recommendations concerning the institutional arrangements for the continental free trade area negotiations and the role of the Subcommittee therein; the interconnectivity of computerized customs clearance and information systems; integrity and ethics in customs administrations; and capacity-building in customs administrations for the continental free trade area and regional integration.

- f. Report of the African Risk Capacity Agency

86. Lastly, he presented a report on the work of the African Risk Capacity Agency and the establishment of its financial affiliate, ARC Insurance Company Limited, capitalized at \$200 million. He emphasized that the serious drought in the Sahel had triggered payments totalling \$25 million in January 2015 from the Agency's insurance company to the Governments of Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal, to help them launch immediate relief operations. The responses funded by ARC Insurance Company Limited were already under way. For its part, the United Nations estimated that 50 per cent of the target set in the international appeal for the Sahel, which was launched after the payouts, in the second week of February 2015, would be met by June 2015. Following requests from its 25 member States, ARC Insurance Company Limited would develop insurance products for floods, tropical cyclones, outbreaks of

disease and epidemics, which should become available within two years.

2. Discussion

87. In the ensuing discussion, participants stressed the need for the rules of procedure of the Specialized Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration to be examined by legal experts from the ministries of justice of member States. Article 5, on the power and functions of the Committee, was amended. Other provisions were also amended and rephrased.

88. Participants noted that the issues raised had been well synthesized and they applauded the inclusion of new and emerging issues such as technology, innovation, capacity-building, and monitoring and evaluation of data. However, participants underscored the need for the document entitled "Financing for development: Africa's perspectives" to be an ambitious one and called for Africa to be bold during the negotiations. The negotiation process would involve Africa negotiating within the Group of 77 and China prior to the second drafting session of the outcome document for the third International Conference on Financing for Development. Participants also noted that there were some recommendations that had emerged from the regional consultation on financing for development, which was held on 23 and 24 March 2015, that could be used to improve the document on Africa's perspectives.

89. Participants suggested some issues that Africa should address during the negotiations, including the price volatility of natural resources; Africa's participation in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development initiative on fighting international tax evasion and illicit financial flows, in order to improve tax collection in Africa; improving the quality of official development assistance; and climate financing. It was agreed that negotiations on double taxation agreements were being conducted to attract investors and should not be viewed as a drain on financial resources for African member States.

90. Participants took note of the report of the sixth ordinary meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs and emphasized the need for adequate measures to guarantee the integrity and ethics of customs administrations. It was reiterated that the 2015 Africa Governance Day should be dedicated to that issue. They also

took note of the report on the establishment of the African Union financial institutions and the study on the feasibility of a pan-African stock exchange.

91. The African Risk Capacity Agency was a cost-effective mechanism for channelling official development assistance, because it had reduced fragmentation with its singularity of purpose, avoided conditionality because compliance rules were set by its African membership, and ensured predictability thanks to pre-agreed, objective triggers for disbursement. Participants encouraged donors and African countries with means to support disaster risk management and African empowerment on the continent by channelling funds through the Agency, as an efficient African-owned institution. Recognizing the challenge of financing the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063, participants encouraged the African Union Commission and the secretariat of the African Risk Capacity Agency to explore how the Agency's unique public-private partnership structure could be replicated to attract private capital and socially responsible investment for the continent's development agenda, in particular for agricultural, infrastructure and other large-scale projects.

3. Recommendation

92. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

Customs, central banks and statisticians should work jointly in order to provide a policy-based structure for the economy.

B. Economic Commission for Africa statutory issues

1. Presentation

93. The representative of the secretariat presented a number of statutory reports, including the following: the annual report on the work of the Commission, set out in document E/ECA/COE/34/1; the proposed planned work programme for the period 2016–2017; the report on the outcomes of the survey which the Commission had carried out among its partners, in 2014; the report on the African Social Development Index; the review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Ac-

tion); the progress report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning; the report on United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme; the report on the outcome of the regional consultations on financing for development; and a note on the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

94. The 2015 annual report of the Commission highlighted the main programme activities and achievements of the Commission secretariat from April 2014 to March 2015, including the follow-up to the outcomes and decisions of the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abuja in March 2014. During the year under review, the Economic Commission for Africa had made significant progress on several fronts. Among its achievements were the preparation and launch of several important reports and publications that had helped to shape policy in various areas, including the Economic Report on Africa.

95. Regarding the Commission's proposed planned work programme for the period 2016–2017, the overall objective was to support efforts by African countries to achieve sustained and inclusive growth in order to accelerate the continent's structural transformation, in line with the priorities of NEPAD, the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063.

96. The 2014 survey of the Commission's partners had revealed a favourable perception by partners of the contribution made by the Commission in terms of its influence on policy in support of Africa's transformation agenda; the credibility and trust that it had demonstrated through the production of high-quality, evidence-based and good-fit policy research and knowledge delivery services; its accountability mechanisms and learning culture; and its operational effectiveness in delivering its knowledge production and capacity development services on time.

97. The strategy for implementing the work programme in 2016–2017 would continue to revolve around nine interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, corresponding to Africa's priorities for structural transformation. The modalities for implementation would include policy research and capacity-building; the collection of high-quality statistics to provide a sound basis for policy formu-

lation, implementation and the tracking of results and impacts; and enhanced partnerships with a wide range of partners.

98. As explained in the report on the African Social Development Index, the index was a tool developed by the Economic Commission for Africa to track progress on inclusiveness across the life cycle and different dimensions of development, at the request of member States. The index aimed to measure the impact of social policies on human exclusion in six areas: survival, health, education, employment, productive income, and decent life. It provided an important policy tool for member States to identify policy gaps and formulate appropriate measures for ensuring that every individual was part of the development process. The index had been piloted in five African countries which provided opportunities to test and further refine the tool, making it more responsive to the needs of member States. A policy mapping framework was being developed to help identify and assess the effectiveness of social policies in reducing human exclusion.

99. The review of the Istanbul Programme of Action observed that African least developed countries had made mixed progress towards the Programme's goals and targets and continued to be confronted with multiple and complex development challenges. The review confirmed the necessity for the development partners of those countries to accord them additional, enhanced, preferential, concessional and most favourable treatment in the areas of finance, technologies, know-how and other resources and differential and flexible treatment in respect of international commitments and obligations that were not commensurate with their capacity, needs and stage of development.

100. The progress report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning for the period from March 2014 to March 2015 highlighted the successful efforts by the Institute to build on its record of the preceding five years with regard to the number and diversity of its courses and the candidates admitted to those courses. The decentralized delivery of the Institute's programmes, which had begun in 2010, had been carried forward in 2014 and the range of its institutional partners had been enlarged in keeping with the strategy of ensuring local presence, visibility and impact across different parts of the African continent. In all, 37 short courses had been organized by the Institute in 2014, drawing a total of nearly 800 participants from 51

member States spread across the five subregions of the African continent.

101. The short courses which the Institute had dispensed in 2014 had included a policy research, fellowship and dialogue portfolio within its overall pedagogical approach. The Institute's portfolio of postgraduate training courses had also been expanded to include new master's degree programmes in development planning, industrial policy and trade policy. The spirit of innovation and outreach that partly underpinned the Institute's 2010–2015 strategic plan had been carried further in different ways, including the hosting for the first time in the Institute's history of a short course in Arabic, in Cairo, in December 2014. In spite of the challenges which it faced, not least of which was the outbreak of the Ebola virus and a shortfall in the flow of extrabudgetary resources, the Institute had been able to meet its key programme objectives for 2014, posting a 100 per cent record of programme implementation.

102. The report on United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme focused on activities in support of the decisions of the Assembly of the African Union; direct technical assistance to the African Union and its NEPAD programme; and support coordinated through the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in Africa (RCM-Africa), convened by the Economic Commission for Africa.

103. A regional consultation in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development had been held on 23 and 24 March 2015. The consultation had taken place immediately before the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Meeting participants comprised representatives of member States, civil society and the private sector, research institutions, think tanks and regional and multilateral financial institutions. The outcomes of the consultation would feed into the ongoing negotiations by the African group at the United Nations in New York in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015.

104. As discussed in the note prepared by the secretariat, the General Assembly had established

the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2013 as the main United Nations platform dealing with sustainable development. The Forum provided political leadership and guidance; followed up and reviewed progress in implementing sustainable development commitments; addressed new and emerging challenges; and enhanced the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In that context, the Assembly had invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the Forum, including through annual regional meetings, involving other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders. To that end, the Economic Commission for Africa and other regional actors, including the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, were called upon to organize an annual multi-stakeholder forum on sustainable development, to be referred to as the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The Regional Forum would provide Africa's collective input to the annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

2. Discussion

105. In the ensuing discussion, participants commended the Commission on its achievements over the past year and the efforts that it had made in preparing a comprehensive work programme for 2016–2017. They commended the focused activities conducted by the Economic Commission for Africa to advance the African agenda. They also noted with appreciation the quality of the Commission's knowledge products and their contribution in informing policy dialogue at the national level. They welcomed the country profile initiative, which could serve as an effective monitoring tool for Agenda 2063, the post-2015 development agenda and the economic transformation of the continent, and expressed interest in extending the publication of country profiles to other countries, suggesting that publication of those profiles should be aligned with the planning and budgeting cycles of member States. In that regard, they called on the Commission to further strengthen its collaboration with member States on data collection. The representative of Guinea commended the Commission in particular on its strong and active involvement in the response by member States to the Ebola crisis, and for its innovative initiatives to that end.

106. On the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, participants reiterated the need to institutionalize the review process for least developed countries and to ensure that it was properly mainstreamed in the Commission's programme of work and in member States' development plans and strategies. On the issue of landlocked developing countries, participants supported the statement made by Zambia as the current Chair of the group of landlocked developing countries concerning follow-up actions to the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, and called upon member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation.

107. With regard to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, participants welcomed the significant progress registered in its work and expressed appreciation for the efforts deployed by its Governing Council and management to further the decentralization of the Institute's programme delivery.

108. On the issue of financing for development, participants emphasized the importance for Africa to have a strong, coordinated and coherent position and made clarifications on the two reports on financing for development – one from the Africa group and the other from the consultative meeting held on 23 and 24 March 2015 – and recalled that the Africa group report, which represented the African position, was a living document that provided the necessary space for negotiation in New York. The Africa group should maintain its position based on the content and scope of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, capture new and emerging issues, and identify obstacles and constraints in assessing progress in financing for development. They stressed that the section on illicit financial flows should include the provision that the money should be returned to the countries of origin without conditionalities.

109. Participants welcomed the establishment by the General Assembly of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the organization of the annual regional multi-stakeholder meetings on sustainable development, which would enable Africa to prepare a collective input to the annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum.

3. Recommendations

110. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. The Economic Commission for Africa should support efforts to align national development planning to Agenda 2063 and organize seminars in various African countries on the domestication of Agenda 2063;
- b. The Economic Commission for Africa should reflect the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries in its programmes of work and ensure that Agenda 2063 takes into account the special needs of, and provides support to, landlocked and transit African countries;
- c. Member States should mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries in their development plans and strategies;
- d. Member States should endorse the draft document entitled “Financing for development: Africa’s perspectives” as a living document, taking into account inputs from the Chair’s summary of the proceedings of the regional consultations held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015.

X. Other matters [agenda item 10]

111. No other matters were raised at the meeting.

XI. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts and the draft resolutions [agenda item 11]

112. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the draft report of its meeting (as set out in document E/ECA/COE/34/L-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/Draft/Rpt(I), together with nine draft resolutions for consideration and adoption by the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Afri-

can Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

113. Several participants made comments and observations and proposed amendments to the report as well as to the draft resolutions. After extensive discussions on some of the resolutions, the Committee unanimously adopted the report and the draft resolutions as amended.

XII. Closing of the meeting [agenda item 12]

114. Closing remarks were made by Mr. Maruping, Mr. Hamdok and Mr. Hamisi Mwinyimvua (United Republic of Tanzania), Chair of the Bureau. They all expressed their gratitude to participants for their hard work, their contributions to the discussions during the meeting, and their commitment to the successful implementation of Agenda 2063. They also applauded the strong partnership between the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa, as evidenced by the successful organization of the meeting. Finally, they commended the experts for their professionalism in formulating recommendations on important issues, for consideration and possible approval by their ministers.

115. Following those remarks, the Chair declared the meeting closed.