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Economic Commission for Africa Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa

Nineteenth session Second Joint Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the regional United Nations Development Group Addis Ababa, 12 and 13 May 2018

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Draft annotated agenda

1. Opening of the session

Opening remarks

- Principal Policy Adviser, Capacity Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Joseph Atta-Mensah
- Representing the Chair of the regional United Nations Development Group, Lamin Manneh
- Under-Secretary General and ECA Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe
- Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission, Thomas Kwesi Quartey

2. Adoption of the agenda and the programme of work

Under the co-Chairs, the Chairperson, African Union Commission, Thomas Kwesi Quartey, and Under-Secretary General and ECA Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe, participants will be invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work, subject to such amendments as are deemed necessary.

3. First plenary session: United Nations system support to the African Union in winning the fight against corruption: a sustainable path to Africa's transformation

This session will include a high-level panel discussion with principals of the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States. The session will underscore the importance of the United Nations, the African Union and the regional economic communities working together to weed out corruption at all levels in order to maximize the value of Africa's resources and to create an enabling sustainable path to the continent's socioeconomic transformation.

4. Second plenary session: The nexus between corruption and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 are Africa's leading development agendas. With goals and objectives planned and set, this session will examine how serious corruption threatens the implementation of the two agendas at a macro and micro level.

5. Third plenary session: Curbing illicit financial flows for development

Illicit financial flows are defined as the cross-border transfer and utilization of monies illegitimately earned through the violation of exchange control regulations and tax agreements. If Africa's sustainable development goals are to be financed primarily by domestic resources, illicit financial flows pose a threat to this determination by eroding a country's ability to raise the tax revenue required. Improving natural resource governance and aligning revenue to finance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals are some of the policy options aimed at curbing illicit financial flows and improving domestic resources for development. This session will highlight the progress made in curbing illicit financial flows and explore measures to tackle them.

6. Fourth plenary session: Threat of corruption to political stability, peace and security

Corruption has been widely recognized as a threat to peace and security in Africa. It acts as a major constraint to peaceful development in countries that are recovering or in the midst of conflict. Structural corruption undermines State institutions. While the poor often suffer the most, corruption leaves ordinary citizens disempowered, unable to seek justice in courts or keep politicians accountable. This leaves citizens in a deeper state of impoverishment and can sow the seeds of conflict by dissolving any ties of loyalty between people and a State seemingly represented by private interests.

7. Fifth plenary session: Strengthening the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the United Nations Development Group

The presentations will focus on summarizing the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, the United Nations-African Union framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and General Assembly resolution 71/254 on the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027. The discussion will focus on strengthening the Mechanism for the implementation of the frameworks and the achievement of Africa's transformative agendas.

8. Sixth plenary session: Presentations and discussion on the progress of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and updates on and adoption of the workplan

The purpose of the session is to report on the achievements of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and subregional coordination mechanisms and on work done to strengthen collaboration in the United Nations system in support of the priorities of the African Union and those outlined in its priority programmes, as well as on the linkages with the United Nations Development Group.

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The session will begin with an overview of the work of the Mechanism and subregional coordination mechanisms during the past year: The reports presented will include:

- (a) Progress report of the Mechanism;
- (b) Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063:
- (c) Report on the African Forum on Sustainable Development for follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

In addition, the following will be considered and discussed:

- (a) Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;
- (b) Adoption of the United Nations-African Union joint programme for 2018-2019.

9. Other matters

The participants may raise other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

10. Presentation and adoption of the draft report

The Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa secretariat will present the draft outcome document. The participants will be invited to consider and adopt the outcome document, subject to such amendments as are deemed necessary.

11. Closing session

Statements by:

- Representing the Chair of the regional United Nations Development Group, Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochi
- Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, Abdalla Hamdok
- Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Thomas Kwesi Quartey

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