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Report on Follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the 4th 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

This report has been prepared as a follow-up to the decisions and outcomes of the 4th 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. It is a joint submission by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The report provides a synoptic overview of the major activities undertaken individually by either the AUC or the UNECA secretariat or by both institutions, as a follow-up to the relevant decisions and resolutions of the 2011 Conference of Ministers. In this regard, it highlights a number of important achievements in support of the development of member States and makes recommendations on how such actions can be further enhanced.

The report will serve as documentation for the Committee of Experts under the relevant agenda item on the *Follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations and African Union (AU) conferences and summits, including the 2011 Joint Annual Meetings of AU and ECA*. The Committee's recommendations on the report will form part of its inputs to the 5th Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers, for consideration and further guidance.

Decisions and Recommendations		A stiens by ECA
Decisions/Resolutions	Ministerial Statement	Actions by ECA
879 (XLIV) Governing development in Africa: t	he role of the State in economic transform	ation
• African Union Commission, Economic Commission for Africa and regional economic communities to conduct further research and generate a body of knowledge		• ECA continues to strengthen the capacity of the State in post- conflict countries. It has conducted a study on "Strengthening the Public Service in Post-conflict Countries".
on the role of the State, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in economic transformation.		• ECA is conducting a study on "The Role of Institutions and the State in the Development Process in Africa".
• Economic Commission for Africa and African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to provide technical support in		• ECA supported the process of the adoption and ratification of the Charter on Elections, Democracy and Governance, which has now gone into force with a sufficient number of ratifications.
building the capacity of member States in formulating, implementing and evaluating their policies and development plans and strategies.		• ECA African Governance Report (AGR-III on the <u>theme</u> <u>"Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa", covering</u> 41 African countries, is reinforcing the capacity of the State at the country level to manage elections better.
• African Union Commission, Economic Commission for Africa and regional economic communities to assist in developing capacity needed for realizing the developmental State in Africa.		• The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) introduced two new short courses in 2011, one dealing with Fundamentals of Development Planning, targeted at officials of planning ministries/commissions, and the other on Data Analysis for development planners, targeted at intermediate-level officials.
		• IDEP also concluded arrangements to launch an additional short course on long-term planning, scenario building and futures analysis.
		• Finally, in collaboration with Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, a new Master's degree programme on development planning was introduced.

A offens her AUC and ECA	
- Actions by AUC and ECA	
 AUC MDGs report adopted at the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Kampala, in July 2011. AUC, UNECA, AfDB and partners organized various meetings to discuss statistics development and harmonization. A workshop was organized to train statisticians on various handbooks and manuals developed on MDG indicators. A workshop was organized to discuss the Africa priorities agenda. A workshop was organized to discuss the Africa priorities agenda. As part of the capacity development programme, three handbooks are being developed for improved data collection on MDGs. A study on best practices in African countries in collection, dissemination and use of MDG statistics has also been completed. These handbooks and studies will be used for training of students and professionals through the existing Statistical Training Centres. The Statistical Commission for Africa has also approved an Africa Programme on Gender Statistics which includes a five-year plan of action. When implemented this is expected to improve analysis of MDGs through the gender lens. Four workshops on MDG-based planning were organized and produced a training manual on the subject. A meeting of the Africa Learning Group on PRS and MDGs on social protection was organized and eight country studies on social protection and MDGs were conducted. Assistance in monitoring and analysis in collaboration with OECD on commitments by partners in the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness. ECA ECA, in line with the implementation plan of the Africa Steering Group and its operational arm, the Africa Working Group, conducted MDG-consistent country studies. 	

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Decisions and Recommendations			Actions by AUC and ECA	
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			I in a MDG training manual that contributed to capacity-building in on processes to link development planning to the MDGs.	
		selected African achievement of	together with other United Nations agencies conceptualized a study of countries, on social protection as an instrument to accelerate the MDGs. The finalized eight-country study provided input for policy brief to increase advocacy and outreach on social protection to	
881 (XLIV) Enhancing United Nati and the programme of the New Partner		the implementation of	f the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union	
• Economic Commission for Africa African Union Commission to ensur- support to the Ten-Year Capacity-Bu Programme for the African Union, fro United Nations and other, is with framework of the Regional Coord Mechanism and the subregional coord mechanisms.	re that system support to th its New Partner: Development (NEPA in the in the ination Africa (RCM-Africa) coordination mechan AU/United Nations	ng United Nations the African Union and ship for Africa's AD) in the context of nation Mechanism for and the subregional nisms to strengthen cooperation at the nal levels. We call for	• The comprehensive work programme for the Ten-Year Capacity- Building Programme for the African Union has been developed, with financial resources from ECA and in collaboration with the African Union Commission and UN agencies and organizations. The work programme was endorsed at the twelfth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism. ECA has initiated the process of extending the work programme to all members of the AU family, as recommended by RCM 12, since the initial programme covered only the African Union. In that regard, consultations are ongoing with the	
• United Nations agencies, African Commission and African Developmen to immediately develop a compreh work programme for the Ten-Year Ca Building Programme and to mobili	Union strengthening RCM- t Bank provision of human a ensive and operationalizati pacity- coordination mechani	Africa through the nd financial resources ion of subregional isms, as a formal link Vations and the RECs,	 The Subregional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) for Eastern and Southern Africa was launched in November 2011 with the suppor of ECA, which hosted the event. ECA also provided substantive 	

• United Nations system and the African Union to further strengthen the secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in view of its expanded mandate.

required resources for its implementation.

• Support to subregional offices in order to accelerate the regional integration process and help member States and regional economic communities better tackle emerging development challenges.

between the United Nations and the RECs. the optimal implementation of the subregional multi-year programmes and the effective implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme of the AU.

of ECA, which hosted the event. ECA also provided substantive support in developing the programme of the SRCM and is supporting the ongoing process of producing its Business Plan. The Commission is also spearheading the establishment of the SRCM for Central and Western Africa through its subregional offices in the two subregions. A Task Force has been created to develop modalities for the SRCM. The multi-year programmes between ECA and the RECs are serving as models for the SRCM, thereby boosting their chances for implementation.

882 (XLIV) Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa d) Supporting ongoing efforts regional economic • Member States, Signature and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics: Reminder letters to harmonize and improve communities. African Union were sent to countries to request them to sign and ratify the Charter. AUC conducted the quality of statistical Commission, Economic Commission missions to four countries to advocate for ratification of the Charter. So far, 21 information. We call upon the for Africa, African Development Bank countries have signed and 5 have ratified it. Guidelines, standards and indicators for the African Development Bank, and other members of the African implementation of its principles were adopted during StatCom-Africa III. A self-African Union Commission Statistical System to implement the assessment study was conducted and the National Statistical System of Senegal was peer review mechanism of national and ECA to continue ongoing reviewed. So far, nine countries have been reviewed and a programme to review all efforts to develop strategies statistical systems and ensure that all African countries within five years has been developed. and programmes under the countries are covered within five years. Strategy for the Harmonization Strategy for the harmonization of statistics in Africa: Various working groups held of Statistics in Africa. We • Member States, regional economic meetings to discuss statistics in their respective areas. During the third meeting of the commend the countries that Union communities. African Statistical Commission for Africa, members committed to support the Global Strategy have signed and ratified the Commission. Economic Commission to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, endorsed the related "Action Plan for African Charter on Statistics, for Africa and African Development Africa (2011-2015) for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural and invite the remaining Bank to take the necessary steps Development" and committed support to its implementation. They recommended that countries to make every effort towards the implementation of all National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) include provisions for to do so within a year. We call initiatives contained in the Strategy, developing a Sector Strategic Plan on Agricultural Statistics and producing agricultural on partners to provide and further develop other strategies in statistics, with technical expertise and funding in the area of agriculture statistics being technical and financial support emerging areas such as gender channelled through the appropriate country institutions that have the infrastructure for to countries to implement statistics. producing them. various strategies. • African Union Commission, Economic • African strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts, 2008: Commission for Africa, African The African Group on National Accounts was transformed into a permanent working **Development Bank and United Nations** group on national accounts. The theme of African Statistics Day in 2011 was the Children's Fund to strengthen their System of National Accounts, 2008. collaboration for operationalization of the AfricaInfo initiative to ensure that • Plan of action on civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa: The it has continental dimension, and recommendation was not submitted to the Summit in July 2011. It will be submitted to produce a plan for its implementation. the July 2012 Summit for consideration. • Statistical training programme for Africa: ECA, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Capacity Building Foundation, the World Bank and PARIS21

- (AfDB), the African Capacity Building Foundation, the World Bank and PARIS21 conducted joint missions to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti and Liberia. They engaged in vigorous advocacy designed to help formulate concrete proposals for enhancing statistical training in these countries, as they prepare their NSDSs.
- Labour Market Information System in Africa: AUC in collaboration with all

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	partners developed an Action Plan and harmonized a questionnaire and a minimum list of indicators, which were adopted during StatCom-Africa III.
	• Developing the AfricaInfo database: AUC, ECA, AFDB and UNICEF developed a strategic Action Plan for the operationalization of the AfricaInfo database initiative.
	• Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD): With the persistent advocacy efforts, especially through ASSD, 29 countries have already conducted their Population and Housing Censuses (PHCs) and 24 plan to undertake them before 2014. The 7th ASSD held in Cape Town in January 2012, for the first time, brought National Statistical Offices and Civil Registration Authorities together and undertook to further strengthen and facilitate coordination between them in managing and monitoring the challenges of their Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) systems. The 7th ASSD was successfully conducted on the theme of "Challenges of Institutional Infrastructure". The Symposium charted a clear road map for implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (APAI-CRVS).

884 (XLIV) Climate change and sustainable	e development in Africa
African Union Commission, Economic	
Commission for Africa and African	
Development Bank to continue working	
diligently towards ensuring that the ClimDev-	
Africa programme benefits African countries	
and regional economic communities, and	
enhances Africa's capacity and capability to	
meet the continent's developmental	
challenges arising from climate change.	
• African Union Commission, Economic	
Commission for Africa, African Development	
Bank, United Nations Environment	
Programme and other partners to sustain their	
support to the African climate change	
negotiators and policymakers in order to	
ensure that Africa continues to participate	
effectively in the international climate change	
negotiations.	
• Economic Commission for Africa and	

African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development to deepen their cooperation, in particular by effectively operationalizing the Memorandum of		
Understanding signed between the two institutions during the Seventh African Development Forum in October 2010.		
885 (XLIV) Health financing in Africa		
• <i>Calls</i> on member States to improve health investment, including efficiency and effectiveness, through integrated evidence-based planning and budgeting, risk pooling and performance-based financing.	and strengthening dialogue and partnership with ministries of health to ensure better	 After the adoption of the resolution, a number of changes have been noted in health financing: The number of countries meeting/surpassing the 15% commitment increased from 6 in 2009/2010 to 8 in 2010/2011;
• <i>Invites</i> member States, regional institutions and development partners to mobilize additional resources through innovative mechanisms including debt relief, public- private partnerships and taxation on items	addition to providing government support, we also commit to exploring other strategies for funding health care, including health insurance, risk-pooling public-private partnerships and leveraging opportunities and existing commitments.	, me memoer states decreased actual per capita
 such as harmful products. Urges regional institutions and development partners to improve coordination and harmonization of support for national health priorities to deliver better health for African populations, especially the most vulnerable groups. 		 investment in health; 26 AU member States increased overall percentage allocation to health; 22 AU member States decreased overall percentage allocation to health;
• <i>Invites</i> member States to enhance governance and accountability mechanisms in the management of health resources.		• There were cases with a decrease in percentage (%) allocation to health, alongside an increase in actual per capita investment in health. This represents progress [i.e. a smaller percentage (%) of a bigger budget for health, but more per person];
• <i>Requests</i> member States to develop the traditional medicine sector as a viable cost containment and complementary strategy, and to bridge the gap between access and health needs.		• There is overall progress based on dual analysis of both the percentage (%) allocation to health, and actual per capita investment in health.
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An experts meeting was held from 27 to 28 July 2011 to validate the Statute and Annexes establishing the African Monetary Fund. It was agreed that the documents would be sent to internationally renowned experts for further examination. The Commission has contacted the International Monetary Fund to review the legal text. It is expected that the text will be tabled before an experts meeting before submission to the next Joint Conference of Ministers in March 2013.
v N b e h e n

in Yaoundé in December 2010.		
886 (XLIV) Illicit financial flows		
• Sensitize African governments, citizens and international development partners as to the scale of illicit financial flows and their adverse effect on development, and also mobilize political support and sensitization for	 The High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flow 18 February 2012 in South Africa. The H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, former President of another nine members; 	Panel is headed by South Africa, and has
putting in place rules and regulations which are necessary to combat illicit financial outflows.	• The Second meeting of the High-level Pane May 2012;	
• Increase collaboration and cooperation among African Union member States, regional economic communities and international partners in an effort to reduce illicit financial outflows.	 A Technical Committee has been constituted up of ECA, AUC and other major stakeholde A study has been undertaken on "Illicit 1 Africa: Nature, Dimensions and Challenges"; Background research papers are currently be 	rs; Financial Flows from
• Tackle illicit financial flows from Africa by establishing a specific institution or agency such as a high-level panel on illicit financial flows and equipping it to deal with the problem effectively.	project.	
• African Union Commission and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to play an integral supportive role in implementing the actions identified above.		

887 (XLIV) Enhancing science and technology for development in Africa

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• Commends the leadership of the Economic	P) Supporting investment in science and	• As an extension of the African Science, Technology and
Commission for Africa and the African Union	technology. We commend the ongoing efforts	Innovation Endowment Fund (ASTIEF), ECA provided technical
Commission in sustaining the Science with	by the AUC and ECA in sustaining the Science	support to the Government of Rwanda in the context of "One
Africa Conference, which has become the	with Africa Conference. We request member	United Nations" to create the Rwanda Science Innovation
leading forum for interactions between	States, RECs, the AUC, ECA and development	Endowment Fund.
scientists, policymakers and the private	partners to support the Africa Science	
sector.	Technology and Innovation Endowment Fund,	• ECA launched a prestigious Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA) in
	the African Technology Development and	collaboration with Switzerland-based African Innovation

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Page 10 <i>Requests</i> the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to continue their support for the effective implementation of those pioneering initiatives. 	Transfer Network and the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostic Innovations as platforms for stimulating innovative business development in Africa and facilitating regional integration through research and development collaboration, industrial alliances and open innovation.	 Foundation (AIF). The IPA is aimed at creating a platform for identification of innovative concepts and projects; promoting innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest through competition; promoting science, technology and engineering as rewarding, exciting and noble career options among the youth in Africa by profiling successful applicants; and encouraging entrepreneurs, innovators, funding bodies and business development service providers to exchange ideas and explore innovative business opportunities. The African Technology Development and Transfer Network (ATDTN) is composed of 34 leading African agencies and offices from 12 countries that are responsible for technology development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer. An online platform that combines the advantages of open innovation with those of physical centres of excellence to offer virtual and on-site solutions has been developed to support network activities. ECA, in collaboration with the Laboratory for Engineering Education and Development (LEED) at Boston University (BU), and with financial support from the Republic of Korea, launched a biomedical engineering innovation platform to promote improved health-care outcomes in Africa in 2011. The programme seeks to: a) train medical practitioners, technicians and researchers interested or involved in innovating, maintaining, designing and fabricating medical equipment and systems in hospitals and laboratorie; b) assist interested universities to put a curriculum in place to generate a cadre of biomedical engineers; c) identify and support timent and entrepreneursil university students through the International Medical Design Competition, with mentoring and coaching; d) and promote innovation and entrepreneurs; b) assist interested universities to put a curriculum has been adopted, which will now guide the participating universities in developing their own BME programmes and departments. Currently, five universities from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia are par

888 (XLIV) Proposed programme of work and	d priorities for the biennium 2012-2013	two (32) African institutions as ANDI Centres of Excellence, spread across the five subregions of the continent. They are involved in R&D and innovation activities on drugs, diagnostics, vaccines, medical devices and traditional medicines. These centres will be implementing continent- wide ANDI projects and capacity-building activities. The recognition was given during the 2011 annual meeting of stakeholders with an attendance of more than 400 participants, which included scientists, policymakers, donors and governmental and non-governmental organizations from Africa and overseas. Several interactive panel discussions focusing on partnerships, financing and local pharmaceutical manufacturing took place during the workshop.
 Endorses the proposed work programme and priorities for the biennium 2012-2013. Requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to ensure that commensurate resources are provided for effective implementation of the proposed programme of work for the period 2012-2013. Urges the United Nations Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that Africa retains highest priorities on the United Nations development agenda in order to enable African countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals and other development challenges. Calls for enhanced use of results-based management approaches for better accountability and impact in programme delivery. 		 The strong advocacy work of ECA and the support of African member States resulted in an unprecedented increase of 120 per cent in the United Nations grant to the African Institute for Development and Economic Planning (IDEP) for the 2012-2013 biennium. Similar efforts during the past year led to a reversal of the planned 2 per cent cut in the ECA budget for 2012-2013. In addition, efforts to scale up extrabudgetary resources to complement the regular budget will continue in 2012-2013 with development of a business plan and an enhanced strategy for engaging existing and new partners. At the February 2012 AU Summit, the Secretary-General reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to keep Africa's development high on the United Nations development agenda. Several initiatives have been taken at the strategic level to demonstrate this commitment, including the ongoing discussion on a development agenda for Africa beyond 2015.

- Commends the Governing Council and Management of IDEP for the achievements recorded to restore the Institute's capacity to deliver on its programmes.
- Calls upon ECA management to continue with the full programmatic integration of IDEP into its programme of work.
- Notes with appreciation that the IDEP member States and partners have renewed their commitments to the Institute and that many of them have paid their contributions, and urges member States and partners to continue to show support to the Institute by continuing to pay their assessed contribution and any outstanding arrears.
- Reiterates its request that the United Nations grant to IDEP be significantly increased and invites the United Nations Secretary-General to take all the necessary measures to implement this request, including by bringing the present resolution to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.
- Invites the Economic and Social Council to lend its support to the request to increase the United Nations grant to IDEP so as to allow the Institute to effectively carry out its mission in supporting the capacity-building efforts of its member States.
- Reiterates its request to the IDEP Governing Council to continue to furnish it with an annual report on the progress made in the work of the Institute.

Ministerial Statement

M) Supporting the M	Iutual Review	of	• The 2011 edition of the report on Mutual Review of Development
Development Effectiveness (MRDE) in Africa.		ca.	Effectiveness (MRDE) was produced in October 2011.
Having taken note of the 2	2010 MRDE report	ort,	

- The UNECA Executive Secretary led efforts to follow up on the resolution with missions undertaken to New York to meet with relevant officials of the Secretariat, including the Fifth Committee and the Economic and Social Council and to brief the Group of African Ambassadors in New York as part of his overall feedback to them on the outcome of the Conference of Ministers.
- Similarly, the Executive Secretary went to the Economic and Social Council session in Geneva to follow up on the resolution.
- Other staff of UNECA in Addis, the Director of IDEP in Dakar, and the coordinating office for the regional economic commissions in New York made written inputs and oral submissions on the requirements flowing from the resolution as requested by various committees and for the benefit of the participants in different decision-making bodies.
- As a result of the efforts deployed to increase its annual allocation from the United Nations regular budget, the annual allocation of IDEP effective from January 2012 has been increased from some \$US480,000 to \$US1,300,000, an almost three-fold increase.

we call on ECA and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to consider producing more frequent annual updates or reviews on specific issues, in response to specific requirements.	 2011 MRDE report was launched during the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (4HLF), in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 30 November 2011. The MRDE 2011 report was presented to the Heads of State and Government of the NEPAD Implementation Committee (HSGOIC) on 28 January 2012 at the AU Summit. The report has been widely disseminated since then. MRDE report presented to WTO in Geneva in February 2012. Preparation of the 2012 MRDE Report has begun and will be released in October 2012.
N) Supporting the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), as an Africa-driven process designed to institutionalize the practice of good governance on the continent, particularly in the current context unfolding in various parts of Africa. We thus enjoin AUC and ECA to ensure that the APRM plays a leading and significant role in the evolving African governance architecture, and we encourage member States that have not acceded to do so.	 Two countries received APRM Support Missions (Sierra Leone, 29 August to 10 September 2010; and Djibouti, 21 to 25 February 2011). Two countries received APRM External Review Missions (Zambia, 7 to 25 February 2011; and Sierra Leone, 23 May to 8 June 2011). One country received a second External Review Mission (Kenya, 17 to 31 July 2011). Ethiopia and Sierra Leone were peer reviewed in January 2011 and January 2012 respectively. APRM sensitization workshops held in Gabon, Dakar and Djibouti in 2011. Background research reports done on the APRM process.