

Annex

Resolutions

I. Joint resolution of the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa

937(XLIX). Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 into national strategic frameworks, actions plans and programmes

The Conference of Ministers,

Welcoming with deep appreciation the adoption by the African Union Assembly in January 2015 of Agenda 2063,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly in September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the call for its full and effective implementation,

Mindful of the challenges associated with the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and aware that the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will pose even greater challenges for member States owing to the larger number of goals, targets and indicators involved and the focus on multidimensional sustainability, including related global challenges of technology, financing and statistics,

Taking note of the convergence of the two agendas and the need to ensure coherence and build synergies between them,

Concerned about the limited financial and human resources for implementing and monitoring development plans, in particular given the resource constraints already experienced by the national statistical offices,

Aware that the core set of continental indicators should be derived from the indicators in the 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 and the global set of indicators in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the commonalities and variations that exist between the two agendas,

1. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, supported by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to create awareness among member States about the importance of a coherent and integrated approach to the implementation of and follow-up to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to work together to establish composite indicators to facilitate the strategic monitoring of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Requests* the African Union Commission, supported by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to foster the incorporation of both agendas into national strategic frameworks;

4. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to develop an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework that will inform a single annual progress report on the implementation of both agendas;

5. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to call upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish expeditiously the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data under United Nations intergovernmental processes, consistent with principle-based partnerships and as provided for in the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report entitled "The Road to Dignity by 2030";

6. *Requests* member States to take the necessary measures to incorporate the goals, targets and indicators of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7. *Requests* member States to take the necessary steps to integrate Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goal indicators into their national development plans.

II. Resolutions of the Economic Commission for Africa

938(XLIX). Integrated reporting and follow-up on sustainable development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling that, since 2005, the progress reports on the Millennium Development Goals in Africa have provided a rigorous assessment of Africa's progress in achieving the Goals and served as a basis for policy discussion, peer learning and advocacy,

Noting that the reports have also provided the impetus for strong and coordinated action by Africa's top decision-makers to accelerate progress towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that the reports were jointly produced by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme pursuant to the mandate conferred by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its fourth ordinary session, in January 2005,

Recalling the commitments made by member States in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Reaffirming that the transition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the adoption of Agenda 2063 call for a renewed mandate for integrated reporting on both agendas by the partner institutions,

Noting that, beyond tracking progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, it is important to develop a single platform to discuss gaps, opportunities and lessons learned in implementation and to propose measures for corrective action,

Recalling that, in the outcome document of the 2015 United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",¹ the Heads of State and Government and high representatives undertook to provide

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015.

systematic follow-up and review at the various levels, as set out in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and emphasized that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data would be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one was left behind,²

Recognizing the need for follow-up on both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to use the integrated results framework as the basis for producing an annual report on progress in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will be supported with information on the status of the data system on the continent;

2. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and other partners, to take all necessary steps, in the context of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, to designate the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development as the platform for the review of progress on and follow-up to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; to align the consultations of the Africa Regional Forum with the annual reporting cycle of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda; and to enlarge the mandate of the Africa Regional Forum to include a review of progress, challenges and gaps in meeting the commitments outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

3. *Calls upon* member States to formulate strategies to enhance domestic resource mobilization, as called for by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including by stepping up efforts to combat illicit financial flows and to strengthen tax administration and by adopting policies to generate additional resources and to combat corruption in all its forms.

939(XLIX). Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Reaffirming the commitments on sustainable development made by African countries at major United Nations conferences and summits on economic, social and environmental development, in the outcomes of their review conferences, and in declarations and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the Assembly recognized the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level, encouraged all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, and encouraged the regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, in which the Assembly formally established the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, invited the regional commissions to contribute to the work of the Forum, and decided that the Forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, should conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up to and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives,

² Ibid, paras. 47 and 48.

Acknowledging that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda comprises a comprehensive set of policy actions by member States, with tangible measures to finance sustainable development, transform the global economy and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling its resolution 930 (XLVIII), in which it invited the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to take all necessary steps to convene the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging the need to align the biennial consultations of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development with the annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development,

1. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to convene on an annual basis the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for follow-up to and review of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Urges* the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, supported by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, to foster the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

3. *Decides* that the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will build on existing platforms, avoiding the creation of additional administrative structures, and will promote coordination and coherence, learning and the sharing of best practices within the United Nations development system, and with other regional and subregional forums and organizations;

4. *Also decides* that reviews of the implementation of all regional outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits should be sequenced and synchronized with the work of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, to ensure that such reviews contribute to the assessment of the regional implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Encourages* member States to participate in the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development scheduled to take place from 18 to 20 May 2016, proposed to be held in Cairo, and the High-level Forum on Sustainable Development scheduled to take place from 11 to 20 July 2016, in New York.

940(XLIX). International migration in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Mindful that the key role of migration in promoting development has been recognized in Agenda 2063 and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling decision EX.CL/Dec.305 (IX), adopted by the African Union Executive Council at its ninth ordinary session, held in Banjul in June 2006, in which the Executive Council endorsed the Migration Policy Framework for Africa,

Acknowledging decision Assembly/AU/20 (XXIV), adopted by the African Union Assembly on the joint programme of the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration on labour migration,

Acknowledging also the Declaration on Migration,³ adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-fifth ordinary session on 15 June 2015, in which the Heads of State and Government of the African Union undertook to expedite the introduction of an African passport and the abolishment of visa requirements for all African citizens in all African countries, to encourage the free movement of people, capital, goods and services across the continent,

Recalling the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, which provided a useful opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and explore the opportunities and challenges that international migration presents, including the protection of the human rights of migrants and the contribution of migrants to development,

Recognizing the need for African member States to work together to develop a common African narrative that highlights the positive benefits of migration for comprehensive economic growth and human development in Africa and eliminates misleading stereotypes and perceptions of migration and migrants,

Recognizing also the need to update the Migration Policy Framework for Africa developed 10 years ago with stronger empirical research and analyses that respond more effectively to the current situation of migration on the continent,

Appreciating the importance of cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with respect for human rights and humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their origin and status,

1. *Requests* the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance the production of migration-related data;

2. *Also request* the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to undertake studies using the latest available data to determine the nature and patterns of international migration streams in Africa, assess the impact of irregular migration, in particular in transit countries, and the impact on border communities, assess skilled migration both for countries of origin and of destination and the long-term implications of remittance flows for development;

3. *Further requests* the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish a high-level panel on international migration in Africa, to provide overall guidance and support to policy dialogues on an African perspective on international migration in Africa;

4. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to provide the necessary technical backstopping to the high-level panel and to report on the progress made on the actions identified above to the Conference of Ministers at its next joint meetings;

5. *Requests* all development partners, in particular the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system and the regional economic communities, to support member States, the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa in their implementation of the actions identified above.

6. *Further calls upon* the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to develop a continental strategy to address

³ Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (XXV).

the issue of irregular migration in collaboration with the international community and in the framework of shared responsibilities.

941(XLIX). Organization of an annual African regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, in which the Assembly welcomed the resolution adopted by the Council of the International Telecommunication Union at its 2001 session, endorsing the proposal of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union to hold the World Summit on the Information Society at the highest possible level in two phases,

Recalling also the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, in which the World Summit on the Information Society called on the General Assembly to undertake in 2015 an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 68/198 of 20 December 2013 and 68/302 of 31 July 2014, in which the Assembly set out the modalities for undertaking the overall World Summit on the Information Society,

Reaffirming the potential of information and communications technology as a powerful tool to foster socioeconomic and environmental development, in particular in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging with appreciation that the Economic Commission for Africa organized a regional 10-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Addis Ababa in 2015, with the participation of member States and regional organizations,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by the General Assembly of the outcome document of the 10-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society, which included a commitment to the vision of the Summit to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society;

2. *Notes* that the overall review of the General Assembly of the World Summit on the Information Society has strengthened the role of the regional commissions, and that the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit⁴ included a call for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society in coordinating the work of United Nations agencies, according to their mandates and competencies, and an invitation for the regional commissions to continue their work in the implementation of the action lines of the World Summit and their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews;

3. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa and other partners to take all necessary steps to organize on an annual basis an African regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015.

942(XLIX). African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/2 of 5 July 2013, by which the Council endorsed the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Africa, as set out in Commission resolution 908 (XLVI) of 26 March 2013,

Recalling also article IV, paragraph 3, of the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, by which the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is required to appoint the 10 members of the Governing Council of the Institute who will serve as representatives of African Governments,

Taking note of the progress report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Taking note also of the recommendations of the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning at its fifty-third and fifty-fourth meetings, held in February 2015 and February 2016, respectively, calling for the revision of the statute of the Institute,

Taking note further of the renewal of the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, as recommended by the Council at its fifty-fourth meeting,

Recognizing the central role of planning in meeting Africa's development priorities, in particular in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063,

Acknowledging the critical role that an adequate capacity-building policy and programme will play in the achievement by member States of their development objectives,

Commending the Economic Commission for Africa on its continued support for the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Concerned that the current level of financial support from member States, through payment of annual assessed contributions to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, is low and that the Institute is thus limited in its ability to sustain its support to member States through capacity-building,

1. *Recommends* that the Governing Council further considers the revised statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, based on the approved amendments;

2. *Recommends* that the Bureau of the 2016 Conference of Ministers to conduct consultations with member States, to secure nominations for and appoint members of the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, as early as is feasible, and preferably before 30 April 2016;

3. *Calls upon* member States to pay their annual assessed contributions to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning regularly and to take steps towards the settlement of their arrears, where applicable;

4. *Calls upon* Economic Commission for Africa partners to support the capacity development activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning;

5. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to strengthen further its support for the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

943(XLIX). Proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/203 of 11 December 1986 and all subsequent resolutions on programme planning,

Recalling also its resolution 844 (XXXIX) of 15 May 2006, in which it endorsed the repositioning of the Economic Commission for Africa to respond better to Africa's priorities, and its resolution 908 (XLVI) of 26 March 2013, in which it mandated the Economic Commission for Africa to establish its new strategic direction and programme structure,

Noting the unique role of the Economic Commission for Africa and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations development system for the Africa region,

Noting also the importance of strengthening cooperation and creating synergies within the United Nations development system at the global, regional and country levels in the Africa region through enhanced collaboration between the secretariat and the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations development system, and the need to build new partnerships within that system,

Recognizing the need for the Economic Commission for Africa to adapt and respond to the evolving development challenges and opportunities for the Africa region in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Underlining that the effectiveness and efficiency of the intergovernmental structure of the Economic Commission for Africa benefits from enhanced transparency, engagement and communication between member States and the secretariat, and with other stakeholders, in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Taking note with appreciation of the Economic Commission for Africa programme performance report for the biennium 2014-2015,⁵ in which the Commission highlighted the significant results achieved in all its programme areas, namely, knowledge generation, sharing and networking, advocacy and consensus-building and advisory services and technical cooperation,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa to secure additional resources to supplement its regular budget with a view to enabling it to deepen its work in identified priority areas and giving it the flexibility to respond adequately to emerging issues that cannot be covered by the regular programme of work,

Encouraging the Economic Commission for Africa to continue its support for member States, the African Union Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme and the regional economic communities in the implementation of, follow-up to and review of Agenda

⁵ E/ECA/COE/XX/XX.

2063, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Having examined the Economic Commission for Africa proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan for the biennium 2018-2019,⁶

1. *Endorses* the Economic Commission for Africa proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan for the biennium 2018-2019;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to undertake an independent, comprehensive and thorough review of the intergovernmental structure of the Commission, including the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, and its link to the programme priorities of the Commission, on the basis of the priorities of Africa, and to report back to the Commission at its fiftieth session;

3. *Decides* to postpone the holding of the meetings of the intergovernmental committees of experts for 2017 pending the finalization of the independent review.

III. Resolutions of the African Union

944(XLIX). Joint strategy of the African Union Commission and the Association of African Central Banks on the establishment of the African central bank and the other financial institutions

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling article 19 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held in Lomé on 11 July 2000, in which the Assembly decided to establish the African financial institutions: the African central bank, the African monetary fund and the African investment bank,

Reaffirming the commitment to the establishment of the African financial institutions as a means of ensuring African financial autonomy for the successful implementation of the continent's development plans, primarily Agenda 2063,

Considering the minimum integration programme adopted by the Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration at its fourth meeting, held in Yaoundé in May 2009,⁷ in the spirit of the Sirte Declaration,⁸ with a view to enhancing the capabilities of the regional economic communities, the African Union Commission and the member States to fast-track the integration of Africa,

Recalling that a joint technical committee of the African Union Commission and the Association of African Central Banks was established to define a joint strategy for the establishment of the African central bank,

⁶ E/ECA/COE/35/5.

⁷ Available from:
www.uneca.org/Portals/ctrci/6th/MinimumIntegrationProgrammeEng.pdf

⁸ Adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its fourth extraordinary session, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 9 September 1999.

Welcoming the strong collaboration between the African Union Commission and the Association of African Central Banks in formulating the joint strategy,

Taking note of the report of the joint technical committee on the joint strategy for the establishment of the African central bank and the reservations expressed by the Southern Africa subregion,⁹

Expressing its appreciation to the joint technical committee for the joint strategy for the establishment of the African central bank,

1. *Takes note of* the recommendations set out in the report of the joint technical committee on the joint strategy for the establishment of the African central bank;

2. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Association of African Central Banks and other partners, to take all necessary steps to ensure the effective and successful implementation of the recommendations on the joint strategy and, in particular, of the five-stage approach stipulated therein;

3. *Recommends* the joint strategy for the establishment of the African central bank for adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-seventh ordinary session, to be held in Kigali in July 2016, taking into consideration the reservations expressed by the subregional committee for Southern Africa of the Association of African Central Banks.

4. *Encourages* member States of the African Union to sign and ratify the legal instruments of the African monetary fund and the African investment bank.

945(XLIX). **Strengthening of economic research in Africa**

The Conference of Ministers,

Taking note of the Declaration of the Fourth Congress of African Economists, held from 16 to 18 November 2015 in Accra, on the theme of industrial policy and economic performance in Africa,¹⁰

Reiterating the importance of economic research as a key instrument in meeting the pressing needs of African countries for economic and social transformation through the appropriate formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, policies and initiatives, such as Agenda 2063,

Reaffirming that industrialization is a major strategic priority that can contribute to the structural transformation of Africa by the target date of 2063, through the development of dynamic and coherent industrial policy frameworks, the diversification of industries and production structures in Africa and their integration into global value chains, in order to achieve robust and sustained economic performance for sustainable and inclusive development,

Noting with appreciation the work on the implementation of Agenda 2063 currently being undertaken by the African Union Commission, the African Capacity-Building Foundation and other partners,

⁹ E/ECA/COE/35/13-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/13(II).

¹⁰ E/ECA/COE/35/14-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/14(II).

1. *Approves* the recommendations set out in the report of the Fourth Congress of African Economists;
2. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, supported by the African Capacity-Building Foundation and African economic research centres, to work closely for the production of a publication on the dynamics of African economies, based on an African perception of African development challenges and opportunities;
3. *Encourages* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the African Capacity-building Foundation and regional economic communities, to establish an African forum for think tanks to address Africa's development;
4. *Encourages* member States and partners to scale up their commitment to and support for the strengthening of economic research in Africa for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063.

946(XLIX). Draft statute of the African Institute for Remittances

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling decision Assembly/AU/Dec.440 (XIX), in which the Assembly of the African Union at its nineteenth session, held in Addis Ababa in July 2012, endorsed the establishment of the African Institute for Remittances,

Recalling decision Ex.CL/Dec.808 (XXIV), in which the Executive Council of the African Union at its twenty-fourth session, held in Addis Ababa in January 2014, selected Kenya to host the African Institute for Remittances and requested the African Union Commission to conclude the host agreement with Kenya so as to ensure the formal launch of the Institute in 2014,

Welcoming the formal take-off of the African Institute for Remittances,

Welcoming the preparation of the draft statute of the African Institute for Remittances,

1. *Requests* the member States of the African Union to review the draft statute of the African Institute for Remittances and provide their comments to the African Union, in writing, within four months;
2. *Request* the African Union Commission to submit the amended version of the draft statute of the African Institute for Remittances to the legal experts of the African Union for their review before submitting it for consideration and adoption by the relevant organs of the African Union.

947(XLIX). Draft pan-African investment code

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling that the third Conference of African Ministers in charge of integration, held in Abidjan on 22 and 23 May 2008, urged the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and development partners, such as the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, to develop a comprehensive investment code for Africa with a view to promoting private sector investment,

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive instrument aimed at promoting, facilitating and protecting investments that foster sustainable development in each member State of the African Union, in particular in the member State where the investment is made,

Commending the work of the African Union Commission in developing and elaborating the draft pan-African investment code,

1. *Takes note of* the pan-African investment code;
2. *Requests* the African Union Commission to proceed with deeper consultations with member States in order to finalize the pan-African investment code.

948(XLIX). Creation of the African inclusive markets excellence centre

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the declarations of the African Private Sector Forum at its fifth and seventh meetings, held from 5 to 8 November 2012 in Abidjan and from 3 to 5 December 2014 in Nairobi, respectively,

Recognizing the need to promote regional economic integration, in particular through transformative regional value chains, inclusive markets and business development, leading to job creation, income generation and poverty eradication in Africa,

Having considered the concept note on the creation of the African inclusive markets excellence centre,¹¹

Bearing in mind that such a centre would make an immense contribution to the realization of Agenda 2063,

Requests the African Union Commission to recruit an independent consultant to conduct a feasibility study on the creation of the African inclusive markets excellence centre and recommend options for its operationalization and financial autonomy, and to submit the findings of the study to the member States of the African Union for their consideration.

949(XLIX). Report of the ninth session of the meeting of the Committee of Directors General of Statistics

The Conference of Ministers,

Taking note of the report of the ninth session of the meeting of the Committee of Directors General of Statistics, held from 26 to 28 November 2015 in Libreville, on the theme of the data revolution, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063,

Reaffirming the importance of statistics as a key instrument in meeting the pressing needs of African countries for economic and social transformation through the appropriate formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, policies and initiatives, such as Agenda 2063,

Noting with appreciation the work of the African Union Commission and other regional institutions on the harmonization of statistics in Africa,

1. *Approves* the recommendations set out in the report of the ninth session of the meeting of the Committee of Directors General of Statistics;
2. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with regional economic communities and other partners, to work closely for the rapid operationalization, by the end of June 2016, of pan-African institutions of statistics, such as the pan-African training centre for statistics in

¹¹ E/ECA/COE/35/19-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/19(II).

Yamoussoukro and the Nelson Mandela pan-African statistics institute in Tunis;

3. *Encourages* member States to allocate at least 0.015 per cent of their budget to statistics development;

4. *Invites* member States that have not ratified the African Charter on Statistics to do so and implement the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa.

950(XLIX). Report of the seventh meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the ultimate objectives of the African Union integration agenda, as provided for in the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Agenda 2063 and the global objectives under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Respectful of the decisions and declarations of African Union, in particular its decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII), on boosting intra-African trade and fast-tracking the continental free trade area, and Assembly/AU/DEC.531(XXIII), on trade issues, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its eighteenth and twenty-third ordinary sessions, held in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 January 2012 and in Malabo on 27 June 2014, respectively.

Convinced that customs administrations in Africa play an important role in collecting government revenue, protecting society, facilitating legitimate trade and collecting vital statistics to support policy formulation,

1. *Requests* member States to continue to support the work of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs, as it has a direct impact on continental integration;

2. *Urges* member States of the African Union to make adequate resources available to their respective customs administrations to enable them to fulfil their mandates effectively;

3. *Undertakes* to build the capacity of African customs administrations on matters that are vital for revenue collection, including trade facilitation and integration;

4. *Affirms* its commitment to implementing the recommendations, policies and programmes on the single-window concept, coordinated border management and the interconnectivity of computerized customs clearance and information systems, and other allied trade facilitation measures, based on international best practices;

5. *Requests* partners and other international organizations to continue to support the implementation of initiatives for regional integration in Africa, and the programme on boosting intra-African trade;

6. *Undertakes* to enhance the effectiveness of customs administrations in Africa.

951(XLIX). **Financing social protection in Africa**

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the goals of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan on achieving social security and social protection for all, and the goals of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development,

Considering the social policy framework for Africa, including that long-term funding for social protection should be guaranteed through national resources with specific and transparent budget lines,

Considering also the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, their additional protocols on women and older persons and protocols that are being developed on persons with disabilities and the rights of citizens to social protection and social security,

Recalling the Addis Ababa Declaration on Social Protection for Inclusive Development and the establishment of the African Risk Capacity Agency for the protection of the most vulnerable populations when faced with natural disasters,

Recognizing and commending the significant efforts by member States to develop social protection policies and programmes and subsequently to improve budget allocation and introduce innovative funding mechanisms, yet gravely concerned that Africa is the global region with the lowest level of expenditure on social protection,

Alarmed that formal social security regimes cover on average 10-25 per cent of the workforce on the continent and do not cover the majority of workers in the informal economy and rural sectors,

Conscious of the need for equitable fiscal policy and efficient and transparent budgetary allocations that support social protection expenditure as a means of reducing inequality, eradicating poverty and building social cohesion,

1. *Agrees* to encourage and support the progressive realization of universal social protection as a key tool to help Governments to build solid economies to ensure sustainable and inclusive development for all as a means of achieving lasting peace;

2. *Undertakes* to engage with national and regional stakeholders and international partners to develop policies and strategies incorporating the social protection and social security targets of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;

3. *Agrees* to consider setting nationally appropriate spending targets for social protection floors and social security, and undertakes to increase the mobilization of effective domestic resources, through tax reforms and innovative forms of financing that can provide the fiscal space for greater investments on social protection in Africa;

4. *Also agrees* to support the necessary reforms to enhance the technical, infrastructure and institutional capacities of those ministries responsible for social protection, for national dialogue, including employers and workers, and to support the African Risk Capacity Agency on natural disaster management, including increasing its coverage of the most vulnerable populations;

5. *Undertakes* to focus on extending national systems of social security to all, and agrees that the combination of microinsurance with microfinance policies may be used temporarily as one of the possible options to extend the reach of social security to include excluded categories of workers in the informal sector and rural sector;

6. *Calls upon* international partners to assist in evaluating and promoting different policy options for financing social protection and social security, and help member States to benefit from various debt cancellation initiatives;

7. *Agrees* to establish a joint follow-up mechanism on the implementation of the present resolution with the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment.

952(XLIX).First five-year priority programme for the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development,¹² and taking note of the first five-year priority programme for the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action,

Recognizing that the Declaration and Plan of Action are cornerstone policies for achieving the aspiration of Agenda 2063 on a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 872 (XLIII), on promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa, adopted at its third Joint Annual Meetings, held in Lilongwe on 30 March 2010,

Gravely concerned about the persistent high levels of unemployment, underemployment and the working poor and how unemployment negatively affects vulnerable groups on the continent, such as young people, women, older persons and persons with disabilities,

Alarmed by the poor progress made towards reducing the productivity gap between Africa and other developing regions of the world and by the competition which is placing significant constraints on the realization of continental policies towards industrialization and productive agriculture,

Conscious of the need to improve the quality and level of funding of employment and social protection policies on the continent to achieve better social cohesion, reduce inequality and eradicate poverty,

Considering the goals and targets of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 in terms of employment, social protection, social security, poverty eradication and productivity, and the related goals and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Considering also the relevant provisions of the first 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 in terms of funding, monitoring and evaluating processes for the implementation of continental policies, in particular the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty

¹² African Union document Assembly/AU/20(XXIV).

Eradication and Inclusive Development, at the national, regional and continental levels,

1. *Undertakes* to integrate the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication on Employment and Poverty Eradication and its first five-year priority programme into national and regional long-term, medium-term and short-term planning systems, using the relevant goals, priority areas and targets of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, and the related baseline information matrix;

2. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission to engage with member States and regional economic communities to provide assistance and support in the development of national and regional plans in 2016 and 2017;

3. *Undertakes* to engage international partners in supporting the efforts of the African Union Commission, member States and regional economic communities in promoting the creation of decent jobs, access to social protection and social security, labour migration and social cohesion;

4. *Also undertakes* to increase significantly and appropriately the budgetary resources allocated to employment policies and to work with international partners to place employment among the development priorities, in the spirit of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action;

5. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, in line with the funding principles of Agenda 2063, to accelerate the establishment of an employment and social cohesion fund as the agreed financing mechanism for the Declaration and its Plan of Action, and to submit to it a proposal for such a fund at the next Joint Annual Meetings of the Conference of Ministers in March 2017;

6. *Undertakes* to enhance collaboration with African ministries of labour, labour migration, employment and social protection on planning and funding processes.

953(XLIX).Address and postcode systems in Africa and the electrification and connectivity of post offices in rural areas in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the 2010 Addis Ababa Declaration on Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its fourteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 2 February 2010,

Recalling decisions 435 (XIII), 545 (XVI) and 900 (XXVIII) of the Executive Council of the African Union on the sustainable development of the postal sector in Africa,

Recalling also the important role of address and postcode systems in social integration and economic development and, in particular, the right of every individual to have an address, along with the need to facilitate the efficient distribution of basic goods and services,

Taking note of the reports of the African Union Commission on guidelines on address and postcode systems in Africa and the electrification and connectivity of post offices in rural areas in Africa in the framework of leveraging postal networks to foster inclusive social and economic development,

Emphasizing the potential contribution of the postal networks in rural areas to remedying the gaps in infrastructure and providing tangible solutions to the needs of rural populations in the area of communications, access to financial services and government services and logistics, with a view to contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the fulfilment of Agenda 2063,

Observing the global changes in development of new technologies, the advent of substitution and competition, the emergence of new regulatory frameworks, new policies and new laws affecting the postal industry,

Noting the negative impact of the widening infrastructure gap on the lives of the rural populations in terms of their financial exclusion, the cost of remittances, the digital and communications divide, their limited access to government services and the lack of economic opportunities, as rural inhabitants have limited access to credit and little information on external markets,

Noting also the growing evidence of the powerful role that postal networks can play in social, digital and financial inclusion,

Underscoring the need for postal networks to use broadband and to deploy advanced information and communications technology in order to provide adequate access to basic financial and other services,

Convinced that, by setting up communication centres at the heart of local communities, the project on the electrification and connectivity of post offices in rural areas in Africa will increase the access of rural populations to the internet and business services,

1. *Decides* to prioritize and to include in national development plans the address and postcode systems as part of the infrastructure needed to increase access to basic services;

2. *Encourages* member States implementing such projects to make the necessary political commitment, to prioritize effective internal coordination for implementation and to resolve project funding challenges prior to the start of the project;

3. *Supports* the implementation by the Pan-African Postal Union of its continent-wide project on address and post codes;

4. *Calls upon* member States, in particular the thirteen pilot countries engaged in the project on the electrification and connectivity in rural areas, to take ownership and integrate it into their national development plans and strategies;

5. *Encourages* other member States to join the project;

6. *Urges* member States to explore multiple sources of funding, such as national budgets, universal service funds, public-private partnerships and international development partners, with a view to ensuring successful implementation of the project;

7. *Calls upon* donors to support and commit funds to ensure the implementation of both projects, on address and postcode systems and on the electrification and connectivity of post offices in rural areas;

8. *Requests* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Pan-African Postal Union, to report to its relevant organs on the implementation of both projects.