



**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Conference of African Ministers of Finance,**  
**Planning and Economic Development**  
 Forty-eighth session

**African Union**  
**Specialized Technical Committee on Finance,**  
**Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and**  
**Integration\***  
 First session

**Eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union**  
**Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary**  
**Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the**  
**Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African**  
**Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**  
 Addis Ababa, 25 - 31 March 2015

## Side Event

### *A High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend for Agenda 2063*

Sunday, 29 March

## Background

Agenda 2063 is set to be Africa's blueprint for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena<sup>1</sup>. The vision, amongst others, is premised on the ability of Africa to harness one of its biggest assets - its youthful population, for the next 50 years. The returns are expected to be accelerated economic growth, induced by a change in the population structure and by the contribution of healthy, educated and skilled youth to economic growth as a result of their higher employment and increased incomes. This demographic dividend will occur if three things happen:

- First, improvements in health status, especially child health, contribute to a decrease in the number of children born to each family. The combination of improved child survival and fewer children in the following cohorts leads to a population bulge.
- The second driver is the educational investment in this population bulge. As families have fewer children, they and the government have more resources to invest in the education of the surviving children and women increasingly enter the labor force.

<sup>1</sup>African Union (2014), Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. African Union

\* The Specialized Technical Committee replaces the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF) and the Conference of African Ministers of Integration (COMAI). The Specialized Technical Committee brings together ministers of finance, monetary affairs, economic planning and integration

- The third and final step is having an economic environment where the educated cohort/bulge can find well-paying jobs.

With an estimated population of 2.8 billion by 2063, for which over 60 per cent will be under 25, Africa's potential demographic dividend is also especially important in the context of the post 2015 development agenda because today's African children aged 10 will be adults of 25 in 2030 (the target year for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)). Africa is set to have the largest cohort of young people and their success will define development trajectories for the continent.

The upcoming 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 offers a strategic opportunity to discuss practical ways and concrete investment policy choices that will support countries to create and harness the demographic dividend and contribute to achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063. This is also against a backdrop of intensive activities leading up to the global negotiations on the post 2015 development agenda.

### **Objectives**

Moving from commitment to actions, central to the discourse will be the overarching question, 'what will it take to harness Africa's demographic dividend and achieve Agenda 2063?'

This platform will be guided by practical discussions on:

- a) Africa's changing population in the context of post 2015 development agenda and sustainable development;
- b) Harnessing the demographic dividend— critical policies and investment choices in the context of Agenda 2063 and Africa's transformation;
- c) Financing Africa's demographic transitions to reap its dividend;
- d) Strengthening entrepreneurial skills and capacities and promoting decent jobs
- e) Accelerating the initiative to create a continental framework on demographic dividend.

### **Expected audience**

The event will feature participation from eminent personalities, Ministers from relevant department and sectors, including Finance, Economic Development and Planning, health, labour and employment and youth affairs; heads of United Nations agencies, representatives from bilateral, multilateral and international government organizations, policy experts, civil society and private sector actors.

### **Focal person:**

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