

## Annex I

### Ministerial statement

*We, African ministers of finance, planning, economic development and integration,*

Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, on 25 and 26 March 2019, for the fifty-second session of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,

Having deliberated on the theme “Fiscal policy, trade and the private sector in a digital era: a strategy for Africa”,

*Do hereby:*

1. *Note* that the gross domestic product of Africa grew at a rate of 3.2 per cent in 2018, down from 3.4 per cent in 2017, and that economic growth is expected to recover to 3.4 per cent in 2019 owing, primarily, to strengthened global demand for African products, rising commodity prices, robust private consumption and sustained investments in infrastructure;

2. *Recognize* that the continent has made progress towards achieving desired economic and social outcomes, with poverty and inequality rates declining in the various subregions, albeit at a slow pace and that a number of challenges remain, including the need to substantially increase the current economic growth rate in order to create jobs and improve living standards through the diversification of African economies, in particular for vulnerable segments of the population such as women and young people;

3. *Acknowledge* that the broadening and diversifying of sources of government revenue are a prerequisite for increased public investment in economic and social sectors, and that there is considerable scope for leveraging private-sector sources of finance to complement government financing to attain the Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Also acknowledge* that African economies face major financing gaps and challenges in the mobilization of domestic resources, despite the implementation of several fiscal and budgetary reforms;

5. *Recognize* that digitization may enhance fiscal policy performance and development finance by increasing domestic revenue generation and allocation and reducing the cost of revenue collection, and by facilitating trade and private sector investment and development that foster growth and job creation and reduce gender inequality;

6. *Call upon* African countries to improve their telecommunications infrastructure by doubling broadband connectivity by 2022, and to extend the coverage to remote areas on the continent;

7. *Note* that smartphone penetration rose from 37 per cent in 2017 to 44 per cent in 2018 and is projected to increase to 51 per cent in 2019, which will facilitate the engagement of the private sector in local manufacturing, retail applications and service development;

8. *Acknowledge* that, while digitization provides numerous new opportunities for streamlining and improving relations with taxpayers and harnessing efficiency gains, it has also given rise to a number of emerging threats and challenges; that limited Internet access in Africa continues to impede the development of digitization in economic and social sectors, including e-commerce, e-health and e-government, which are constrained by high transaction costs, the spatial distribution of information exchanges, and

limited access to international markets; and that these constraints demonstrate the need for countries to assess the challenges of digitization with a view to undertaking appropriate remedial actions;

9. *Note* that Governments need to design and improve innovative digital mechanisms that facilitate revenue collection and increase the efficiency of tax administration by promoting the use of online platforms for self-reporting by taxpayers and the use of digital mechanisms to record relevant data on transactions and the identity of taxpayers and that digitization, in that regard, could be an important tool for the promotion of good governance and combating corruption and illicit financial flows;

10. *Acknowledge* the need to increase significantly the availability of high-quality and timely data with a view to supporting fiscal policy, trade and private sector development in the digital era and strengthening the implementation of national development plans, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union;

11. *Also acknowledge* the corresponding need for a stronger commitment by member States to allocate adequate financial, technical and human resources in support of the production, dissemination and use of statistics;

12. *Recognize* that censuses are indispensable tools for promoting development in Africa and providing robust data to support the implementation and monitoring of national development plans, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and, in this respect, urge all member States to undertake the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa;

13. *Note* that civil registration provides individuals with legal documents required to secure their identity, nationality, civil rights and access to social services and, in this respect, recognize the need to develop and strengthen civil registration and vital statistics information systems and infrastructure as a foundation for a legal identity, including effective digital identity systems;

14. *Recognize* that harmonized and interoperable civil registration and digital identity form foundational legal identification systems that provide proof of legal identity necessary for multiple functional purposes;

15. *Note* that progress has been made in regional integration and commit ourselves to taking measures and steps to enhance the incorporation into domestic law and implementation of regional integration agreements and treaties, including the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and call upon member States to address the impediments to economic integration such as restrictions on visas and residence permits;

16. *Take note* that, in terms of its infrastructure development, Africa continues to lag behind other regions, acknowledge the need to strengthen resource mobilization in order to close the infrastructure gap and also to build the technical capacity necessary for the preparation of bankable cross-border infrastructure projects and, in this respect, commit ourselves to strengthening cooperation, in particular among landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in the development and management of cross-border infrastructure;

17. *Recall* the commitment made by Member States pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/242 of 20 December 2018, to convene the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in 2021, and the commitment of the Commission, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and

Small Island Developing States, to organize an African regional review meeting in 2020 prior to that conference;

18. *Acknowledge* the support provided by the United Nations system to the organs of the African Union at regional and subregional levels within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and request the General Assembly to strengthen the mechanism and its secretariat through the provision of adequate human and financial resources;

19. *Recognize* that State-owned and private rail operating companies incur considerable costs when renewing or extending their rail infrastructure and in financing rolling stock, making it essential to attract private capital and foreign investment, and that the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Railway Rolling Stock, which extends the application of the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment to all railway equipment, is an important financing facilitating instrument that enables member States to conclude agreements with public and private lenders and lessors of railway rolling stock;

20. *Acknowledge* and appreciate the commendable capacity development activities that are being undertaken by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, reiterate our commitment to ensuring the sustainability of the Institute through the payment of annual assessed contributions and the settlement of outstanding contribution arrears and call upon the United Nations and, in particular, the Commission and its partners to increase their support to the Institute in the interests of structural transformation in Africa;

21. *Note* the 2020 programme priorities of the Commission, reaffirm our commitment to support the proposed budget and call upon the United Nations to approve the Commission's 2020 plan and budget as presented to this Conference;

22. *Also note* the review of the intergovernmental structure, its findings and recommendations and endorse the proposed adjustments to the intergovernmental structure of the Commission, including the new sectoral subsidiary organs and the change of name of the subregional intergovernmental committees of experts to "intergovernmental committees of senior officials and experts".

### **Vote of thanks**

23. We thank, in particular, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Moroccan people for having hosted the Conference, for the excellent facilities made available to us and for their warm hospitality.

24. Lastly, we wish to extend our gratitude to the Economic Commission for Africa for successfully convening the fifty-second session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

## Annex II

### Resolutions and decision adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its fifty-second session

#### A. Resolutions

##### 962(LII) Data and statistics

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Acknowledging* the role of the national statistical system as the backbone of the transformative agenda for Africa, in supporting economic diversification and industrialization policies and promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want,

1. *Endorses* the report and resolutions of the sixth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, held in Addis Ababa on 3 and 4 October 2018, on the theme: “Enhancing national statistical system capacity to support policies for Africa’s economic diversification and industrialization”;

2. *Takes note* of decision EX.CL/Dec.987(XXXII) of the Executive Council of the African Union to request its member States to allocate 0.15 per cent of national budgets to support the production, dissemination and use of statistics for the implementation of national development plans, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

3. *Urges* development partners to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems in line with the growing demand for statistics;

4. *Encourages* member States to mainstream geospatial and non-geospatial information technologies as a basic framework for supporting statistical production and the dissemination of statistical data;

5. *Calls upon* member States to mainstream national strategies for the development of statistics into national development plans and budgeting processes;

6. *Also calls upon* member States to review and amend, as appropriate, their respective regulatory frameworks relevant to statistics in the light of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics;

7. *Requests* member States to increase the availability of data relevant to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and integrated regional indicators;

8. *Urges* member States to undertake the 2020 round of population and housing censuses to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

9. *Encourages* member States to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems;

10. *Urges* member States to support national statistics offices and related line ministries in adopting international statistical standards, to fully implement the 2008 System of National Accounts and to compile and update supply and use tables;

11. *Invites* member States to consider integrating the International Comparison Programme into regular price collection as best practice and use, in particular in the light of the African Continental Free Trade Area process;

12. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to strengthen the capacity of member States to make use of the integrated tool developed by the Commission for monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

## **963(LII) Midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Reaffirming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want; its resolution 934 (XLVIII), in which African landlocked and transit developing countries, regional and subregional organizations and all other stakeholders were invited to implement the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 72/232 in which the Assembly decided to convene a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, to be held in December 2019, and decided also that the high-level midterm review should be preceded by regional preparatory meetings, as appropriate and within existing resources,

*Noting* that African landlocked developing countries have made mixed progress towards the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and continue to lack adequate infrastructure, in particular, transport, energy and information communications technology infrastructure, and also continue to concentrate their export markets on a very limited number of products and to be confronted with complex development challenges,

1. *Takes note* of African Regional Midterm Review Meeting of the Vienna Programme of Action, held on 18 and 19 March 2019 in Marrakech, and endorses its outcome;

2. *Encourages* African landlocked developing and transit developing countries to intensify their efforts to implement the Vienna Programme of Action;

3. *Calls upon* development partners, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the private sector and other stakeholders to further strengthen their efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

4. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to provide technical support to the region's landlocked developing countries in areas related to the Vienna Programme of Action, such as infrastructure investment, transport facilitation, productive capacity development, logistical integration and logistics cost studies;

5. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the African Union, the African Development Bank and other relevant regional organizations further to assist African landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in infrastructure development, development of bankable projects, production capacity development, trade facilitation and structural transformation through, in particular, enhanced investment and

technical assistance, and to promote greater cooperation between African landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries and enhanced regional integration;

6. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to undertake the ten-year regional review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024.

## 964(LII) 2020 programme plan and budget

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operation activities for development of the United Nations system in which the Assembly reaffirmed the role and functions of the United Nations development system at the regional level, including the regional economic commissions and the regional teams of the United Nations development system, and underlined the need to continue to make them fit for purpose in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and to revamp the regional structures, recognizing the specificities of each region and bearing in mind that no one size fits all,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

*Recognizing* the continuing efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa to reposition itself and to enhance its programmatic orientation to be able to effectively support the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union,

*Noting with appreciation* the vision of the Economic Commission for Africa to deliver ideas and actions for an empowered, inclusive and transformed Africa in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 through its three core functions, namely, its function as a think tank, its convening function and its operational function,

*Having examined* the 2020 programme plan and budget,<sup>1</sup>

1. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to develop a medium-term programme framework covering three to five years, to facilitate the engagement of member States with the Commission; annual plans and budget will be derived from the framework and performance measured on its bases;

2. *Also calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to increase the level of ambition in its programme of work;

3. *Adopts* the 2020 programme plan and budget of the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration the above calls.

<sup>1</sup> E/ECA/COE/38/12.

**965(LII) Luxembourg Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Railway Rolling Stock (“the Luxembourg Rail Protocol”)**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Mindful* that the African continent has a continuing shortfall in investment in transportation infrastructure,

*Recognizing* that railways constitute an efficient and environmentally sustainable way of moving people and goods within individual African States and across the continent,

*Acknowledging* that African States are committed to modernizing and expanding the existing national and regional rail networks,

*Mindful* that, under relevant African Union guidelines, new African rail networks should ideally be constructed using the standard rail gauge, measuring 1,435 mm, which will require States or State-owned enterprises to make major new investments in railway rolling stock,

*Recalling* that States or State-owned or private rail operating companies will incur considerable costs as a consequence of renewing or extending the rail infrastructure and rolling stock and will therefore need to attract substantial private capital and foreign investment,

*Recognizing* that the African rail system will need to be operated as cost-effectively as possible,

*Noting* that, to date, 24 African States have become party to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and its Protocol on Matters specific to Aircraft Equipment,<sup>1</sup> both of which were adopted at Cape Town, South Africa, on 16 November 2001,

*Mindful* that, as yet, very few African States are fully familiar with the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Railway Rolling Stock (Luxembourg Rail Protocol),

*Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue, including through its subregional offices, its awareness-raising and advocacy efforts for States across the African continent on the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Railway Rolling Stock (Luxembourg Rail Protocol) at the earliest opportunity, with a view to elucidating its merits and potential contribution to the financing of rolling stock in rail projects;

2. *Also calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to inform interested parties from the public sector and the private sector across the continent on, and educate them in, the way that private credit and leasing can assist with providing the financial resources necessary to revitalize and expand the African rail network, and the benefits of becoming party to the Luxembourg Rail Protocol.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2307, No. 41143.

**966(LII) Review of the intergovernmental structure of the Economic Commission for Africa pursuant to its resolution 943(XLIX) and resolution 957(LI)**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Recalling* its resolution 908(XLVI) of 26 March 2013, in which the Commission mandated the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to realign the programmes and priorities of the Commission to the new strategic orientation, with a view to supporting the transformative development agenda of the African Union,

*Recalling also* its resolution 943(XLIX) of 5 April 2016, in which it requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to undertake an independent, comprehensive and thorough review of the intergovernmental structure of the Commission, including its Intergovernmental Committee of Experts,

*Recalling further* its resolution 957(LI) of 15 May 2018, in which it decided to grant additional time to the Commission to conduct further review and analysis of the intergovernmental structure of the Commission, and requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference at its next session on restructuring the conference structure and subsidiary bodies of the Commission, including the intergovernmental committees of experts,

*Noting* General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the role and functions of the United Nations development system at the regional level, including the regional economic commissions and the regional teams of the United Nations development system, and emphasized the need to address gaps and overlaps at the regional level, and endorsed a phased approach to revamping the United Nations development system at the regional level,

*Noting also* the new strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa for an empowered and transformed Africa and the structural reform of the secretariat of the Commission to deliver ideas and actions for an empowered, inclusive and transformed Africa in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, through its three core functions, namely, its function as a think tank, its convening function and its operational function,

1. *Takes note* of the review of the intergovernmental structure, its findings and recommendations;

2. *Endorses* the following adjustments to the intergovernmental structure of the Economic Commission for Africa:

- (a) To organize the sectoral subsidiary organs as follows:
  - (i) Committee on Economic Governance;
  - (ii) Committee on Statistics and Data;
  - (iii) Committee on Private Sector Development, Regional Integration, Trade, Infrastructure, Industry and Technology;
  - (iv) Committee on Climate Change, Blue Economy, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management;
  - (v) Committee on Social Development, Poverty and Gender;

(b) To change the name of the subregional intergovernmental committees of experts to the intergovernmental committees of senior officials and experts, with a view to ensuring effective policy uptake and greater participation of senior government officials in the committees.

**967(LII) Progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and preparation for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Taking note* of the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on progress in the implementation of the priority areas of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action),

*Recognizing* that more than half of the population of Africa resides in least developed countries and that those countries have particular structural impediments to their sustainable development and transformation,

*Noting with concern* that African least developed countries continue to have low productive capacity, in particular in the manufacturing sector, that their share in global exports has declined since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and that their receipts of official development assistance have been volatile and below the commitments set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action,

*Welcoming* the anticipated graduation from the least developed country category of Angola and Sao Tome and Principe, which will join those African countries that previously graduated, namely Botswana, Cabo Verde and Equatorial Guinea,

*Affirming* that the continued support of the international community will play a key role in overcoming many of the barriers to sustainable development that are faced by the least developed countries,

*Recalling* the Ministerial Statement adopted at the Second Joint Annual Meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in which Ministers called upon the Commission to organize a regional review meeting for Africa prior to the convening of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

*Recalling also* paragraph 157 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in which the General Assembly was invited to consider holding a Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in order to make a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and decide on subsequent action,

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 73/242 of 20 December 2018, in which the Assembly decided to convene the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, to be held in 2021,

1. *Calls upon* African least developed countries to continue their efforts to mobilize resources both domestically and internationally and implement the Istanbul Programme of Action to accelerate economic and social development,

2. *Encourages* the Economic Commission for Africa and its development partners, including countries in Africa that are not in the least developed country category, to continue their support for implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action,

3. *Invites* the Economic Commission for Africa, with the cooperation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to organize a regional review meeting for Africa in 2020, prior to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

## **968(LII) Fiscal policy, trade and the private sector in a digital era: a strategy for Africa**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Taking note* of the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on the status of fiscal policy in Africa and the finding in the report that there is a financing gap that needs to be closed to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want,

*Considering* that the rapid digitization in today's world presents unique opportunities for fostering sustainable development, in particular, through enhanced public revenue mobilization and management, trade and private sector investment and finance,

*Noting* the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa, together with the African Union Commission, to launch the digital identity, digital trade and digital economy initiative for Africa,

*Noting also* decision EX.CL/Dec.2(XXXIV) of 8 February 2019 of the Executive Council of the African Union to mandate the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive African Union digital trade and digital economy development strategy,

*Considering* the challenges that the digital economy presents in tax policy, making it easy for businesses to shift profits from the use of digital assets, such as intellectual property, away from places where the income is generated to low-tax jurisdictions, thus resulting in erosion of the tax base,

*Resolved* to leverage the use of digital technology to strengthen revenue collection and public finance management in Africa, review current taxation frameworks to accommodate the digital economy, taking due account of the changing nature of businesses caused by digitization to support the efforts being made in the context of the digital identity, digital trade and digital economy initiative for Africa,

1. *Calls upon* decision-makers in Governments, the private sector and civil society to foster and prioritize financing for building digital infrastructure, working to digitize payments in every sector, and putting in place regulations to ensure that digital financial services may be used by everyone and everywhere and are duly protected against cybercrime;

2. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Africa to support member States and the African Tax Administration Forum in their efforts to develop frameworks that leverage digitization to strengthen revenue mobilization and public financial management through automation, digital identity and the modernization of fiscal processes;

33. *Also urges* the Economic Commission for Africa to support member States in building digital infrastructure that could be used to combat illicit financial flows;

4. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other relevant partners, to develop a comprehensive African digital trade

and digital economy development strategy, including principles for good digital identity and harmonized standards, and a regional regulatory framework for digital finance and financial technology.

## **969(LII) Digitization and the digital economy initiative**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Recognizing* the substantial benefits and opportunities of digital technologies and the key role that digitization can play in achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union: The Africa We Want, and in promoting the overall development of Africa,

*Recalling* its resolution 941(XLIX) of 5 April 2016 on the organization of an annual African regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, in which it reaffirmed the potential of information and communications technology to foster socioeconomic development,

*Noting* the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its thirty-second ordinary session, calling on the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and other partners to develop a digital identity, digital trade and digital economy strategy for Africa to be submitted for consideration and endorsement by the Executive Council in February 2020,

1. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa for setting up the African digitization initiative;
2. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to work on policy research, regional dialogue and capacity development on digitization and the digital economy in member States, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, member States, the African Development Bank, the African Tax Administration Forum, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank and other stakeholders;
3. *Also requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to fully operationalize a centre of excellence on digitization and the digital economy, with a view to tackling the critical issue of capacity shortfalls in the digital sector of member States, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities, the African Development Bank, the African Tax Administration Forum, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, development partners and African institutions of higher learning;
4. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure that the centre of excellence on digitization and the digital economy has tangible, time-bound and results-based deliverables to support member States;
5. *Invites* member States to consider developing strong security systems to combat cybercrime and cyber-related threats emanating from the digitization of their economies.

## **B. Decision**

### **A(LII) Date, venue and theme for the fifty-third session**

At its xx plenary meeting on 26 March 2019, the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development decided that its fifty-third session would be held in Addis Ababa in 2020 on a date in the month of March or April and that the theme of the fifty-third session would be: “The future of Africa: industrialization in the digital era”.

*x meeting of the plenary, xx March 2019*