



**UNITED NATIONS
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**



**AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION**

2015 Conference of Ministers

The 8th Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development



Venue: UNCC, CR5, Addis Ababa
Date: 29 March 2015

Ebola Side Event: Towards the Recovery of the Most Ebola-affected Countries

Concept Note

1. Background

The current outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa is the most devastating Ebola epidemic that the world has seen since the disease was identified in 1976. Beyond the considerable death toll, the disease has had noticeable socioeconomic impacts, not only in the countries directly affected by the outbreak but also further afield. While encouraging trends are being registered in the epidemiological situation in the three countries, the struggle against Ebola still has a long way to go, with implications that go beyond the response phase of the crisis. In the face of the multiple socioeconomic impacts and beyond their short-term responses, governments of affected countries have started to plan for the recovery phase. They are at different stages of devising recovery strategies and plans that aim to bring their economies back to their pre-crisis growth path by providing support to consolidate the economic fabric, restore confidence, and resume consumption, investment and growth. These plans should also aim at strengthening resilience and response capacity to future, similar shocks. It is against this background and in response to the call by the United Nations Secretary-General after his visits to the most affected countries to begin preparations for Ebola recovery alongside the ongoing response, that the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the World Bank, and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in consultation and collaboration with a range of partners including the African Union (AU), the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Mano River Union (MRU), have come together to support national Ebola recovery strategies in the three most affected countries.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Event is to share information about ongoing efforts aimed at supporting the Ebola-affected countries in their quest not only to eradicate the disease but also in their recovery efforts. This would feed into ongoing national and international efforts to prepare sound recovery strategies and plans for the three countries.

3. Format

The side-event will be a 2 hours gathering, with a panel discussion followed by a questions and answers session.

The Event is expected to involve the following high-level speakers:

Countries:

- Minister of Finance/Planning of Guinea
- Minister of Finance/Planning of Liberia
- Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone

Organizations

- ECA: Carlos Lopes, USG and Executive Secretary
- AUC: Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson
- UNDP: Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Administrator and Director of Regional Bureau for Africa
- WHO: Dr Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti, Africa Regional Director
- Private Sector: Strive Masiyiwa, Founder and Chairman, Econet Wireless

The draft programme of work of the Event appears in the Appendix to this note.

4. Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the Event include:

An update on the epidemiological situation and the current scale of the response;

A better understanding of the economic and social impacts of the Ebola virus disease on affected countries, West Africa, and the continent;

A better understanding of the recovery needs (recovery frameworks; human and financial resources; institutional frameworks; coordination of efforts; etc); and

Current status of the ongoing efforts towards the preparation of the recovery phase for the most affected countries (preparation of recovery plans and strategies; funding and implementing the recovery plans and strategies, etc.);

5. Participation

The Event shall bring together stakeholders involved in ongoing efforts aimed at stopping the spread of the virus and looking into the preparation of the recovery phase.

These include: Representatives from member States, AU, ECOWAS, MRU, UN System; and bilateral and multilateral partners engaged in the most affected countries.

6. Contact information

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Appendix: Draft Programme of Work

Ebola Side Event: Towards the Recovery of the Most Affected Countries

Venue: UNCC, CR5, Addis Ababa

Date: 29 March 2015

10h30 – 10h40

OPENING CEREMONY

- Welcome address by the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Dr. Carlos Lopes
- Message by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

10h40 – 11h20

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Update on Epidemiological Situation by WHO Africa Director (5 mn)
- Briefing on countries' situation (25 mn):
- Guinea, Minister of Finance/Planning
- Liberia, Minister of Finance/Planning
- Sierra Leone, Minister of Finance/Planning

11h20 – 12h15

PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORTS AND WAY FORWARD

- Views of most affected countries, by Ministers of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (15 mn)
- Progress made on Post Ebola Recovery Plan, by UNDP (5mn)
- Donors Views, by representatives World bank, IMF, USA, UK, France (10mn)
- AUC Ebola Fund, by AUC (5 mn)
- General discussion (20 mn)

12h15 – 12h30

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- USG and Executive Secretary of the ECA, Dr. Carlos Lopes
- Chairperson of the AUC, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

