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Ministerial Segment

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I. Introduction

1. The Ministerial Segment of the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 4 and 5 November 2013. It was preceded by the expert segment from 31 October to 3 November 2013 at the same venue. The Meeting was organized by Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) jointly with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

2. The main objective of the Meeting was to provide a platform for African countries to identify, articulate and reach consensus on the region's sustainable development priorities and goals and ensure that such priorities further enriched the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It also aimed at preparing Africa to speak with one strong voice and rally global support for SDGs to be integrated into the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

II. Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of all the 54 member States, namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. The AUC, the AfDB and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) also participated in the deliberations. Five of the African Union-recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs) also took part in the deliberations. These were, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the

Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Also present was the Lake Victoria Basin Commission of the East African Community Secretariat The Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) and the Francophonie International Organization were also represented. Major groups recognized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, namely; business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous peoples, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the scientific and technological community, women, workers and trade unions also participated actively in the discussions.

5. Observers from the following member States of the United Nations were present: Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Iran, Mexico and Serbia. The European Union was also represented.

6. Observers from the following United Nations agencies were present: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Liaison Office with the African Union (UNLOAU), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNWomen, the United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA), the United Nations, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)/Post-2015, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

7. The complete list of participants can be accessed at: <http://www.uneca.org/arcm-sdg2013>.

III. Opening of the meeting

8. The opening session of the meeting was moderated by Ms. Fatima Denton, Coordinator of the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) and Officer-in-Charge of the Special Initiatives Division of ECA, who provided an overview of the meeting. She said that the meeting was intended to identify Africa's key economic, social and environmental sustainability priorities that should underpin the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The ministerial segment would engage in a high-level policy dialogue to provide high-level political guidance on the critical themes of the outcome document. The experts had produced a draft outcome document for consideration by the Ministers. The outcome would feed into the work of the High-level Committee of Heads of State and Government and inform the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

9. Mr. Carlos Lopes, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, welcomed the dignitaries and other actors and partners in sustainable development to the meeting.

10. He said that sustainable development was about reframing the global development agenda in ways that would give both present and future generations the autonomy to be active forces in their own destinies; noting that the large attendance was a clear indication of a collective resolve to define the "future we want". Defining the solution that did justice to the intergenerational social contract that underlined Africa's goals, was the main challenge in the path to the region's transformation. Sustainable development challenged our ability to bring greater balance in our social, economic and environmental development goals, with human security and prosperity seen as necessary preconditions for a functional tomorrow.

11. Africa was on a promising pathway and had defied predictions that it would spiral downwards into further conflict and insecurity. In that regard, the way the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had been measured missed many of Africa's achievements; and the opportunities for economic growth, poverty reduction, human development and innovation abounded. As a "latecomer", Africa could power its way through the technological revolution

and advances made in science and innovation. Tackling the decline in industrialization and the growing inequality necessitated leadership and courage as well as determination by Africa.

12. Sustainable development goals should not fall victim to certain dysfunctional practices that underpinned the principles of justice and social equity, and developed countries must make the effort to reform their agricultural subsidies and trade policies to reduce the vulnerabilities of African smallholder farmers.

13. He identified three sectors where Africa had the potential to lead as energy, agriculture and manufacturing. The consultative meeting could ensure that Africa's priorities were adequately reflected in the global formulation of the SDGs. Beyond adoption of goals there should be sound and dynamic national development policies and planning and generation of Africa's own robust data and statistics to accurately measure, monitor, evaluate and ultimately report on progress.

14. Lastly Mr. Lopes said that Africa wanted a future that saw the continent for more than its natural resources riches and an outcome that reflected the region's reputation.

15. Statements were then delivered by Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa; Mr. Hongbo Wu, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Her Excellency Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and His Excellency Mr. Antony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner, Department of Economic Affairs, both of the African Union Commission; and Mr. Lacina Kouame, Deputy Chief of Staff, Ministry of State, Ministry of Planning and Development, Cote d'Ivoire, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Albert Toikeusse Mabri, Minister of State for Planning and Development, Côte d'Ivoire and Chair of the Bureau of the AUC/ECA Joint Conference of Ministers. In addition Ms Mwillla Musamali submitted the official Statement of the African Development Bank for inclusion in the proceedings of the meeting.

16. In his statement Mr. Maged Abdelaziz expressed appreciation to ECA for the close collaboration with his office in implementing various programmes in support of Africa. Africa was still confronted with many challenges. Key of which were poverty, which was not declining fast enough, persistent food insecurity, diseases and persistent environmental challenges. As we looked at the post-2015 development agenda, we should not forget the unfinished business of the MDGs - those MDGs that were most off-track - and pay attention to countries that were affected by particular development challenges such as conflicts. Actions must be accelerated in those areas, while the MDG-8 targets must be met and domestic resources mobilized to fast track progress in the next two years. That would build a solid foundation from which the region would implement a strong and universal transformative agenda for sustainable development beyond 2015, leading to regional integration, as a vehicle for sustainable inclusive growth and Africa's renaissance.

17. The United Nations General Assembly had established a United Nations Monitoring Mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development. OSAA would provide a secretariat for that mechanism, the only one of its kind dedicated to Africa. That would galvanize actions that were critical to Africa's success.

18. There should be a holistic and comprehensive approach to resolving Africa's development, persistent and new and emerging challenges such as lack of energy, dependency on natural resources, inadequate infrastructure, weak institutional capacity, piracy, terrorism, unemployment especially of the youth, inequality, environment degradation as well as climate change which compromise development in the region.

19. The new agenda would need to focus on the transformative agenda announced by the African Union, which was based on inclusive growth among others. In order to be successful, the agenda would have to take into account the complex nexus between peace, security and development, as well as good governance. Also, there should be a framework that integrated the economic, social and environmental dimensions in a balanced manner.

20. Lastly, Africa had to reach a consensus that was aligned with the region's development priorities and aspirations and the United Nations would support Africa in negotiations for the post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs.

21. Mr. Hongbo Wu started by saying that the Africa discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda were timely. He then briefed the meeting on the steps taken and progress towards member States' adoption, in September 2015, of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which should reinforce the commitment of the international community towards poverty eradication and sustainable development.

22. The steps included the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) special event on MDGs, which agreed on a clear road map towards adopting the post-2015 Development Agenda, which entailed: launching the intergovernmental process at the beginning of the 69th Session of UNGA; organizing a Heads of State Summit; and concluding the Rio+20 follow-up, including the work of the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs and the Intergovernmental Expert Committee on sustainable development financing by September 2014, in a comprehensive, balanced, and expeditious manner. Several crucial inputs made to the post-2015 Development Agenda included the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons and the Secretary-General's report, "A life of dignity for all". He said that it was time to put together the various inputs towards the 2015 summit.

23. The OWG had made good progress and discussed issues that were at the core of the United Nations development agenda. They included poverty, food security, health, education, employment and social protection, all of which enjoyed broad international consensus. There was also a need for a transformative agenda.

24. The OWG was to embark on discussions on economic and environmental dimensions, where there was less consensus. Key issues that needed to be addressed, were: (a) how to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs; (b) how the SDGs would address issues that the world would face in 20 years; (c) how to define a universal agenda and a set of SDGs that met different stages of development and needs of member States; and (d) how to ensure effective

implementation and monitoring of progress and the role of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable development. UNDESA was providing support to the various processes.

25. While the road to the United Nations transformative post-2015 agenda was clearer, flexibility would be required from each and every member State to reach an agreement in 2014.

26. In the official statement of the African Development Bank that was submitted to the Secretariat, the Bank noted that despite progress made on the development front, Africa continued to face a myriad of challenges and called for future development goals to reflect Africa's specific circumstances and priorities. The MDGs provided important lessons for attention in the future development agenda. However there was a need to focus beyond the goals and provide the means of implementation to achieve them. The Bank highlighted: the importance of institutions, structural transformation and other development enablers; the need to take into account the local circumstances and differences in initial conditions within and among countries; and consultation and ownership at the conceptualization of development goals so as to eliminate perceptions of a donor-driven agenda. In addition, the transformative change that Africa was rightly pursuing would require a shift in development pathways from the current development paradigm and trajectory towards a transition to "green" development pathways, and to address infrastructure.

27. The Bank further acknowledged the complexity of the challenges that needed to be addressed, noting that Africa was the only continent explicitly identified in the Rio+20 Outcome document "the Future we Want", as facing the most significant challenges which required international intervention. The Bank argued that the SDGs process was a chance for Africa to ensure that its priorities were reflected in the international development agenda and speaking with one voice was paramount. The outcome document discussed in the meeting should continually be revised until the set of goals that will support Africa's development aspirations are designed.

28. The SDGs should build on the foundations of the MDGs and that Africa should stay ahead of the game by making sure that priorities are carefully selected while paying attention to

key enabling factors for success and be well prepared to bargain for those priorities. The Bank stressed that leadership was key to this endeavour. It also called for the continued alignment of the consultative processes for the post 2015 agenda and the SDGs for a more productive outcome. Furthermore adequate attention should be paid to the means of implementation while negotiating the SDGs.

29. The Bank also highlighted its role as a development partner of African Countries, in expanding infrastructure to enable access to economic opportunities and provision of essential services and other development enablers, and noted the Bank's pledge to support Africa's transition to green growth in the context of sustainable development. The Bank had recently formulated its long-term strategy (2013-2022) with two main strategic objectives: inclusive growth and transition to green growth. A new instrument to support infrastructure development - The Africa 50 Fund is also under development. The Bank had joined hands with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Africa Union Commission (AUC), and other partners, to support this dialogue on the SDGs and hoped this would strengthen Africa's voice as the SDG agenda evolves.

30. Her Excellency Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, began by conveying warm greetings and best wishes from H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AUC, to participants. The AUC was pleased to continue working closely with ECA and other partners in supporting member States to harmonize policies and coordinate the implementation of various development programmes and projects. The Commission was particularly pleased that the organizations were continuing with the tradition of working together to ensure that Africa went to the international arena with one clear voice - an approach that worked well for the continent for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) and other global processes. It was in that context that participants had gathered to contribute to Africa's Common Position on the SDGs. Thanking all individuals and organizations that prepared the groundwork for the conference, she said that the AUC remained committed to providing all possible support in furthering the tradition.

31. The AUC considered the SDGs as extremely important in all dimensions, namely social, economic and environmental. The SDG process complemented and converged with the post-2015 Development Agenda. While the Commission was encouraged by the progress made by AU member States in attaining the MDGs, there was considerable unfinished business and lessons to be built on for the next phase. Although many African economies had experienced fast economic growth, it should be inclusive, if all sections of society were to enjoy its benefits. As Africa furthered economic growth and social well-being, the Commission remained conscious of the obligation to meet the continent's needs, while guaranteeing those of future generations through sustainable management of the environment.

32. The Conference was taking place in the year of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance, at a time when the Commission was in the advanced stages of formulating the Africa Agenda 2063, which AU Heads of State would consider for adoption at the January 2014 Summit.

33. She concluded by saluting all honourable ministers and delegates and encouraged them to stay the course, and looked forward to productive deliberations and continued collaboration in refining Africa's Common Position and effectively championing it.

34. H.E. Mr. Antony Mothae Maruping, expressed profound appreciation to all ministers and stakeholders for taking time off to attend the conference, and to the organizers for putting the conference together. He said that, sustainable development was "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Accordingly, that concept rested on two pillars; equity between and within generations and the equal status of social, economic and environmental goals. The aim was to guide and contribute to transformative change as stipulated in the Rio+20 outcome document in support of rights-based, equitable and inclusive processes that enhanced sustainability at the global, regional, national and local levels.

35. The outcomes of the conference would be incorporated into the draft African Common Position on the post-2015 Development Agenda. The technical working group on the Agenda

had been working to incorporate inputs received from various stakeholders on 25 and 26 October 2013. The Sherpas meeting held on 28 and 28 October 2013 reviewed and discussed the matrix of priorities and outline of the draft African Common Position. The organizers of the Conference were invited to submit the outcome document on time to the secretariat of the High-level Committee (HLC) of Heads of State and Government on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

36. After the just concluded meeting of the Sherpas, the next step was for the secretariat to do the final drafting of the document with guidance from the HLC. The polished version would be presented to the AU Heads of State Summit in January 2014. As the HLC was mandated by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to polish, finalize and popularize the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, its report would be the sole basis of negotiations during the formulation of the global Post-2015 Development Agenda. The mandate of the HLC would also be extended to galvanize international support around Africa's priorities.

37. Delegates were assured that the Commission was highly confident that the HLC would achieve its objective and that it would continue to support the work of the Committee. The HLC was the route towards fulfilling the vision of building an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.

38. On behalf of His Excellency Mr. Albert Toikeusse Mabri, Minister of State for Planning and Development, Côte d'Ivoire and Chair of the Bureau of the AUC/ECA Joint Conference of Ministers, Mr. Lacina Kouame, said that the formulation of the SDGs was a commitment of the Rio+20 Conference, which led to a renewed political commitment to sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels. The organization of the consultative meeting was timely as it coincided with the assessment of the MDGs by the international community and the set of objectives which resulted from the deliberations would reflect the sustainable development priorities of the continent.

39. While the continent had made progress in recent years in terms of macroeconomic stability and economic growth, African countries faced several challenges relating to poverty,

social inequality, education and health care. Good governance, social protection of the poor and the vulnerable, employment of the youth, peace and security were the key sustainable development challenges of the continent.

40. In conclusion, the Minister declared that through the SDGs, Côte d'Ivoire was determined to improve the living condition of its citizens and eradicate poverty from the continent, in synergy with the other countries.

41. His Excellency Mr. Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia gave the opening address, extending a warm welcome to ministers and other dignitaries to Addis Ababa and appreciation to ECA, AUC and AfDB, the joint organizing partners of the meeting, as well as member States, regional economic communities and the diplomatic community gathered for the consultative meeting.

42. Africa, he said, lagged behind in the achievement of the MDGs, despite the significant progress in economic growth. Making inclusive and sustainable development the focus of the post-2015 Development Agenda was therefore justified by the continuing depth and spread of poverty in the region. In that regard, it was important to define sustainable development that complemented rather than substituted the MDGs. That would enhance coherence and synergy in policymaking and implementation. The SDGs and post-2015 development agenda processes were therefore to be carried out in a synergistic manner. There was a need for the post-2015 Development Agenda to address the impacts of climate change, given its implications on economic and social development, and for countries to consider creating more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making processes that integrated sustainable development at all levels.

43. The Ethiopia Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) set out an ambitious plan to position the country to achieve the vision of middle-income status by the year 2025. In the three years of GTP implementation, the gross domestic product had grown by about 10 per cent per annum despite the global economic challenges. Ethiopia was of the view that the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda needed to place great emphasis on poverty eradication and rapid,

inclusive and resilient economic growth that was broad-based and pro-poor as well as enhance domestic productive capacity among others.

44. In concluding, the minister called upon the meeting to critically examine the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs; and come up with an African common position.

IV. Account of the proceedings

A. Organizational matters

(i) *The bureau*

45. The meeting agreed that the member States elected by the Experts Segment constitute the Bureau of the ministerial Segment. The Ministers and high-level representatives of the following countries were therefore confirmed as the Bureau:

Chairperson:	Liberia
First Vice-Chair:	Chad
Second Vice-Chair:	Zimbabwe
Third Vice-Chair:	Egypt
Rapporteur:	Ethiopia

(ii) *Adoption of the Agenda*

46. The provisional agenda was adopted without amendments.

B. Consideration of the report of the experts

47. The Report of the experts segment was presented to the ministerial meeting, calling for comments, inputs and policy guidance. The ministers and delegates thanked the experts for the good work and informative discussions. They provided additional comments and observations,

noting that Algeria, Libya, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal were missing from the list of countries in attendance.

48. The meeting provided the following additional inputs that needed to be taken into account in revising the report:

(a) There was a need to take the needs of conflict and post-conflict countries into account and tackle issues related to illegal mining activities, access to land and social development;

(b) The Ministerial Segment meeting was informed about the African Development Bank support to the SDG process, as underscored by the Bank's statement during the opening session of the experts segment, which should be clearly highlighted in the report;

(c) Gender-based violence and sexual violence should be tackled and included as one of the major objectives of the SDGs;

(d) The complementary and instrumental role of domestic and external resources in supporting the implementation of the SDGs was emphasized;

(e) There was a need to tackle soil degradation and pollution from chemicals used in extractive industries and mining activities. These should be included in the SDG development process.

49. The meeting agreed to take note of the report of the experts segment and that additional views and policy guidance would be provided at the high-level dialogue as well as during the consideration and adoption of the outcome document, which should incorporate all other concerns raised by the discussions of the experts

C. High-level policy dialogue

Moderator: His Excellency Mr. Antony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner, Department of Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission.

Panellists:

- (a) His Excellency Honourable Sebastian T. Muah, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Liberia

- (b) His Excellency Mr. Tuvako N Manongi, Amabssador and Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations
- (c) His Excellency Mr., Tongai Mathew Muzenda, Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Services, Zimbabwe
- (d) His Excellency Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment, Republic of Congo
- (e) Her Excellency Angelique Ngoma, Member of Parliament, Gabon
- (f) Mr. Bhanu Pratabsingh Jadoo, Secretary-General Designate, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mauritius
- (g) Mr. George Ndungu, Secretary for International Affairs and Kenya Representative, Organization of African Youth, Kenya
- (h) His Excellency Mr. Gilbert Hougbo, ILO Deputy Director General and Selected Development partners
- (i) Ambassador Laura Thompson, IOM Deputy Director General

Short interventions by selected development partners:

- (a) Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Africa.
- (b) Ambassador Gary Quince, Head of the European Union delegation to the African Union

Introduction by the Moderator

50. H.E. Mr. Antony Mothae Maruping introduced the panelists and invited them to make their presentations in the following order:

Presentations by the panelists

- (a) His Excellency Honourable Sebastian T. Muah, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Liberia

51. H.E. Honourable Sebastian Muah called on the meeting to consider practical and contextual responses to the kind of world they wanted. The MDGs had been formulated when his country was in a situation of conflict and SDGs provided an opportunity for the new generation of Liberians to benefit from expressing their views on any successive development agenda

52. He said that poverty placed several challenges on Africa. Also, the conflict in Liberia had impacted the youth of the country. There was a need to reflect thoroughly on Africa's achievements. The MDGs would not expire in 2015, but rather, the development framework would evolve in 2015, with same themes coming up again and being reinforced and the ownership of the framework enhanced. They should speak with one voice on the post-2015 Development Agenda, in line with the United Nations' notion of "delivering as one". Formulating the development agenda should be inclusive, sustainability at its core

53. Economic transformation should sustain and create jobs, as there were not many conflicts left on the continent. However, peace must not be ignored, as it was key to the attainment of our development aspirations. Lastly, the kind of partnership Africa wanted to pursue should be redefined

- (b) His Excellency Mr. Tuvako N. Manongi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations

54. H.E. Tuvako Manongi provided a briefing on the process involved in the development of the 2015 development agenda, explaining that it was a rich process, following the Rio+20.

55. He highlighted the role of the OWG in the intergovernmental process of preparing the SDGs to be considered by the General Assembly in 2014. In contrast to the MDGs, the SDGs would be universal in nature and must not leave anyone behind, and would place human development and dignity at the centre of development. Other processes of the Rio+20 follow-up

were: the expert committee on formulating the financing strategy and technology facilitation mechanism for sustainable development; the Open-ended Working Group to discuss and debate the proposed SDGs; the Financing Working Group to support achievement of sustainable development goals and the High-level Political Forum for following up regional processes in preparation for deliberations of the high-level forums and to carry forward decisions taken at the regional level. He also explained the role that the Economic and Social Council was playing in the process of formulating the post-2015 Development Agenda.

- (c) His Excellency, Mr., Tongai Mathew Muzenda, Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Services, Zimbabwe

56. Ambassador Chipaziwa spoke on behalf of H.E. Mr. Tongai Mathew Muzenda, the Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Services, Zimbabwe. He began by saying that efforts needed to be made to enhance convergence of the SDGs and the post-2015 Development Agenda processes and to articulate priorities. The unfinished business of the MDGs should be concluded by eradicating poverty; creating decent jobs; eradicating hunger; improving food production; and providing affordable health care, clean water, quality education, gender and social protection and inclusion for all, sustained economic growth and structural transformation of the economy.

57. African countries should shift from being sources of raw materials to becoming manufacturers. They must also: invest in infrastructure to address deficits in provision of water, energy and other facilities; control desertification and land degradation and biodiversity loss; and strengthen adaptation and mitigation measures. African countries needed assistance to trigger an enabling environment for sustainable development. There was a need for convergence-coherence and coordination throughout the HLC process and at global level - through the OWG to ensure that goals incorporated in the post-2015 agenda were adopted by the General Assembly. He concluded with specific proposals on development enablers such as governance and peace and security and highlighted the crucial role of liaison and coordination among the representatives in Addis Ababa, New York and Geneva.

- (d) His Excellency Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment, Republic of Congo

58. H.E. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment, Republic of Congo compared the process of attaining sustainable development to building a house. There was need for ambition to “change status from renter to owner”. Ownership of the development process was critical, from developing a good plan, deciding on external and domestic financing, to the size of the programme and implementation plan. 2015 would usher in a period where, whatever had not been achieved in the MDGs would be carried forward. Member States were thus to come up with common positions that would enable the continent to achieve sustainable development in the context of what Africa wanted.

59. On specific recommendations for consideration by the member States, H.E. Djombo called on ECA and other partners to assist countries that did not have capacity to develop plans and strategies, which were prerequisites to the process. Specific attention should be paid to green technologies, promoting health and tackling diseases that were debilitating the continent, managing natural resources and biodiversity assets of Africa. There should be investment in the youth and women in order to reap the benefits of the continent’s human capital. The objective was to bring about structural transformation, develop infrastructure, create decent jobs, unleash industrialization on the continent by adopting technologies that were friendly to the environment, creating green jobs and heavily investing in education and technology.

60. It was important to invest in natural capital, including natural forests, managing mineral and water resources; strengthening health systems to ensure equitable access to health and sexual and reproductive health services; doubling efforts to combat diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular diseases and cancer; promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and youth; and eradicating extreme poverty.

- (e) Her Excellency Angelique Ngoma, Member of Parliament, Gabon

61. H.E. Ms. Angeliqve Ngoma, explained that she was glad that since 2012, parliamentarians had been associated with the process. She therefore commended ECA, AfDB and the AUC for bringing parliamentarians on board in the consultations on the sustainable development goals.

62. She called for concrete actions rather than intentions; requesting that financial resources should be made available for that purpose. She advocated for the goal of health for all to include sexual and reproductive rights of women; agenda for promotion of youth and women consistent with the Maputo declaration. She also made specific references to women's empowerment in agriculture through access to land.

63. H.E. Ngoma deplored violence against women and children and highlighted that Africa could not be developed until everyone had been given rights. Land grabbing on the continent was not benefiting the population of Africa. On the indicators of sustainable development, she called for the development of sustainable development indicators, particularly on environmental conditions. In that regard, an NGO had been established to support monitoring of the SDG process and whose constitution mandated parliamentarians to regulate processes. ECA and partners should organize capacity-building workshops for parliamentarians during the implementation phase of the SDGs.

- (f) Mr. Bhanu Pratabsingh Jadoo, Secretary-General Designate, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mauritius.

64. Mr. Bhanu Pratabsingh Jadoo, Secretary-General Designate, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, shared his thoughts on policy triggers that needed to be addressed to achieve sustainable development. Ownership, inclusiveness and entrepreneurship were important. Quality of investment should be reviewed to ensure that jobs were being created. He advocated for index on how governments related to their private sector; emphasizing the role of domestic direct investment and the need for reviews on technology transfer, licensing and other policies on FDI.

65. There was a need to institutionalize linkages between private sector and government. The private sector in Africa had the capacity to develop the infrastructure of the continent. Existing institutions were doing a good job in Africa, including the AfDB and its financing mechanisms. There were investment opportunities provided by sovereign funds on the continent calling on the meeting to aim to “want what we can” attain. Trade was one of those things that Africa could attain, and in particular, cited the low intra-Africa trade that needed pro-growth trade facilitation through clarity, consistency and coherence of trade policies. As enhanced trade and investment flows could provide non-fiscal stimulus to growth in Africa and cross-border facilitation and trade were important. Equally important were transparent procurement processes. Focus should be on an input and not output-based economy. SMEs and sole traders also played a major role in business on the continent.

(g) Mr. George Ndungu, Secretary for International Affairs and Kenya Representative, Organization of African Youth, Kenya

66. Mr. George Ndungu, Organization of African Youth, provided the views of the youth on the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He started by highlighting that the UN High Level Panel report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda that had been released on 30 May 2013 called on the world to ‘leave no one behind’, and that this represented a critical landmark in youth-led campaign to see the world’s new development framework inclusive of young people’s perspectives and aspirations. He said that with about 65 % of the total population of Africa below the age of 35 years, the SDGs provided governments with an opportunity to prioritize investments in youth development and should be inclusive, integrating young people’s own account of their aspirations and values.

67. Noting that Africa was the only continent with a significantly growing youth population and in less than three generations, 41% of the world’s youth would be African, he said there was the need to acknowledge the central role of young people in development. As such youth participation should be promoted through the creation of enabling environments.

68. He underlined that youth empowerment and creation of decent jobs remained the top priority of young people for the post-2015 era, observing that almost every delegate that had spoken in the meeting had mentioned the need to create jobs for young people.

69. He however noted that the number of available jobs for young people was only part of the problem. He said educational systems were still failing to provide a large proportion of youth with the skills they needed to secure a living. As such there was need for investment and promotion of an education curriculum that is ICT-incorporated, action-oriented, technical, vocational and entrepreneurship based with the aim of preparing youth for self-employment and cope with the actual working requirements and conditions.

70. He called for the African Union Commission to consider including regional youth-led organizations to the membership of High Level Committee on the Post-2015 Agenda; the SDGs to target inclusive, green and sustainable growth; and devoting more attention to higher standards and to outcomes that improve the quality of young people's lives. He added that the SDGs required a fundamental shift from being just another global political declaration to a framework which provided national governments with a roadmap on measures to meaningfully improve young people's quality of life.

71. He concluded by stressing that there was no sustainable future without today's generation of children and young people. He said that the youth wanted an Africa that valued diversity, respected and promoted environmental sustainability. They needed an Africa that was governed based on fairness and equality, where everyone felt safe and had access to basic services such as health and education, and where the standards of those services were high no matter what people's background or economic situation. Moreover no young person in the region should be excluded or marginalized because of gender, ethnicity or disability. This he said was the Africa that the youth wanted and believed that this was the Africa we all Wanted.

(h) His Excellency, Mr. Gilbert Houngbo, ILO Deputy Director General

72. H.E. Mr. Gilbert Hounou, ILO Deputy Director General echoed the view that growth in Africa had not created enough jobs, nor helped to address growing inequalities and specific issues such as youth employment. He highlighted the plight of 70 per cent of the workers in Africa, who earned their living from unstable employment such as family farms and some urban jobs. Unemployment worldwide was projected to rise by 30 million, representing an additional two million unemployed worldwide in 2014, and a further 3 million in 2015.

73. He also highlighted the peculiarities in Africa of a large population of the working poor, bare minimum of \$2 per day who needed decent jobs in poverty alleviation/eradication.

74. He called on the Ministers to take forward the many African decisions already taken to ensure that full and productive employment and decent work is adopted as an explicit goal of the global development agenda beyond 2015. In this connection he recalled the commitment of the 2004 Extraordinary Summit of AU Heads of State and Government, according to which employment creation was the objective of economic development in Africa at all levels. Growth must be accompanied by structural transformation from activities with low productivity such as family farms to more productive ones such as manufacturing. He advised against the mistake made in 2000 when employment was not included in any of the goals in the MDGs.

75. H.E. Mr. Hounou said that the promotion of decent jobs, accompanied by adequate social protection was a vehicle toward eradicating extreme and pervasive poverty, ensuring food security, reducing inequalities and social exclusion. The promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all was central to achieving sustainable development with its three pillars – economic, social and environmental.

76. He commended the decision and the need for an early convergence of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDG processes. He said that a single post-2015 UN development framework should have a single and balanced set of goals, limited in number, universal to all nations but responsive to the specificities of each country, with the greatest emphasis on employment as the surest way of eradicating poverty and integrating sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions.

(i) Ambassador Laura Thompson, IOM Deputy Director General

77. Ambassador Laura Thompson, IOM Deputy Director General highlighted the role of human mobility in the development process. Migration trends were increasingly becoming complex and diverse, as were urbanization trends in Africa. She also explained that South-South migration was as important as North-South migration, with over 19.3 million migrants within Africa.

78. She pointed out that migration held important potential as an enabler of the three pillars of sustainable development, and of peace and security, and offered significant economic benefits to both countries of origin and destination, as well as to individuals and their communities. However, Governments faced challenges to understand how to enhance the positive contributions of migration to the development of countries and societies. Among these challenges were lack of good data, lack of systematic analysis on the migration realities they face and inadequate knowledge on how migrations trends are affected by their legislation and policies and how they impact on development.

79. She outlined the economic, social and environmental implications of migration. From an economic perspective, remittances constituted between 8-25 per cent of the GDP of some African countries such as Lesotho, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, and The Gambia, and represented the largest source of foreign currency. On the social front, she said migration was also a social phenomenon, especially in Africa where the young population was in search of better opportunities in employment, education, and safety from conflicts. However, if not managed properly, Migration created risks of inequalities and vulnerabilities including trafficking in human beings especially women and children; and the need to prevent unfortunate tragedies as those that had been witnessed very recently in Lampedusa and Niger. From an Environmental perspective she said that Environmental degradation had a direct implication on human mobility and, at the same time, massive population movement could also be a factor of

environmental degradation. For instance climate change would continue to have serious implications especially on pastoral communities.

80. The on-going process to define a new UN development framework beyond 2015 provided a unique opportunity to integrate migration more fully into the institutional and normative framework for sustainable development as had been recognized by the declaration adopted and the conclusions achieved at the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development that had taken place a month before in New York.

81. She concluded by underlining that given the social and economic development potential of migration and its contribution to sustainable development and the well-being of society as a whole, and in the esprit of ownership, migration should be integrated in the African Common Position on the Post 2015 Development Agenda as one of the Development Enablers and as an indicator for a number of development goals, such as poverty alleviation, disaster risk reduction, education, health and decent work..

Selected Interventions

82. Before opening the floor for general discussions, the moderator invited the representatives of UNEP and EU to make their interventions as follows.

- (i) Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Africa.

83. Mr. Goumandakoye explained the importance of environment in relation to economic and social dimensions. The high economic growth enjoyed by the region was encouraging but challenges in terms of persistent high poverty rate, unemployment and food insecurity remained. He noted the need to sustain economic growth, and underscored this would require continuous use of natural resources, thus the importance of sound natural resources management. He noted the need to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

84. He said that it was necessary to build on the experience in the implementation of the MDGs. However, he observed that some MDGs were designed as stand-alone and in some cases

the achievement of one particular goal could have negative impact on another. Therefore, SDGs should be integrated and embed the three dimensions of sustainability. He supported the idea of developing a sustainable development index put forth by a member of the panel. In this context observed that there was great merit in blending the Human Development Index with Ecological Footprint.

85. Citing the role of UN and other agencies in the preparation various reports, he called for enhanced collaboration among these organizations in support of the region's sustainable development agenda. He proposed that an African Sustainable Development Report be produced regularly through collective effort.

86. He lauded the leadership role of ECA working with AUC and AfDB in the SDGs consultative process in Africa and confirmed UNEP readiness to actively collaborate with them in the next steps of the process.

87. Lastly, Mr. Goumandakoye paid tribute to the leadership of women at the forefront of sustainable development efforts of the continent. In this connection he made reference to the tremendous work on sustainable development done by the Late Wangari Maathai and Honourable Mrs. Angelique Ngoma of Gabon, Member of Parliament and former Minister for Health and Defense.

(ii) Ambassador Gary Quince, Head of EU delegation to the African Union.

88. Ambassador Quince expressed the EU's appreciation to ECA, AfDB and AUC for inviting his organization to the consultative meeting. He asserted that the process should lead to a single universal post 2015 agenda. He highlighted five areas which he explained were considered by the EU as key to development. These were: improving basic living standards and decent life for all; emphasizing drivers of sustainable growth - job creation for women and young people; sustainable consumption and management of natural resources; justice and equitable governance; and peace and security.

89. He said there were areas of convergence between the EU position and the African voice on the Post-2015 development agenda. He explained that MDGs would represent unfinished business after 2015. He expressed the need for the structural transformation taking place in Africa to be linked with development in other areas such as peace and security, migration, and harnessing technology transfer. On partnerships, he said the EU would continue partnering with Africa to meet development challenges. He said that some of the challenges would be addressed at the EU-Africa Summit to be held in April 2014. He also drew attention to the ongoing climate change negotiations and the 19th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP19) to be held in Warsaw later this year.

General Discussions

90. In the ensuing discussions, Ministers and other heads of delegations took the floor to share their views and recommend priority areas for the SDGs. The following is a synthesis of the issues and priorities raised.

91. Sustainable development should be people-centered, and should bring about improvement of human well-being, and this must start with children. Children must get quality education from early childhood development; their self-confidence must be built from early stages of education, to enable them contribute positively to the transformative agenda of the continent.

92. The SDGs should address the unfinished business of the MDGs, and in that context eradicating poverty should be the overarching objective. This should not be limited to income poverty, but take into account the multidimensional nature of poverty.

93. There was need to focus on the quality of education- an education that is capable of promoting the transformation ambitions of the continent. And harnessing the capacities and potential of all people is the only means by which sustainable development would be achieved.

94. The SDGs must place food insecurity and malnutrition at its centre. The challenge of hunger must also be addressed and overcome in the course of implementing the next development agenda. In this connection SDGs and Post-2015 development agenda must respond to human rights and meet basic needs.

95. The SDGs should tackle issues of child and maternal mortality as well as sexual and reproductive health: In particular, it was suggested that legislations needs to look at free access to maternal and child health care.

96. There was need to mainstream gender equality and human right in all aspects of the SDGs, as well as enhanced participation of youth and people with disabilities. Youth employment was stressed as crucial for the preservation of peace and security on the continent, and called for a stand-alone goal.

97. Youth training was necessary in the development of the continent. Moreover it was important to foster the links between the supply and the demand sides of labour market. This should take into account the role of inclusive green growth.

98. Social protection was necessary to address vulnerability and promoting social inclusion. Universal access to health care was possible and in this regard universal health insurance should be promoted in the region. Furthermore, the delivery of social services needs to be strengthened in light of the rapidly changing demographic trends.

99. The SDGs should address the issues of industrialization and infrastructure development to underpin economic growth and structural transformation. Given the important role of energy in the transformation process, infrastructure and energy should be a stand-alone goal of the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, Africa's transformative agenda should be knowledge and evidence-based, thus the need for increased investment in research and technology.

100. SDGS and the Post 2015 Development Agenda must also address environmental degradation land grabbing and the challenges of migration.

101. Climate change was recognized as a big threat for the development of the continent. As such, the need for adaptation and mitigations should be incorporated into the SDGs. Additionally, desertification, land degradation, and disaster risk management must be considered in the context of climate change. In this connection, the continent needed specific resources to support mitigation and adaptation initiatives. There was noticeable progress in the management of natural resources, but said that much more needed to be done in that area. The support of multilateral institutions and other development partners in this regard was stressed.

102. Urbanization was one of the fastest and significant transitions that Africa was witnessing. Africa was the fastest urbanizing continent globally with an estimated growth rate of 3.4%. In this regard, there were opportunities for embracing new urban paradigms that were more conducive to both the present and long-term needs of African cities and nations. This included greener solutions, climate change adaptation, and technology innovation. There was need to acknowledge the significant integrative role that cities and rapidly growing urban areas could play in the sustainable transformation of Africa and the implementation of the SDGs.

103. While being universally applicable, the SDGs needed to be adaptable to specific needs. The inclusion of green and blue economy into the regional report on sustainable development as a tool to improve the development outcomes of African countries was significant., Oceans needed to be considered as genuine means of development rather than just spaces for extraction.

104. Good governance, rule of law and peace and security were key factors for sustainable development. Poor governance and the slow pace of regional integration were major impediments to Africa's development. African countries should tackle these issues head on for enhanced development opportunities and outcomes.

105. There was need to strengthen the capacity of diverse stakeholders at all levels in the region for inclusive and effective participation in Africa's transformative agenda and development. African parliamentarians and major groups should be considered important actors in this regard.

106. Financing for development was a prerequisite for the implementation of the SDGs. The SDGs therefore should be backed by adequate means of implementation, including predictable financing. In this context domestic resource mobilization and private sector development were indispensable for Africa's transformation. Moreover, the SDGs should focus on strengthening Africa's capacities for domestic resource mobilization, especially in the face of increasing scarcity and unpredictability of external resources. Furthermore the SDGs should promote more conducive environment for trade and investment.

107. Ownership, better management of resources, innovation, efficient use of available resources, good stewardship of natural resources, responsibility, commitment, and accountability were critical ethical principles that needed to accompany the implementation of the SDGs.

108. Delegates expressed the commitment of their governments to work with all African partners for the realization of the MDGs and the SDGs.

Wrap-up by the moderator

109. In summing up the key policy messages and recommendations of the policy dialogue, the moderator pointed out that panelists and delegates had highlighted important areas that should be taken into account in the formulation of the SDGs. He noted that poverty eradication was echoed and stressed as the key goal for Africa's sustainable development. Access to affordable and quality education; social security, inclusive green growth; prudent management of natural resources; tackling climate change with a special emphasis on adaptation for Africa; and the need to address both positive and negative implications of migration among others were highlighted. The policy dialogue had also emphasized the role of the private sector; investment including for infrastructure, energy, agriculture development; integration of youth and gender into all the goals and the importance of enablers such as good governance had also been underscored. He also cited the need better domestic resource mobilization, enhanced partnerships including for financing, data and knowledge generation and indicators for monitoring and reporting progress.

V. Consideration and adoption of the outcome document and report of the Meeting

110. Ministers considered the draft Outcome Document prepared by experts. Delegations made comments, observations and proposed amendments to the document, which was adopted as amended.

111. Ministers also considered the draft report of its meeting. Delegations made comments, and proposed amendments to the report and adopted the report as amended.

VI. Closing of the Meeting

112. The chairperson thanked ECA, the African Union Commission and the African development Bank for organizing the meeting and all the delegations for contributing to its successful conclusion.

113. The meeting came to a close at 17:10 hours.