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

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

**Ninth 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, 4 and 5 April 2016

## **African Development Week**

### **Concept note**

1. Historically, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Commission have jointly organized the 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, to discuss statutory issues of relevance to the African Union Commission and ECA.
2. More recently, there has been immense interest and enthusiasm to see this platform develop as the premier forum for African ministers and other key stakeholders to discuss issues on the development agenda of Africa, not only statutory issues. It is in response to this interest that ECA and the African Union Commission are pleased to announce that the ninth Joint Annual Meetings will be held as part of African Development Week, which will run from Thursday, 31 March 2016, to Tuesday, 5 April 2016, in Addis Ababa.
3. African Development Week will take place against the backdrop of the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, on the occasion of which African leaders, along with other world leaders, recommitted themselves to the pursuit of a more sustainable development pathway. African countries are now confronted with a dual transition: a global-level transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals and the continent-wide implementation of Agenda 2063. By signing up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, African States have demonstrated their commitment to the implementation of and follow-up to both agendas. Coordination will be vital, however, to ensuring that implementation and

follow-up take into account all dimensions of the two initiatives, including areas of convergence, as well as issues that are to be tackled by each initiative separately but that are nonetheless of importance to the development of the whole continent. Thus, it is expected that the Week will facilitate high-level interactions on these issues and the advancement of a coherent framework for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The meetings that will take place in the context of the Week are grouped in four segments. The first segment, which will kick-start the technical meeting of the Committees of Experts and focus on statutory issues, will be held from 31 March to 2 April. The second segment will consist of a series of events on topics related to Africa's development and be held on 2 and 3 April. The third segment, consisting of a high-level policy dialogue, will take place on 4 April and the fourth segment, made up of the statutory meetings of the ministers, will be held on 5 April.

5. Among the events will be the annual meeting of the Africa Forum (an informal network of former African Heads of State and Government), the launch of the Economic Report on Africa 2016, the meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, the caucus of African central bank governors and the 2016 Adebayo Adedeji lecture.

6. Participants are expected to include top-level policymakers and decision makers, representatives of regional economic communities, central bank governors, international development practitioners, senior officials from financial institutions, private sector institutions, development partners and civil society organizations and scholars.

7. African Development Week promises to deliver very exciting and engaging events and to give rise to decisions that will have important and lasting implications for Africa's future.