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Forty-third session of the Economic Commission for Africa



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COMMISSION

Fifth session of CAMEF

**3rd Joint Annual Meetings of
the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance
and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning
and Economic Development**

*Lilongwe, Malawi
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DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Theme: Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa

1. Opening of the Conference

The Conference will be formally opened by the President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika. Opening statements will also be delivered by:

- His Excellency Dr. Youssef Boutros-Ghali, Minister of Finance, Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau of the Conference
- Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, UN Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa
- Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson, African Union Commission

2. Election of the Bureau

The composition of the new Bureau of the Conference will be announced following consultations by the heads of delegation. The Bureau will comprise of five members as follows: – 1 Chairperson, 3 Vice Chairpersons and 1 Rapporteur elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. The incoming Chairperson will preside over the rest of the proceedings following brief remarks. The membership of the past two Bureaux and proposals for the next Bureau are attached to this draft annotated agenda.

3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

The Conference will be invited to consider and adopt the draft provisional agenda and programme of work, subject to such amendments as deemed necessary.

4. Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa

Under this item, the major conclusions and recommendations of *the Overview of Economic and Social Conditions, 2010* will be presented and discussed. The discussions will draw on the analyses contained in the *Economic Report on Africa, 2010*. Key policy issues related to Africa's growth recovery following the recent global economic crisis and other recent economic developments in the continent will also be discussed.

5. Ministerial policy debate on the theme of the Conference: *Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa*

Under this item, there will be a short presentation introducing the theme of the Conference, issues to be addressed, and the expected outcomes. This will be followed by *two* panel discussions on key issues related to the theme. The panels will feature Ministerial-level discussants and other senior policymakers and will also include high-level participation by UN agencies and organizations, other intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia. Background documentation will include the issues paper and other technical papers and studies prepared for the Conference.

Introduction of the theme of the Conference by Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, AU Commission

Panel 1: Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa

Drawing lessons from recent growth experience, the discussion will address a range of issues related to the nexus between growth, employment and poverty reduction in Africa with particular focus on the challenges of achieving sustainable fast growth in Africa, including the opportunities and constraints; the drivers and sources of growth; emerging sectoral patterns of growth; and the challenges of creating a conducive policy environment for achieving sustained higher growth that benefits all segments of society.

The panel discussions will provide an opportunity for an exchange of experiences on best practices and national policies that have proved successful in promoting high levels of job-creating growth and poverty reduction in a wide range of African countries in order to reach consensus on appropriate strategies and approaches for scaling up growth and poverty reduction. The discussions will also highlight the role of key stakeholders, including governments and the private sector in enterprise creation and employment generation.

Panel II: The impact of the global financial and economic crisis on employment and poverty reduction in Africa

This panel will focus on the impact of the recent global financial and economic crisis on employment and poverty reduction in Africa. It will discuss the current employment and labour market situation in Africa in the aftermath of the global recession in order to re-orient existing strategies and policies in response to the impact of the crisis on employment and poverty reduction in Africa.

A specific focus of the discussions will be on policy interventions for achieving inclusive growth and employment creation in Africa, with particular focus on the link between macroeconomic policies and labour policies; social protection policies and safety nets for vulnerable groups; rural-urban linkages for growth, employment and poverty reduction and sectoral distribution. In particular, the discussions will also highlight priority sectors with high employment potential for the majority of Africans. Going forward, emphasis will be on investments in agriculture, rural infrastructure to ensure food security and alleviate poverty; improving the climate for both foreign and domestic private investment; addressing the challenge of youth and women unemployment; and capacity-building.

6. **Launching of the Economic Report on Africa, 2010 on the theme: *Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa*** (Brief remarks followed by a press conference by the Chairperson of AU Commission and the Executive Secretary of ECA on ERA 2010 and other topical issues).
7. **Ministerial policy dialogue on: *Agriculture, food security and poverty reduction in Africa: Challenges and opportunities***

Under this item, there will be a brief presentation on the strategic priority of the African Union Commission for 2010: *Agriculture and Food Security* as endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2009. This theme is also consistent with the vision of the current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency President wa Bingu Mutharika of the Republic of Malawi)

8. **Presentation of the Report of the Africa Commission by the Minister of Development Cooperation of Denmark**

Under this item, the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Ms. Ulla Toernaes will present the report of the Africa Commission and brief the Conference on the outcome of the work of the Commission, which was established by the Danish Prime minister in 2008 to strengthen international development cooperation with Africa. The report highlights the crucial link between economic growth, employment generation and achieving the MDGs in Africa. In particular, it addresses ways to create employment through private sector-led growth and improved competitiveness of African economies. Special emphasis will be given to promoting policies and concrete initiatives for creating decent jobs, fostering entrepreneurship, and providing greater opportunities for young African women and men through education, skills development and access to finance. The Africa Commission has worked to draw these issues to the attention of donors, African governments and key African institutions.

9. Status report on the establishment of the pan-African financial institutions

Under this item, the Conference will be updated on the progress towards the establishment of the AU financial institutions (the African Investment Bank, African Central Bank and African Monetary Fund). The Conference will discuss and endorse the recommendations contained in the report.

10. Consideration of the report and major recommendations of the meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

A meeting of the Committee of Experts will be held from 25-28 March 2010 to prepare for the Joint Meetings of the Conference of Ministers. Under this item, the report of the Committee's meeting which contains the major conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the Conference for its consideration and adoption. The report will be presented by the Chairperson of the Committee of Experts.

11. Any other business

The Conference may wish to consider any other matter that may be brought to its attention.

12. Consideration and adoption of the draft Ministerial Statement and draft resolutions

Under this item, the Conference will consider and adopt a draft Ministerial policy statement which articulates the views of the Ministers on theme of the Conference and other policy and operational issues.

13. Closing of the Conference

The Executive Secretary of ECA and the Chairperson of the AU Commission will make brief closing remarks. The Chairperson of the Conference will highlight the main outcomes of the Conference and declare the meeting closed.