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Thirtieth meeting of the Committee of Experts



AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION

Sixth meeting of the Committee of Experts

**Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the 4th 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**

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**Report on
Follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the
3rd Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of
Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of
African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**

Background

At its third Session in April 2010, the Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, decided to include an item entitled *Follow-up to the decisions and outcomes of the last Session of the Joint Conference of Ministers* on the agenda of the Joint Conference starting in 2011, and requested the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Executive Secretary of ECA to submit a joint report on the item.

The resolutions and decisions lend themselves to joint action and implementation by the two institutions as they share common objectives and cut across the work of both organizations. Because of this shared objective, a single report has been prepared to respond to the request in a concise and coherent manner. The report provides a synoptic overview of the major activities undertaken individually or jointly by the AU Commission or ECA secretariat, as a follow-up to relevant decisions and resolutions of the 2010 Conference of Ministers. In this regard, the report highlights a number of important achievements by member States and makes recommendations on how such actions can be further enhanced.

The report will serve as documentation for both the Committee of Experts and the Conference of Ministers under the relevant agenda item on the *Follow-up to the decisions and outcomes of the last Session of the Joint Conference of Ministers*. It is submitted to the Fourth Session of the Joint AU and ECA Conference of Ministers for its consideration and further guidance.

Report on follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the 2010 AUC and ECA Annual Meetings

Decisions & Recommendations		Actions by AUC and ECA
Resolutions	Ministerial statement	
867 (XLIII) Assessment of Progress on Regional Integration in Africa		
<p>Member States, the African Union and the United Nations to take the necessary measures to find solutions to the conflicts affecting African countries in order to speed up the integration process on the continent; Member States to mainstream the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP) into their national development programmes and, in this regard, calls upon the AU, the RECs, ECA, AfDB and development partners to scale up their support for the implementation of the MIP and domestication of regional integration instruments into national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks;</p>	<p>C- Accelerating regional integration as a strategy for achieving sustainable socio-economic development by mainstreaming regional integration in our national programmes, including scaling up investment in regional infrastructure within the framework of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the AU Minimum Integration Programme (MIP). We shall also intensify our efforts to promote intra-African trade by removing all barriers to trade, and address the special needs of our 15 landlocked countries. We commend the efforts of the RECs and other intergovernmental organizations in advancing the continental integration agenda, particularly the decision of COMESA, SADC and EAC to create a tripartite free-trade area, and call on other RECs to follow suit.</p>	<p>During the period, ECA continued to track progress on and implement activities to further Africa’s regional integration agenda. It also carried out a number of activities in the areas of capacity-building and policy development in trade, infrastructure and natural resources, in particular mineral resources. On regional integration, ECA, in collaboration with the AUC and the African Development Bank (AfDB) published the 5th edition of the biannual report on “<i>Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA IV)</i>”, with the theme, “Enhancing intra-African trade”. ARIA IV has been extensively disseminated to policymakers and stakeholders, including the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). It was launched in the margins of the 2010 AfDB Annual Meetings held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. The findings and conclusions of ARIA IV were also presented to African Ministers of Trade at their Sixth Ordinary Session held in Kigali, Rwanda from 29 October to 2 November 2010. The Ministers commended the quality of the publication and adopted a resolution to fast track the establishment of an African Continental Free Trade Area in order to broaden the continental economic and market space, which would be conducive for boosting intra-African trade.</p>

868 (XLIII) Review of Progress towards Achieving the MDGs in Africa		
		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. With the help of external experts, ECA has prepared an MDG-sensitive model for policy analysis with application to Senegal. The model describes an analytical framework for costing strategies to achieve the MDGs in Africa and analyzes alternative strategies to achieve the MDGs for the specific case of Senegal.2. ECA has completed one policy brief on “Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa. It has also prepared two project documents that helped it to secure extra-budgetary funding to implement two programmed activities on: (a) Toolkits to mainstream and integrate macroeconomic and sectoral policies into national development strategies; and (b) Fiscal and monetary policy reforms and growth performance for poverty reduction in Africa.3. The draft African Common Position on the MDGs and the draft 2010 MDGs report were adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Kampala, in July 2010.4. The AUC, UNECA, AfDB and partners organized various meetings to discuss statistics development and harmonization.5. The African Common Position was submitted to the High-level Summit in September 2010 to inform the discussion. The AUC, UNECA, AfDB and UNDP also organized a meeting to launch the MDGs Report during the High-Level Summit.

869 (XLIII) Africa Regional Review of the Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010		No specific action required from ECA
	<p>B. Supporting African least developed countries (LDCs) and African countries emerging from conflict by addressing the special challenges involved in reducing unemployment, building capacity and providing policy support. We endorse the outcome of the regional review meeting on the Brussels Programme of Action for African LDCs, held in Addis Ababa in March 2010, in preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs in Turkey in 2011, and urge African LDCs to remain fully engaged in the preparatory process for the Conference. We call for a renewed and strengthened global partnership for the development of LDCs.</p>	
870 (XLIII) Climate Change and Development in Africa		
<p>Requests ECA to continue to work closely with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other organizations in strengthening the capacity of member States and their intergovernmental organizations to address climate-related issues, including providing technical support to African countries in the on-going negotiations for a new international climate change regime.</p>	<p>D. Addressing the impact of climate change by integrating climate change into our growth, employment and poverty eradication strategies. We urge our development partners to provide financial, technological and capacity-building assistance to enable African countries to address climate change challenges, in particular, by putting in place effective adaptation strategies as a priority, as well as appropriate mitigation actions.</p>	<p>Jointly organizing the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII) on “<i>Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa</i>,” in Addis Ababa Ethiopia from 10-15 October 2010, with AUC and AfDB. ADF VII provided a multi-stakeholder platform to more than 1000 stakeholders from African governments, private sector, civil society, research and academia, and development partners, to discuss and build consensus on how Africa could effectively tackle the climate change challenge, while leveraging the opportunities that this phenomenon presents. The Forum also deliberated on issues relevant to Africa’s priorities and concerns in the ongoing international climate change negotiations. It adopted a Consensus Statement that spells out more than 50 recommended global and sector-specific actions to be implemented by African governments and all stakeholders, with the support of development partners. In the same vein, ECA updated the</p>

report on the implications for Africa of the negotiating text on Long-term Cooperative Actions (LCA) under the climate Convention in time for the Thirteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-13). The updated report was well-received and often cited at the Third Meeting of the African High-Level Expert Panel on Climate Change that was held back-to-back with AMCEN-13. ECA support to the implementation of the AMCEN decisions on climate change was highly acknowledged at AMCEN-13 and in the UNEP project report on support to Africa's climate change agenda. The AMCEN-13 Declaration adequately reflects relevant ECA-led initiatives on environment and sustainable development, and reiterates support for the full operationalization of the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)

871 (XLIII) Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics and Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics

UNECA and AfDB and their partners to support and implement these initiatives and develop the other pillars of the SHaSA;

E- Paying attention to the development of statistics to support the formulation, implementation and monitoring of development plans and strategies, as well as in monitoring development outcomes and progress towards the MDGs and the objectives of NEPAD. **We call upon the AUC, ECA and AfDB to intensify their efforts in supporting the development of statistical capacity across the continent. We commend the countries that have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics, and call on the remaining countries to do so.**

1. Strategy for the harmonization of statistics in support of African regional integration. Among a number of general constraints that RECs face in the integration process are lack of financial and human resources and harmonized statistics in Africa. The African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (ShaSA) to support the regional integration agenda SHaSA are direct responses to the statistics harmonization problem. SHaSA recognizes the need for statistics in the three main areas of integration: political, economic and socio-cultural. There is currently inadequate harmonized statistics in these areas;
2. SHaSA is built on four strategic pillars: (a) to produce quality statistics for Africa; (b) to coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa, (c) to build sustainable institutional capacity of the African statistical system; (d) to inculcate a culture of quality decision-making. Each strategic pillar is informed by a number of strategic objectives which in turn are achieved through a set of strategic lines, which form the basis for activities. Monitoring and evaluation on progress made in the implementation of SHaSA will

		<p>be reported to the Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development as well as AU Summits of Heads of State and Government. Since the last Conference of Ministers, the main Pan-African institutions, namely ECA, African Development Bank AfDB and the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF) revisited the document, following comments from the ministers, and developed and started implementing a number of pillars to the strategy including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The Population and Housing Census Programme;(b) The Statistical Training Programme for Africa;(c) The Strategy for the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA);(d) The African Implementation Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics; and(e) The Medium-term Plan for Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. <p>3. Reminders were sent to countries requesting them to sign and ratify the Charter. AUC is also advocating acceleration of the ratification of the Charter with all its partners. A meeting of Directors-General (DG) of African National Statistical Offices (NSOs) was organized to discuss acceleration of the process. So far 20 countries have signed and only one country has ratified;</p> <p>4. The Draft SHaSA and its first pillar, the African Strategy for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA were both submitted to the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Kampala, in July 2010. The Summit considered and adopted the two documents adopted and called upon members States, RECs, AUC, ECA, AfDB and partners to implement the two strategies and develop other pillars in order to accelerate implementation of the SHaSA;</p>
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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. AUC, ECA and AfDB drafted various strategies which were considered during the fifth meeting of DGs of NSOs in Cameroon, in December 2010. The proposed strategies include: (a) Action Plan of the Working Group on Training of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST); (b) Action Plan for Implementation of the Global Strategy on Agricultural Statistics; (c) Project on the implementation of the African Strategy for Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts; (d) Labour Market Information System in Africa (LMIS); and (e) Implementation of the Infrastructure Statistics Programme in support of the NEPAD/PIDA Initiative; 6. AUC submitted a proposal on the creation of a Statistics Division. The proposal was adopted at the last Assembly of the Union's Sixteenth Ordinary Session held 30-31 January 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. |
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872 (XLIII) Promoting High-Level Sustainable Growth to Reduce Unemployment in Africa

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Development of a draft Social Protection Plan for the Informal Economy and Rural Workers (SPIREWORK).</u> The draft will be submitted to the upcoming 8th Conference of Ministers of Labour in Yaoundé, 11-15 April 2011. It is suggested that a summary of the SPIREWORK should be presented at the Joint Conference of Ministers of Economy, Finance and Development Planning in March 2011. Furthermore, social protection in the informal economy is one of the initiatives under the 2nd Action Plan (2011-2013) of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership 2. <u>Establishment of the Experts Team on Informal Economy:</u> The Experts Team on Informal Economy held its first meeting on December 2010 in Addis Ababa. Eight experts were designated by AU member States in the following thematic areas: (a) improvement of social protection of the informal and rural workers; |
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		<p>(b) legal and regulatory environment; (c) empowerment and social dialogue; (d) micro finance policy; (e) macroeconomic and sectoral development policies; (f) apprenticeship and adult lifelong learning; (g) productivity improvement; and (h) public-private partnership, youth employment and statistics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. The Department of Social Affairs worked closely with the Department of Economic Affairs to further the implementation of the Labour Market Information System Harmonization and Coordination project. The Project was presented and discussed at the 5th Meeting of African Directors-General of national statistics offices, which made substantive recommendations. With the support of the UNDP-West Africa Regional Centre, a Minimum List of Labour, Employment and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) indicators have been developed, and a plan of action for labour statistics harmonization will be elaborated. Both documents will be considered by the forthcoming Eighth Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Labour.4. A Strategic Document on Resource Mobilization for the implementation of the Ouagadougou 2004 Declaration and Plan of Action has been elaborated and will be considered by the forthcoming Eighth Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Labour (11-15 April 2011, Yaoundé). It is suggested that a summary of the Strategic Document should be presented at the Conference of the AU Ministers of economy, Finance and Development Planning in March 2011;5. Furthermore, at their meetings in London in April 2009 and in Pittsburgh in September 2009, the G20 made strong commitments to increase support to social protection and labour market operations. In view of facilitating effective resource mobilization from these commitments, the Department of Social Affairs has prepared a Position Paper to be considered at the Eighth Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Labour;
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		<p>(a) A Ministerial Panel discussion on the theme “Youth employment” will be organized during the Eight Session of the Conference of Ministers of Labour.</p> <p>6. The Resolution will be tabled at the 8th Session of the Conference of Ministers of Labour in Yaoundé, 11-15 April 2011, for consideration.</p>
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873 (XLIII) Proposed ECA Strategic Framework/Biennial Programme Plan for the Biennium 2012-2013 and ECA Business Plan 2010-2012		No specific action required from ECA
874 (XLIII) Strengthening the Subregional Offices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa		
<p>Endorses the recommendations of the independent. external evaluation of the subregional offices of ECA and requests the Executive Secretary to implement the necessary measures to further strengthen the programme delivery capacities of the SROs;</p> <p>Reaffirms the need for the SROs to continue to facilitate subregional economic cooperation and regional integration by strengthening collaboration with the RECs, the African Union Commission and its NEPAD programme and in partnership with United Nations agencies within the framework for promoting system-wide coherence at the subregional level as recommended by the 8th, 9th, and 10th meetings of the Regional Coordination.</p>	<p>H- Leveraging the support of Africa’s key partners, in particular the United Nations system, through its Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), in providing support to Africa’s development agenda. We call for the strengthening of the RCM and the building of formal linkages between it and the RECs through the establishment of subregional coordination mechanisms.</p>	

875 (XLIII) Repositioning of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)		
Requests the IDEP Governing Council to continue to furnish it with updated reports on the progress of the work of the Institute for information and further guidance as may be deemed necessary; Also requests IDEP to take steps to involve the AU. 4. Commission and the RECs in its overall programme development and implementation.	I- Mobilizing additional support from African member States, the United Nations system, and international development partners for a further enhancement of the role of the repositioned IDEP in building and renewing capacities for economic management and development planning in Africa at a time when long-term development planning has come to occupy a central role in the strategy of our Governments to overcome poverty and achieve accelerated socio-economic development.	See separate report
876 (XLIII) Establishment of African Financial Institutions		No specific action required from ECA
	G- Establishing pan-African financial institutions, namely the African Investment Bank, the African Central Bank and the African Monetary Fund. We note that all the legal instruments (the Protocol, the Statutes and the annexes defining the distribution of capital and voting rights) for the launch of the African Investment Bank have been adopted by the AU Heads of State and Government, and recognize the need for our countries to sign and ratify these instruments promptly. We call on member States, RECs, ECA and AfDB to provide the necessary support to the steering committees in charge of the establishment of the other two institutions	<p>So far 15 countries have signed the Protocol of the African Investment Bank and only one has ratified.</p> <p>However, the January 2011 summit reiterated its appeal to member States to prioritize and accelerate the signing and ratification of or accession to OAU/AU treaties. It appealed in particular to member States which had not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Protocol and the Statute of the African Investment Bank (2009).</p> <p>The Steering Committee of the African Monetary Fund has been set up. It presented its draft protocol and statutes and annexes to the AUC Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF) in December 2010 in Yaoundé. The protocol was adopted and recommended to the January 2011 Summit for adoption.</p> <p>The January 2011 Summit requested the Commission to submit the draft protocol on the African Monetary Fund to the Conference of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General in March 2011 for finalization.</p>

		<p>With regard to establishment of the African Central Bank, the AUC has two steering committee members in Abuja carrying out preliminary work on the joint AUC/Association of African Central Banks (AACB) strategy. The AUC is still expecting five additional experts from the AACB to boost up the team in Abuja.</p>
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<p>877 (XLIII) Towards Realizing a Food-secure Africa</p>		
	<p>A- Realizing the vision of a food-secure Africa by recognizing the central role of agriculture in promoting broad-based sustainable growth and the reduction of unemployment. We therefore fully commit ourselves to the vision of a food-secure Africa within five years, especially by means of policies and strategies that provide incentives to farmers (particularly smallholders), agro-industries and agri-business enterprises to enable them to respond to the growing demand for food in regional and global markets. We commit to accelerate the implementation of the Maputo AU Summit decisions. We call on the RECs to harmonize their policies, strategies and investments to facilitate and enhance intra-African trade in food and agriculture</p>	<p>In strong partnership with AUC, FAO and UNIDO, ECA advanced the elaboration and implementation of an effective programme of work on developing regionally-integrated value chains of strategic food and agricultural commodities in the ECOWAS and COMESA subregions. An Experts Group meeting in January 2011 set up a multi-institutional task force comprising ECA, AUC, FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC), Africa Rice and private sector and farmers' groups to take this major agenda forward.</p> <p>ECA engaged the preparation of the implementation phase of the AU Declaration on land. In this regard, key activities developed include:</p> <p>(a) Making the land policy framework and guidelines and the declaration on land issues by African Heads of State available to African stakeholders; disseminating widely and popularizing these documents across the continent, mainly through continental and regional events such as the African Presidential Round Table on land, held in Dar es Salam in August 2010;</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">(b) Organizing the official launch of the implementation phase of the Declaration of African Heads of State and Government on land, which included a High-level panel on Foreign Direct Investments in land;(c) Reorganizing the African Task Force on Land and expanding it to include experts from all regions, and improving the AU-ECA-AfDB Land Policy Initiative (LPI) governance structure (Mainly the LPI Steering committee);(d) Developing the Implementation strategy of the Declaration on Land, including the organization of an African Experts Group meeting on the implementation strategy; and(e) Communicating with RECs in order to prepare them to take the lead in the implementation process of the Declaration, at the regional level.
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<p>878 (XLIII) Initiatives for Africa's Development</p>	
	<p>F. Combating illicit financial flows by addressing the scale and magnitude of illicit financial flows into and from Africa and their impact on the development process and call upon recipient countries to take effective oversight and regulatory actions to address the problem. We commit ourselves to implement strong economic and governance measures to curtail illicit flows. We also request the AUC, ECA and AfDB to conduct further analytical work on the subject and prepare a declaration to be considered by the next ministerial conference.</p> <p>ECA organized a side event at the 3rd Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development – in March, 2010 to tackle issues of financial integrity. The main objective of the event, which comprised presentations and expert panel discussions, was to further sensitize policymakers and experts on the negative consequences of illicit financial outflows on the development prospects of the continent. ECA experts and development partner institutions stressed the importance and urgency of addressing the problem, particularly against the backdrop of the current global economic and financial crisis and dwindling external resources for development. In this connection, several ideas were put forth with the aim of strengthening regulatory institutions and policy frameworks in the fight against illicit financial flows from Africa. To this end, UNECA suggested the establishment of a commission that would be tasked with coordinating international, regional and national efforts to address the negative effects of illicit financial outflows on the social and economic development of the continent. Following the Conference, a consultative workshop, composed of experts in the field, was organized on 6 September 2010 to outline the strategic objectives and goals for the commission. ECA is currently engaged in activities to formally set up the commission, which is expected to begin operations in 2011.</p>

NB: It is suggested that a summary of the SPIREWOK should be presented at the Joint Annual Meetings AU and ECA Conference of Ministers.