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Ministers of Economy and Finance*

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Economy and Finance**

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Introduction

1. The sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013. The Conference was held under the theme: "Industrialization for an Emerging Africa".
2. The Conference was held with the view that recent economic growth in Africa had not been inclusive, as many millions of Africans were caught in the poverty trap due largely to the lack of diversification of sources of growth, including continued over-reliance on primary commodity exports. It was also observed that growth had been largely jobless and accompanied by rising inequality in some countries. In addition, Africa's significant natural resources were being extracted and exported in their raw form and not as finished products. Hence, no value was added to the continent's extractive commodity exports. This was a serious missed opportunity for more robust, diversified and sustainable economic development. Moreover, some of those resources were an irreplaceable, non-renewable asset, and their exploitation generally had weak linkages to the rest of the economy and consequently lower contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) than could have been achieved. Furthermore, Africa's dependence on primary commodity exports exposed it to volatile global commodity prices and economic instability.
3. Accelerating Africa's industrialization agenda was one way of sustaining recent economic growth achievements. Industrialization would also contribute to sustained wealth creation as Africa's natural resources and other raw materials would be converted into value-added products for export to global markets. In addition, industrialization would help to build competitive economies that could productively be integrated into the global economy. Industrialization was therefore a prerequisite for Africa's accelerated development.
4. The Conference therefore exchanged views on how African countries could design and implement effective industrial strategies and policies that would support the promotion of value addition and economic transformation as well as reduce Africa's dependence on the production and export of unprocessed goods. Such strategies should not only focus on promoting high and sustainable long-term growth, but also ensure that the benefits of such growth were widely shared in order to reduce poverty and improve living standards for all Africans.
5. The Conference was organized around four plenary sessions: (a) "Accelerating Industrialization in Africa"; (b) "Industrialization and Structural Transformation in Africa"; (c) "Planning Industrialization"; and (d) "Financing Africa's Industrialization". The Conference, which drew panelists from Africa and other regions, was interactive.
6. This report is in four main sections: Section A provides the attendance list while Section B presents the outcome of the consultations on the election of the Bureau of the Conference. The agenda and programme of work, as adopted, are presented in Section C.
7. The proceedings of the Conference are contained in Section D, which also gives the summary of the plenary sessions. The Section concludes with the outcome of the discussions on the report and major recommendations of the meeting of the Committee of Experts that preceded the ministerial segment, as well as the Ministerial Statement and resolutions.

A. Attendance

8. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

9. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were represented: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

10. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Labour Organization (ILO); International Maritime Organization (IMO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); International Organization for Migration (IOM); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA); Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA); World Bank (WB); World Food Programme (WFP); World Health Organization (WHO); and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

11. Observers from member States of the United Nations were also present: Canada and the United States of America.

12. Also present were the African Development Bank (AfDB); New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); Association of African Central Banks (AACB); Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA); Central Bank for West African States (BCEAO); and West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

13. Observers were present from the following organizations: Action Aid International (AAI); African Advisory Board (AAB); African Business Roundtable (ABR); African Centre for Development Capacity Building (AFCAB); African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD); Children's Investment Fund (CIF); African Centre For Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD); African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC); AMYRIS, Cote d'Ivoire Association for Export Promotion (APEX-CI); Bloomfield Investment; National Federation of Industries and Services of Côte d'Ivoire (NFISC); The Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP); African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD); Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI); Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU); Pan-African Productivity Association (PAPA); Save the Children; the Future Group; International Organization for the Francophonie (OIF); Africa Governance and Monitoring Project; African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF); African Center for Capacity Building (AFCAB); African Export Import Bank; African Health Economics and Policy Association

(AfHEA); African Monitor (African Voices for Africa's Development); Centre for Constitutional Governance; Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU); Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI); Columbia University; Congress of African Economists; Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CODA); Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Department for International Development (DFID); Mo Ibrahim Foundation; Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); OXFAM International; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); United States Mission to the African Union (USAU); Packard Foundation; African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP); Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT); Social Development Strategy and Planning Office (SDSPO); Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); Confederation of African NGOs; International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Ivorian Centre for Economic and Social Research (CIRES); East-West Centre (EWC); European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM); Green Cross International (GCI); Harvard University; Institute of Diplomatic Practice and Development Policies (IDPDP); International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Ivorian Employers' Association; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); University of California at Berkley; University of the Congo; University of Ibadan; John Hopkins University; University of Nairobi; University of Thies; and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

B. Election of the Bureau

14. The following member States were unanimously elected by the Conference to form its new Bureau:

Chairperson:	Côte d'Ivoire
First Vice-Chairperson:	Kenya
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Algeria
Third Vice-Chairperson:	Lesotho
Rapporteur:	Cameroon

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

15. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work
3. Ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the Conference: "Industrialization for an Emerging Africa"
 - Accelerating Industrialization in Africa
 - Industrialization and Structural Transformation in Africa
 - Planning Industrialization
 - Financing Africa's Industrialization
4. Launch of the *Economic Report on Africa, 2013*
5. Information session for Ministers

6. ECA new strategic directions
7. Consideration of the report and major recommendations of the Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance
8. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Ministerial Statement and Draft Resolutions
9. Any other business
10. Closing of the Conference

D. Account of proceedings

Opening of the Conference [agenda item 1]

16. The Conference was opened by H.E. Dr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, who delivered the keynote address on the theme of the Conference. Opening statements were read by H.E. Mr. Désiré Guedon, Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau of the Conference and State Minister for Economy, Employment and Sustainable Development of Gabon; H.E. Dr. Carlos Lopes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC).

17. Mr. Désiré Guedon began by thanking the people of Cote d'Ivoire for their warm hospitality, and reported on activities undertaken by the secretariat in the period under review. They included the forum on Aid in Africa; the 3rd meeting on governance and popular participation; the Rio+20 conference and its follow ups; Africa's preparation towards the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women; contribution to ongoing work on energy, trade and industrialization; and preparatory work by the African group for the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York.

18. The theme for the Conference, "Industrialization for an Emerging Africa", was important because of the potential contribution of industrialization in improving Africa's economic performance and consequently poverty alleviation. His country, Gabon, which had a vision of "An Emerging Gabon by 2025", had put in much effort for the development of local primary commodities and export of high quality value-added products. In April 2013, Gabon would organize a workshop to promote that vision to Africa and the rest of the world. Lastly, Mr. Guedon expressed appreciation to members of the outgoing Bureau of the Conference for their work during the past year and wished the incoming Bureau success.

19. Taking the floor, Dr. Lopes said that the Conference was his first as Executive Secretary of ECA and thanked the Ministers, Governors and other participants for their participation. Africa, he said, needed to re-brand itself as a safe place to do business. Indeed, Africa was referred to as a continent full of conflicts, even though the number of conflicts on the continent had drastically reduced compared to Asia and India, for instance, where, despite raging wars, were not seen as business unfriendly. For Africa to move to a state of afro-

enthusiasm, it had to control its narrative, especially as it prepared to celebrate 50 years of continental unity.

20. Africa had to seize the current moment of economic growth and move towards a time of structural transformation and not structural adjustment. The continent should use its vast raw material base and natural resources to drive its industrialization agenda. Such an agenda, however, was not without its challenges. They included increased urbanization of African cities and towns, increasing youth population, poor levels of infrastructure and climate change. Climate change, however, could be used as a force for good, through green economy.

21. Dr. Lopes said that jointly with the AU Commission and the African Development Bank, ECA had been working on a “Vision 2063” as well as other issues including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda. ECA would continue to work actively in areas in which it had comparative advantage. Lastly, he gave highlights of the new ECA restructuring process and the new areas of focus, with “Africa First” as the new mantra of ECA.

22. In her address, Madam Nkosozana Dlamini Zuma stated that Africa was making progress in many areas, including peace and security and governance; and was also attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs). However, challenges still existed in terms of focus on equity; the creation of decent jobs; gender barriers; and political instability, as a result of recurrent and endemic conflict situations. Although Africa’s population was growing, the structure of its economies remained unchanged, calling for a broad and wide-reaching industrialization drive across the continent. Africa should deepen its integration and cooperation among member countries so that the next 50 years would see it as an integrated economic and political force globally.

23. Madam Zuma called for a paradigm shift in the way Africa conducted its affairs. That shift required bold and visionary leadership, innovative and dynamic strategies and the implementation of audacious industrialization by African countries. The AU Commission was developing a vision for Africa 2063 and currently holding broad consultations with member States, the RECs and other bodies. The vision would be tabled at the next Summit of the African Union.

24. In his keynote address, H.E. Dr. Alassane Ouattara welcomed all delegates to the beautiful city of Abidjan. He said that the country had regained its place after years of going through a difficult experience.

25. The theme of the Conference, he said, was very important, especially as industrialization was very crucial for Africa’s development. A concerted effort by African countries to build their productive capacity and rapidly diversify their economies would lead to sustainable economic growth and prosperity. He urged African countries not to continue to be over-dependent on primary commodity exports and rather add significant value to their extractive commodity exports.

26. Poverty in Africa could be significantly reduced through sustained industrialization policies. By moving from over reliance on primary commodities to the production of high value-added manufactures, many Africans would be lifted out of poverty, as gainful employment was created, particularly for the youth and women. Furthermore, by strengthening the productive capacity, Africa’s technological development would be

enhanced, resulting in rising productivity and higher wages. Also, industrialization would lead to the promotion of entrepreneurship and the creation of sectoral linkages, including with the agriculture and service sectors.

27. Cote d'Ivoire was going to implement sound policies to embark on a strategy of industrialization to attain middle-income status, to contribute to rising productivity, innovation, technology and knowledge transfer.

28. Lastly, President Ouattara declared the Conference formally open and wished the Ministers success in their deliberations.

Ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the Conference: “Industrialization for an Emerging Africa” [agenda item 3]

(a) Accelerating industrialization in Africa

29. Ms. Zeinab Badawi, a presenter of BBC World News Today, moderated the session on the theme “Accelerating Industrialization in Africa”.

30. H.E. Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Prime Minister and Minister for Economy and Finance of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, was the first speaker of the session. He identified several obstacles to Africa's industrial and socio-economic development, including, weak integration into world trading markets, low competitiveness for the continent's products, weak workforce, due to low levels of skill sets, inadequate infrastructure and an unattractive business environment. The tools for tackling those obstacles included establishing a macroeconomic framework that supported Africa's industrialization agenda, formulating policies that would improve the business environment on the continent, ensuring better quality products and respect for international norms and standards, strengthening human capital, using innovative technologies and promoting Africa's private sector.

31. Referring to Cote d'Ivoire, H.E. Mr. Duncan noted that the country had embarked on a vision of economic emergence by 2020. However, to achieve that vision, the country would have to tackle three main challenges: (a) maintaining peace and security; (b) embarking on national reconciliation; and (c) ensuring renewed and sustained economic growth. On the third challenge, Cote d'Ivoire expected to grow at a sustainable rate of 10 per cent in each year of the framework of the vision. Moreover, the country had taken complementary actions, including: creation of special economic zones; significant transformation of agricultural commodities into value-added products; promotion of small and medium-sized industries; and setting up of a quality management framework.

32. H.E. Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), in his opening remarks, said that African products could compete favourably in global markets because the continent enjoyed certain competitive advantages. For instance, African products could compete on price, since labour costs were low on the continent. He acknowledged that the delivery time for African products was quite long due to inadequate transport infrastructure and non-physical barriers to trade, including inefficient ports and customs procedures. Also, producing high quality products remained a challenge in Africa, but that could be overcome through human resource development and appropriate training to improve the skills of workers. African countries must have a critical mass of seasoned engineers and scientists in order to ensure that their industries manufactured high-quality products. African

countries also had to address their energy challenges to reduce power cuts, thereby lowering production costs and improving competitiveness of their industries. Overall, industries inefficient and uncompetitive industries should not be promoted. However, subsidies could be applied for sectors such as energy; but that had to be time bound with clearly defined exit strategies.

33. H.E. Mr. Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission of South Africa, agreed with Dr. Donald Kaberuka that subsidies only worked well under certain circumstances and generally introduced market distortions. Strong statistical institutions were required to ensure that subsidies were evidence based. The size of an economy was an important factor in industrialization. China's population of 1.2 billion, for instance, was a contributing factor to the country's industrial growth. Africa's one billion people, on the other hand, were distributed across 54 countries, resulting in several small economies, which made regional integration an imperative for the continent's industrialization. Beyond that, Africa's industrialization required Governments to focus on developing their human resources and also on strong and visionary leadership. Africa had to shape its own destiny and seize the opportunities offered by its abundant natural resources to support its industrialization agenda. He called on Ministers to develop both short- and long-term development plans.

34. H.E. Mr. Bachir Messaitfa, Minister of Industry of the Democratic Republic of Algeria, said that his country had a long-term industrial strategy that was based on complementary pillars, including strengthening infrastructure, human capital development, updating of technology and strengthening statistical institutions to facilitate informed policy making and monitoring to ensure better governance for structural transformation. His intervention was articulated around the following ideas: diversifying production and exports; transforming the economy from primary commodities to products with high technological content; facilitating trade to enter traditional and new markets; supporting local firms; improving the business environment; developing a network of firms; and supporting development of public-private partnerships.

35. H.E. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO, said in his intervention that industrialization was a deliberate and long-term process. Africa had occasionally, because of short-term needs, embraced programmes that distracted the continent from its priorities. It had to create about 10 million jobs to meet the youth bulge on the continent, using industrialization as a viable policy option. African Governments should provide strong support to the industrialization process, including by establishing special institutions that supported their industries. While acknowledging that Africa had to embrace green economic growth, the continent's countries themselves should determine their energy needs and options.

36. Dr. Carlos Lopes was the discussant of the session. Africa, he said, had a branding problem. Asia, on the other hand, was not branded as a continent that was risky for business, although it faced similar or even worse social and political conflicts than Africa. Africa had adopted certain policies that were harming the continent's industrialization. Africa's weak regulatory system allowed cheap goods, notably from China, to flood the continent's market. He acknowledged that African countries were late comers in the manufacturing sector and therefore would face stiff competition to penetrate global markets. He agreed with H.E. Mr. Trevor Manuel that Africa had to devise innovative ways of taxing and borrowing ("tax smartly and borrow wisely") to ensure the survival and growth of its industries. That essentially meant that the continent had to identify ways of protecting its industries within the

confines of multilateral rules and regulations such as WTO agreements. He reiterated that protection of infant industries should not be open-ended and it was vital to clearly define how to end such protection.

37. In the ensuing discussion, conference participants identified several challenges and opportunities for industrialization and social transformation in Africa. First, Africa was a diverse continent in terms of resources and the wealth of its member States. Therefore, the discussion on industrialization had to go beyond general issues and address the specific circumstances of countries. Irrespective of the natural resources available to a country, industrialization required strong leadership, finance and a qualified work force.

38. Second, high transaction costs and long delivery times of products hampered the competitiveness of African firms. For instance, factories on the continent paid higher taxes to Governments than those in Asia, where low energy costs constituted a “smart” way of subsidizing local industries. Also, discussions on subsidizing industries should take into consideration the tax base of the countries concerned.

39. Third, regional integration created a favourable environment for industrialization as it provided large markets for products and ensured that industries benefited from economies of scale. Emphasis was therefore placed on regional and subregional approaches to industrialization. Effective regional integration required regional infrastructure, including those linking landlocked countries to the seaports of their coastal neighbours. It also required functional regional economic communities. African countries, especially those in the same regional economic communities, should be discouraged from producing and trading the same products. Furthermore, it was important for African countries to promote and safeguard intellectual property rights.

40. The following recommendations emerged from the discussions:

- African countries should strengthen their workforce through better educational systems and specialized training
- Infant industries should be protected within the confines of multilateral agreements. Such protection should be time bound and have an exit strategy
- African countries and regional organizations should strengthen intellectual property rights and enhance the branding of their products
- Drawing from past experiences, African countries should develop strategies aimed at a shorter industrialization process than that of the West and Asia
- African countries should aim to produce and trade in different rather than the same products
- The countries should boost their industrialization process by creating special economic zones

(b) Industrialization and structural transformation in Africa

41. The aim of the session, according to the moderator, Mr. Daniel Makokera, Chief Executive Officer, Pamuzinda Productions, was to interrogate the issue of how Africa should speed up industrialization and structural transformation. Each panelist provided initial remarks, followed by general discussions.

42. In his remarks, H.E. Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission, pointed out that Africa had performed well on the economic front in the last decade and experiments with industrialization, which had started with the import-substitution phase during the 1960s and 1970s and followed by the export-promotion phase during the 1980s and 1990s, did not achieve the expected results in terms of industrial development and structural transformation. There was a need to understand what each African country did well to promote specialization. To that end, the Africa “Vision 2063” would identify the key challenges, strategic issues and priorities facing Africa over the next 50 years and seek effective means of addressing them. The Vision provided a perfect opportunity for policymakers to evaluate the performance of Africa in the last 50 years with a view to learning from that experience and setting the course to create an emerging Africa by 2063. For industrial development to be a reality there was a need to promote the African regional agenda to increase the market for African products. He therefore urged African countries to conclude the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) as soon as possible. Inter-ministerial coordination was key to promoting industrialization in member States. Also, countries must swiftly implement regional policy frameworks, including the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). Lastly, Dr. Mkwezalamba drew attention to the significance of the common African position on the post-2015 Development Agenda in defining and influencing the future international development agenda.

43. Dr. Chris Elias, President, Global Development at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, explained that the demographic dividend presented Africa with a golden opportunity to achieve accelerated economic growth with the right vision in place. Although Africa as a whole had made tremendous progress in its demographic performance in terms of lowering child and infant mortality rates, there were still several social development challenges across countries. He cautioned that countries would reap demographic dividend only if they undertook smart investments in family planning and services so as to address the expected rapid decrease in desired fertility. He also called for improvements in child nutrition and health, and education of girls, especially at the secondary level and urged the Ministers to invest in the value chain so that Africa could add significant value to its agricultural products and raw materials. Such investments would connect the continent’s domestic firms to global value chains. Lastly, he called for increased investments in youth skills development training to support the industrialization agenda.

44. H.E. Mr. Désiré Guedon, State Minister for Economy, Employment and Sustainable Development of Gabon and Chairperson of the outgoing bureau of the Conference underscored the need for countries to create adequate decent jobs for new entrants into labour markets, particularly the youth. High youth unemployment had the potential to undermine social stability. Industrialization should be supported by policies that created an enabling business environment and favourable investment climate. African countries should invest in quality infrastructure and human capital so as to attract FDIs. He urged African countries to have appropriate regulations to support the promotion of the private sector in Africa; and also highlighted the need to ensure that the education system provided graduates with the skills required by employers.

45. H. E. Professor Abdoulaye Bathily, State Minister at the Presidency of Senegal said that, without industrialization, it was impossible to create adequate jobs for young people entering the labour market. However, there was a need to strengthen the social forces that

would drive the industrialization. Promotion of industrial entrepreneurs as a result of State intervention through subsidies and the provision of public goods and basic physical infrastructure services was a key element of industrial policy. Regional integration was also an important prerequisite to the promotion of industrial development. Lastly, private-public partnerships were vital for creating the fundamental conditions for structural transformation. He joined other speakers in calling for strong and visionary political leadership to drive the industrialization agenda.

46. H.E. Dr. Michel Sidibé, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS listed the priorities for promoting industrialization as: maintaining macroeconomic stability; redistributing economic opportunities; ensuring social justice; and mobilizing resources to provide pharmaceutical products. He underscored the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and private-public partnership arrangements to encourage local production of pharmaceutical products in African countries to improve human security and thereby economic growth.

47. Following a brief summary of the experience of Latin American countries with industrialization, Professor Glauco Arbix, President, Innovation Agency, FINEP, based in Brazil, explained that innovation and economic development did not happen by chance, but as a result of a well-designed strategy supported by appropriate policies which required strong leadership that was willing to take tough decisions for the long-term benefit of the country. Brazil had adopted a two-pronged strategy to promote industrial development by investing in the reduction of income poverty and inequality and education to improve human capital, a major driver of innovation. It was also important to create an enabling environment for promoting innovation, which Professor Arbix defined as the transformation of ideas into products and processes, and ultimately economic development. Equally important was the need to forge partnerships between the private and public sectors in the industrialization process.

48. The discussions that followed the initial statements of the panelists focused on: (a) the need for long-term planning and good governance; (b) the important role of leadership and long-term vision in the industrialization process; (c) the need for adding value to raw materials; (d) the role of the education system in producing the skills to support the industrialization process; (e) and the importance of science, technology and innovation for industrial development.

49. Conference participants agreed that industrialization was a long-term process, which should be guided by visionary leadership and good governance and a long-term planning process with the participation of all stakeholders, including the public and private sectors and civil society. Although export promotion was an important first step towards industrialization, it should be accompanied by diversification of the economy. Technical and vocational education and training were key to generating the scientific, technical and professional skills required to support the industrialization process. Conference participants recognized that as incomes rose, the attendant labour cost increase from industrialization may undermine the competitiveness of economies. However, Professor Bathily argued that the cost of labour was a policy choice that called for regular tripartite dialogue between government, private sector and trade unions, as part of industrial policy, to ensure industrial peace and avoid labour costs eroding the competitiveness of the economy. African countries should process and add value to raw materials to reverse the trend of primary commodity exports, which was the cornerstone of the extractive institutions during the colonial era. Dr.

Mkwezalamba reiterated the importance of focusing on regional markets, and called on African countries to invest in science and technology and meet their commitment to spend at least 1 per cent of their gross domestic product on the sector, in line with the endorsement by the African Union Summit of 2007.

Recommendations

50. Following the panel discussion, the meeting made the following recommendations: African countries should:

- Formulate long-term national development plans and strategies, guided by visionary leadership, with the participation of all stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, trade unions and civil society.
- As part of their national development plans and strategies, formulate well-designed industrial policies to add value to raw materials and diversify the production and export base of the economy and connect domestic firms to global value chains.
- Implement an enabling environment to attract domestic and foreign investors including by promoting macroeconomic stability, investing in technical and vocational education and training to develop the scientific, technical and professional skills required by the industrial economy, investing in quality physical infrastructure services, other public goods, science, technology and innovation and promoting good governance.
- Strengthen inter-ministerial coordination for effective implementation of industrial policies.
- Undertake smart investments in: family planning information and services to meet the increased demand stemming from the expected rapid decrease; desired fertility in children's nutrition and health; and in education of girls, especially at the secondary level, to reap the demographic dividend.
- Speed up implementation of the African regional integration in general, and the CFTA in particular.
- Speed up implementation of regional policy frameworks including AIDA, CAADP and PIDA and align them to their policies and strategies.

(c) Planning industrialization

51. Mr. Adama Wade, Director of *Les Afriques*, Rabat, Morocco, was the moderator for this session, which had five panellists.

52. H. E. Ms. Fatima Acyl, African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, informed participants that the African Union's strategy to plan for Africa's industrialization was underpinned by two major frameworks, namely AIDA and the Africa Mining Vision (AMV). Both frameworks had been endorsed by the AU Heads of State and Government and accompanied with concrete action plans. The pending issue then was implementation, which

was constrained by lack of means. External financing was not a reliable option, as partners had their own interests and objectives, which did not necessarily include the industrialization of the continent. African Ministers of Finance and Planning should thus put industrialization on their development agendas so that its financing could be ensured. There were several bankable projects that had been prepared and which called for immediate implementation. There was also a need to identify a champion for the establishment of a fund to be resourced by African member States for the financing of those projects.

53. Dr. Mohamed Fathi Sakr, Economic Advisor to the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Egypt, shared his country's experience in industrialization, which, he said, was the driving force for development and economic growth. Egypt had endowed itself with ambitious industrial plans, which had led to the creation of jobs and value added to both agricultural and extractive sector products. Egypt's industrialization was led by a long-term vision and long-term planning, which were key to achieving results. Planning was required to identify the various industries that the country had to focus on. It was also pertinent to define the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the industrialization process, especially the private sector. Several phases existed in the process, and it was useful to develop a roadmap for industrialization, with time bounds and expected growth targets at various planning cycles. Industrialization should be inclusive to have a positive impact on society, in terms of job creation and general well-being. Factors that could support the industrialization process included government-sponsored training and technology and exploration of larger markets for value-added products.

54. Professor Ladislau Dowbor, from the Catholic University of Sao Paolo, Brazil, started by saying that strategic planning was one of major ingredients that had facilitated the success of his country. Development, industry and social justice were linked in Brazil. In developing countries, a divide was created when export revenue was used to import luxurious goods, which benefited only a small portion of the population. When a country's earnings were derived from extractive resources, it used the external resources to reinforce the forces available for internal development such as training and provision of goods and services. Former President Lula transferred public funds to the tune of \$60 per family per year to the poorest of Brazilian society - a policy that caused a big change by increasing political support and stimulating economic, social and political participation by the poor. The exercise had a multiplying effect, including the creation of small enterprises and new jobs, which in turn led to local demand for goods and services. Internal markets were established as good alternatives to international markets. Women played a pivotal role in the process as the money they received was used to improve the living conditions of their families. Lastly, Brazil had an integrated system of industrialization, which started from the bottom echelon of society and rose with the development of several small industries.

55. H.E. Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA said that his organization generated information about population and population dynamics. Today, Africa had half a billion young people, with that figure likely to double in the coming decades. The youth should therefore be given quality education and relevant skills for industrialization. Women and girls, who were not allowed to participate in markets and other activities, should be empowered. Early marriage should end, while women and girls needed access to family planning, education and employment to make them equal participants in the continent's development. Dr Babatunde further called for the promotion of gender equality and respect for young people's rights, including access to quality education for better job opportunities.

56. Dr. Martin Khor, Executive Director of the South Centre, Geneva, opened his intervention by drawing comparisons between East Asian countries and Africa. Just like Africa, Asia was also rife with corruption, dictators, controlled markets, with States playing a big role in development. A major difference between Africa's development and industrialization and that of Asia was that unlike Asian countries, African countries were bound by the policies of the IMF and World Bank. The Washington consensus promoted very limited State role in the economy and urged countries to dismantle their ministries of planning. In Asia, on the other hand, those ministries were kept, and States were able to expand important institutions to support their industrialization agenda. Dr. Khor deplored the current practice in Africa, where, rules were made by partners, whereas in Asia they were made by the States themselves. The rules set by the IMF and World Bank had not led to any appreciable development in Africa, despite several decades of applying them.

57. Dr. Khor also gave his reflections on Africa's international trade and warned of two looming problems if Africa signed the economic partnership agreements (EPAs) proposed by the European Union. The first was that the EPAs would remove all the policies and instruments that Asia was able to use for its industrialization. The EPAs would also bring tariffs to zero, preventing support to and development of local industries, constraining Africa's development of its industries. Secondly, if African countries banned export taxes, as required under the EPAs, then the main instruments for value addition would be removed, particularly in the extractive industry, and that would thwart the continent's industrialization agenda. He ended his interventions with two recommendations: (a) African leaders should postpone the signing of the EPAs and with the support of ECA and AUC, accelerate the deepening of regional integration; and (b) decisions related to external partnerships should be taken collectively in Africa, instead of individually by each country, which minimized the benefits drawn by the countries and the continent as a whole. Lastly, Dr. Khor urged the European Union (EU) to provide preferences to Africa at the WTO rather than demand that the region put its tariffs at zero. Those proposals, if accepted, would be beneficial to both EU and all African countries, including the least developed ones.

58. The ensuing discussions raised several issues that complemented the interventions of the panellists. There were several approaches to industrialization and Africa had to weigh the options suitable for the region, including adding value to natural resources and promoting innovation and creativity. Participants urged African countries to mainstream industrialization into their national planning frameworks.

59. For the EPAs, the Conference observed that the European Union Commission led EPA negotiations in Europe, whereas in Africa, the RECs, which were the lead actors, often came under pressure from the European Union Commission to meet the deadline for signing agreements. The Conference reiterated the decision by the AU Summit that the AU Commission should lead the EPA negotiations.

Recommendations

60. Following the panel discussion, the Conference made the following recommendations:
- African countries are urged to mainstream industrialization into their national planning frameworks.

- African countries should accelerate the implementation of PIDA so as to provide Africa with sound and affordable infrastructure.
- The European Union is urged to ensure that the EPAs are development oriented for Africa, and also to give preference to Africa in order not to harm its industries.
- The African Union is urged to accelerate the continental integration agenda.

(d) Financing Africa's industrialization

61. The fourth panel was moderated by Mr. Komla Dumor, and had six members:

- Mr. Lucas Abaga Nchama, Governor, Bank of Central African States
- Mr. Adamassu Tadesse, President, Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA)
- Mr. Sanusi Lamido Sunusi, Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria
- Mr. Abdulla Qassem, Director, International Engagement, EXPO 2020 Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Mr. Louceny Nabe, Governor, Central Bank of Guinea, Guinea
- H.E. Mr. Mohamed El Mikkawi, Vice-Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Egypt

62. Mr. Komla Dumor started the session by asking Mr. Lucas Nchama about the role of a regional central bank in Africa's industrialization agenda. Mr. Nchama spelled out the functions of a regional central bank within a monetary union. The primary function of a regional central bank was to preserve monetary stability. However, the regional central bank could contribute to member States' development policies through the financing of various development institutions. Mr. Nchama highlighted the financing challenges facing the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) zone. They included weak financial systems that made it difficult for member States to mobilize sufficient funds to support their development agenda. He recommended that the financial system and business practices should be improved, regional integration deepened and regional economic programmes implemented with a view to pushing the continent's industrialization forward.

63. Mr. Dumor then asked Mr. Nabe whether central banks should only ensure price and monetary stability or go beyond those basic responsibilities. Mr. Nabe agreed with the basic role of central banks, but noted that African central banks could not be like those of Europe or the United States and should go beyond monetary policy. He gave the example of Guinea, where a system was in place to allow for joint financing by private/commercial banks and the central bank. There were certainly difficulties with development and industry financing, and central banks should ensure that banks were funding development.

64. Mr. Dumor turned the discussion to Mr. Adamassu Tadesse and asked what the private sector view of the role of central banks in development was. Mr. Tadesse said that his institution was a private lender, and also a specialized regional institution that had benefited greatly from increased confidence in investments in Africa. Central banks should actively contribute to funding industries. Also, specialized vehicles of financing were important; an example was the Industrial Development Cooperation (IDC) in South Africa. While the IDC

played the role of a private firm, it did so in the national interest, thereby greatly contributing to development in South Africa. He urged African countries to create special ventures like the IDC.

65. Regarding the energy sector, Mr. Tadesse said that 10 per cent of his institution's portfolio was dedicated to energy. Mr. Sanusi explained that while there was an aversion to investment in the energy sector, industrialization went hand in hand with energy. Financing industrialization required an enabling environment. Indeed, not only must correct policies exist, they must also be implemented to generate and utilize financing. Nigeria, for example, had good policies, but was not implementing them. It was up to the Government to create a conducive environment for financing, while Africa must work at making itself attractive enough for outside investment. He highlighted the case study of Brazil as an example of how the State could drive an industrial revolution.

66. When asked how the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was able to successfully attract so much interest and financing, Mr. Qassem said that there were many common points between the UAE and Africa, as they were both a federation of various States and located in the global South. The UAE had moved away from oil to a diversified economy, and was able to develop infrastructure due to very sound and wise policies. The Central Bank of UAE did not directly finance development projects, but served as a regulatory body. The UAE had various public investment funds, such as the Abu Dhabi Fund, aimed at boosting development financing.

67. Mr. Dumor changed the topic to the issue of investments by emerging economies such as China. Quoting Mr. Sanusi, he asked him to expand on the idea that "Africa must recognize that China was in Africa for China's interests". Mr. Sanusi first explained that any country that believed they could develop by exporting raw commodities was wrong; development required industrialization and value addition. Thus, he was not bashing China about their interests in Africa, but rather encouraging Africa to look out for its own interests. He urged African countries to look at the long-term implications of their relationship with China and other countries, and to think of their interests when negotiating terms of trade and investments.

68. The discussion then turned to regional integration. Mr. Nchama noted that, as a regional central bank, his institution tackled issues at the subregional level. He underscored the importance of more integration and cooperation, suggesting the possibility of setting up an African central bank.

69. Mr. Nabe questioned whether Africa was really ready for complete integration. While the use of the CFA franc did make for a larger economic space for circulation of factors of production, if the environment of national economies did not reassure people, it would be difficult for countries or regions to attract foreign investment. It was not regional integration that would improve financing for industrialization, but political will and effective policy decisions.

70. Mr. Sanusi agreed with Mr. Nabe that Africa was not ready for certain aspects of regional integration, such as a common currency. Indeed, 65 per cent of European trade was within Europe; 35-40 per cent of Asian trade was within Asia and less than 10 per cent of African trade was within Africa. There was therefore no point in having a common currency without strong intra-African trade.

71. Mr. Mikkawi gave an overview of Egypt's tax reforms, undertaken to deal with their difficult financial system following the political unrests. He explained how the State budget had to increase and the Central Bank therefore had to take stringent measures, which impacted citizens. The Government implemented a property tax (where the wealthy people paid significantly higher taxes) and lowered gas subsidies. Government also devalued the Egyptian pound by 20 per cent against the US dollar. Egypt had also created an Islamic bond system to attract foreign investment. Those bonds had been raised to fund infrastructure and other development projects.

Recommendations

72. Following the panel discussion, the Conference made the following recommendations:
- African countries are urged to create sovereign funds to finance development projects.
 - African countries need visionary leadership to formulate and implement sound policies that will support the enabling environment to spur industrialization.
 - African countries are urged to enhance their financial markets and payment system as mechanisms for supporting the continent's industrialization agenda.
 - The African Union is urged to deepen regional integration and cooperation among countries, with a view to advancing industrialization of the continent.

Launch of the Economic Report on Africa, 2013 [agenda item 4]

73. The panel for the launch comprised Dr. Carlos Lopes, Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, and H.E. Dr. Albert Toikeusse Mabri, Minister of Planning and Development of Cote d'Ivoire and Chairperson of the Bureau of the Conference.

74. In his opening remarks, Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba said that the Economic Report on Africa (ERA) gave an update on recent economic trends on the continent. The Report was prepared by a joint-team of experts from the AU Commission and ECA. He gave a chronology of what previous ERAs had focused on. The theme of the report had been agreed after discussion, and the process of preparing the report was inclusive, participatory and based on the recommendations of the 2012 AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

75. In his presentation, Dr. Lopes said that the 2013 ERA featured nine case studies on African countries that had been able to industrialize despite difficult conditions. Africa needed to collect and own its data so as to control its narrative. Not only was massive industrialization needed in Africa, it was also possible on a large scale.

76. He then gave the key recommendations of the Report as follows:

African countries were urged to:

- Develop an appropriate industrialization policy

- Add significant value to their extractive commodities and have a comprehensive exports strategy
- Enforce supply-chain development programmes and monitoring mechanisms among lead firms
- Develop local skills and technological capabilities
- Negotiate regional trade arrangements
- Improve policy implementation through coordination among relevant ministries
- Urgently address infrastructure constraints and bottlenecks

77. Lastly, Dr. Lopes said that by implementing those recommendations, African countries would be able to move to a point of structural transformation.

78. In his address, Minister Mabri thanked all who had supported the development and publication of the 2013 edition of ERA and informed the gathering that copies had been made available for all Conference participants. He also touched on the critical role of infrastructure in industrialization and its financing. Moreover, ECA should seek other avenues for financing industrialization. On that score, he commended the Report for its far reaching recommendations on policy reform. He then formally declared the 2013 ERA report formally launched.

Information session for Ministers [agenda item 5]

A. Highlights of the presentation

79. Three main agenda items were presented during this session. The first was on the study on Africa 2063, presented by the Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, who informed Ministers that the study was a joint effort by the AU Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), ECA and AfDB. The heads of those institutions constituted the supervisory body of the study. The study was intended to reflect on Africa's realities (where the continent was) 50 years after independence and its future development trajectory (where the continent was headed. The study on Africa 2063 was a shared agenda for sustainable growth and development, underpinned by values of participation and collaboration among all stakeholders, including member States of the African Union, regional economic communities, ECA and AfDB.

80. Also, the study built on earlier African development plans, such as the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and NEPAD, but placed particular premium on results and the establishment of a results-based system and implementation process. Some of the objectives of the study were: development of a strategic framework; development of a baseline information template; and establishment of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework. He highlighted the timeline that had been established for the study as well as the various consultative processes.

81. The second agenda item of the session on the theme "Promoting Jobs and Growth through Tax, Trade and Transparency: G-8 Agenda for 2013," was presented by Mr. Chris Austen, Director, DFID, United Kingdom. He informed Ministers that relations with the developing world, particularly Africa, had changed dramatically and Africa was indeed a remarkable success story. Trade and taxation issues were relevant to industrialization and the overall objective of the G-8 Agenda was to facilitate the emergence of a transparency

revolution, which would empower citizens to hold their Governments accountable. The G-8 would thus continue to support efforts and initiatives to combat money laundering and illicit financial flows from Africa. The G-8 was also keen on championing new initiatives on data and technical standards, as part of efforts to promote transparency.

82. The third agenda item was on capacity development, presented by Mr. Ulrich Jacoby, Deputy Division Chief, Global Partnerships, IMF. He gave an overview of the capacity development activities of the IMF Institute for Capacity Development and commended the emphasis placed by the Conference on capacity development and training. He highlighted the geographical spread of the Institute's centres, which showed that there were hardly any in the African region. Paradoxically, although Africa was the region with the highest capacity for development needs, it received the lowest capacity development training, partly because of the lack of training centres on the continent. The IMF had made calls for African countries to bid to host IMF-capacity development centres, however, only Mauritius had made a successful bid, culminating in the establishment of its Africa Training Institute (ATI). The centre provided basic and substantive training to African countries. There was a need for African ownership of the centre, including through the provision of financial support to sustain it.

B. Highlights of discussions

83. Participants commended ECA, AUC and AfDB for the Africa 2063 study. However, they needed clarity on the level of attention that the study would pay to issues of integration, including financial integration of the continent, through the adoption of a common currency. Commissioner Mkwezalamba reassured participants that the 2063 study identified integration, financial integration included, as a key priority. Studies on the establishment of an African Central Bank were ongoing and a draft joint strategy for the establishment of a common central bank and common currency were nearing completion. The document in question clearly identified a number of prior conditions to be met prior to the establishment of a common currency zone and central bank.

84. While participants lauded the idea of the IMF-Africa Training Institute, they wanted to know why the resources used in establishing such a centre could not rather go into supporting existing capacity training institutions on the continent. The explanation given was that although the IMF would want to combine its technical assistance and training facilities, it was unfeasible because technical facilities were not adapted to support training; and also, there would be complex legal and financial constraints to such a move.

C. Recommendations

85. The Conference recommended the establishment of a template to measure progress in integration.

ECA new strategic direction [agenda item 6]

86. The session was chaired by Dr. Albert Toikeusse Mabri.

87. Dr. Lopes started by giving the rationale for the new strategic direction, in that the world was changing, Africa was changing and the ECA must also change to continue to be relevant in the changing landscape and Africa's transformative agenda. He gave examples of

sectors in which the world and Africa were changing. At the core of the recalibration process was the idea to put “Africa First” in the work of ECA. ECA would be realigned, with emphasis on four key areas: (a) strengthening the rigour and relevance of knowledge produced by the Commission; (b) making ECA the authoritative source of analytical insights into Africa’s development; (c) generating knowledge, underpinned by robust statistics; and (d) improving the packaging and communication of ECA knowledge products to core policy constituents.

88. The nine areas of focus for ECA in the next few years were:

- **Macroeconomic policy:** This subprogramme will underscore the continued importance of increased growth in Africa, based on the design of sound economic policies; promotion of private sector development; mobilization of resources; and improvement of economic governance.
- **Regional integration and trade:** This subprogramme will give emphasis to the central role of regional integration in African development by promoting the nexus between trade, industry, agriculture, land, infrastructure and investment and supporting African countries to boost intra-Africa trade and participate effectively in international trade.
- **Innovations, technologies and management of Africa’s natural resources:** This subprogramme will focus on nurturing and harnessing new technologies and innovation to support African development, particularly in the context of promoting green economy and addressing the challenges of climate change. It will also promote the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision and the outcomes of the Eighth African Development Forum.
- **Statistics:** The statistics subprogramme is vital for the increased emphasis that ECA places on generating data for evidence-based policy research and policy formulation. ECA statistical activities will also support the monitoring and evaluation of progress in achieving the MDGs and other internationally agreed goals while ensuring the availability of high quality data to guide policymaking.
- **Capacity development:** This subprogramme will play a vital role in ensuring that the key policy findings of ECA research are used to support policy implementation at national, sub regional and continental levels. It will do so by strengthening the capacity of member States, regional economic communities and AUC to implement their development priorities.
- **Gender and women in development:** This subprogramme will continue to address emerging issues that impact on African women. It will also promote mainstreaming of gender empowerment and gender equality into national policies and programmes of member States, using credible evidence and data.
- **Subregional activities for development:** This subprogramme will be delivered through the five subregions, namely Central, East, North, Southern and West Africa. It will enhance the capacity of member States to formulate evidence-based plans and policies and produce and disseminate quality and timely statistics for

periodic country profiles and risk analysis to inform policy and decision-making. This subprogramme will also promote the design and implementation of sub regional development initiatives.

- **Development planning and administration:** This subprogramme will be the locus for training activities to improve public sector management, centered on economic policy formulation, analysis, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It will also be used to improve and strengthen national visioning and development planning in member States.
- **Social development policy:** This subprogramme will be strengthened to mainstream human development and concerns such as employment, population, social protection and youth issues into regional and national policies and strategies. Activities in these vital areas will be complemented by promoting a better understanding of the delivery of social services in the context of urban planning and management.

89. Dr. Lopes further explained that ECA would also have to change its ways of working by adopting relevant business standards. ECA support to the AU Commission would continue through a collective approach to joint and key initiatives, ensuring that ECA policy centres were governed by a similar set of rules; more discipline in the organization of conferences and workshops with the publication of an annual calendar of events; reduction in the culture of conferences and a focus on policy and research; a focus on gender parity, starting with gender mainstreaming; the reconfiguration of staff skills with a focus on retraining; and an overall reduction in carbon footprint by ECA.

90. In his response, Minister Mabri thanked the Executive Secretary for sharing his vision with the conference and opened the floor for questions and comments.

91. Minister Trevor Manuel of South Africa commended the Executive Secretary for his bold vision for ECA and asked how the new recalibration would be resourced by the United Nations Secretary-General. ECA should work with other like-minded organizations across Africa to realize its goal. He gave the example of the IMF macroeconomic policy centre set up in Mauritius and asked that such entities should cooperate with ECA. He also cautioned about the need to develop indicators to be used to measure integration across the continent as well as progress towards innovation and information and communication technologies, not forgetting the importance of the “missing middle” in computing economic and social data sets.

92. A representative of Senegal also thanked the Executive Secretary for his vision for Africa, saying that ECA should focus on making its research findings and publications more relevant to national-level policy makers. ECA should also publish an annual report on Africa to show how specific countries were meeting particular development targets, as that would be of more interest to decision makers.

93. A representative of Algeria also welcomed the new changes at ECA and called for the new vision to be re-stated in the ideas for Africa 2063. He also called for the early launch of the African Institute for Future Studies whose objective, he said, was to build the future of Africa. Such an institution would help Africans use those tools in developing the continent. Lastly, he invited all students who could obtain grants to come and study in Algeria.

94. Taking the floor, a representative of Namibia commended the upcoming changes in the work of ECA, especially the focus on statistics and creation of a central database. The Government of Namibia fully supported the restructuring process.

95. A representative of Comoros also commended the new vision of ECA and said that Resolution 1 of the AU Summit of January 2013 had already endorsed the transformation of ECA. He further endorsed the comments of South Africa and thanked Algeria for its offer to African students.

96. A representative of Tanzania also welcomed the new strategic direction, recommending focus on performance and a target-oriented process. He also questioned why employment was captured under economic development rather than social development.

97. A representative of Mozambique also commended the Executive Secretary for the presentation, especially the focus on the clear pillars of implementation. The emphasis on macroeconomic policy was important, and ECA should continue to centre on economic growth as the prerequisite to development. The emphasis on statistics was currently very important as it was very difficult to find credible statistics for Africa. There should be capacity building of national statistical agencies. The culture of “technical assistance tourism”, however, should end. Also, the capacity building needs of member States should be clearly assessed and provided for.

98. A representative of Tunisia, in his submission, also said that ECA should not only focus on macro-economic research but also on day-to-day problems. Also, Tunisia was willing to make the services of its statistics agency available to ECA.

99. A representative of Mauritania then took the floor and informed the Conference that everything was a priority in Africa and there were many prerequisites to Africa’s full development. Member States, in formulating and implementing national policies, should make use of ECA research findings.

100. A representative of Zimbabwe also commended the Executive Secretary for the new strategic direction, which, should factor in: the role of FDIs in development; revamping infrastructure; value addition; economic governance, especially combating corruption; and the post-2015 agenda.

101. A representative of Equatorial Guinea also commended the Executive Secretary for his new vision, saying that it was important to take African issues seriously. Eliciting private sector interest in development was also key. In relation to financing development, international financial institutions alone could not finance all of Africa’s needs; other sources of funding (including domestic) should be sought.

102. A representative of the Niger also took the floor and commended the Executive Secretary on his vision for ECA, saying that planning had to be rehabilitated in Africa even to the point of creating stand-alone planning ministries. He also agreed with earlier submissions about the need to delve more deeply into development finance.

103. A representative of Morocco also commended the Executive Secretary on his vision, especially on statistics. He underscored the importance of a country’s risk profile. There

should be better coordination for implementing the new strategy of ECA, which should be granted top priority. He advised ECA to lay more emphasis on areas such as value addition, and also involve ministries other than the finance and planning ministry, to facilitate implementation at country level. He also lauded Algeria's invitation to students and said that Morocco was also available to share its expertise with ECA.

104. In his response, Minister Mabri, on behalf of his Government, offered to host the African Statistical Institute in Cote d'Ivoire. He then invited the Executive Secretary to respond to the comments from the floor.

105. The Executive Secretary thanked the Ministers for the broad consensus on the new path of ECA. He said that all the comments would be used to shape the direction of the new strategy. On the issue of measurement of regional integration, he proposed that ECA should establish a regional integration index which would be used by countries to measure their level of regional integration.

106. Dr. Lopes also informed Ministers that ECA would, in the near future, produce an African development country report which would have each country's profile, with risk analyses updated quarterly. That, he hoped, would make ECA more relevant to its stakeholders. ECA would have a new unit called "Renewal of Planning", which would share planning lessons. There would be another unit on forecasting, which would produce forecasts of key indicators. The Commission would also establish a network of specialists for technical work, if necessary.

107. Issues such as prioritization, statistics, investment, capacity-building and technical assistance could be integrated into ongoing ECA work. Thanking Tunisia for bringing up the issue of the promotion of women, the Executive Secretary said that it was important for Africa to invest in its women.

108. On the issue of a budget to support the restructuring process, Dr. Lopes said that ECA currently had a sufficient budget, but member States ought to guard against reducing that budget in the near future. He concluded the session by thanking all countries which had supported the new strategic direction of ECA and assured member States that he would take up their offers of assistance.

Consideration of the Report and major recommendations of the Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance [agenda item 7]

109. Under this agenda item, the Conference considered the report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts, together with six draft resolutions recommended by the Committee. Following extensive discussions on some issues in the report and some of the resolutions, the Conference took note of the report and adopted the six resolutions annexed to it with some amendments.

Consideration and adoption of the Draft Ministerial Statement and Draft Resolutions
[agenda item 8]

110. Under this agenda item, the Conference considered a draft version of the Ministerial Statement of the meeting, made general comments and observations on various sections of the draft statement and proposed minor corrections and changes to improve the draft.

111. The Conference unanimously adopted the draft Ministerial Statement in the light of its observations and amendments. The amended version of the Ministerial Statement is attached to the present report as annex I.

Any other business [agenda item 9]

112. Under this agenda item, the Conference took note of the offer by the Kingdom of Morocco to host the 2014 Seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Rabat.

113. There was a suggestion from the floor that the Conference should express its indignation at recent developments in the Central African Republic, where there had been an unconstitutional change of Government. However, the Chair of the Bureau said that it would be inappropriate for the Conference to make any Statement on the situation in the country as the African Union had already made its position known on the matter.

114. H.E. Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba informed the Conference that he was leaving the AU Commission and the Abidjan Conference would therefore be his last in his capacity as AU Commissioner. He called on the Ministers to extend their unflinching support to Dr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, who would be taking over as the new AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs in May 2013. On behalf of the Conference, the Chairperson of the Bureau of the Conference thanked Dr. Mkwezalamba for his service to the African Union and Africa. He wished him every success in his future endeavours.

Closing of the meeting [agenda item 10]

115. The closing ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, Dr. Lopes, Dr. Albert Toikeusse Mabri, incoming Chairperson of the Bureau of the Conference and Ms. Nialé Kaba Minister of Economy and Finance at the Prime Minister's Office of Cote d'Ivoire.

116. In his address, the incoming chairperson of the Bureau informed the conference that the AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs was leaving his post at the end of the year. He thanked Commissioner Mkwezalamba for his support to the Bureau over the years. He also thanked Dr. Lopes for presenting the new ECA strategic vision. He said that the conference had adopted six resolutions and one declaration to be known as the "Abidjan Declaration", aimed at boosting industrialization in Africa. He concluded by thanking all present for their involvement in a successful conference.

117. In his address, Dr. Lopes apologized on behalf of Madam Zuma, who had had to leave to attend the BRICS summit in South Africa. The turnout of the Conference was encouraging,

as there were about 40 Ministers of Finance, Economic Planning and Development present, as well as several industrialists and academics.

118. The timing of the Conference was great as 2013 was the year Africa was celebrating 50 years of continental unity. The Africa 2063 thus required clarity of vision. Referring to the launch of ERA 2013, Dr. Lopes said that Africa must tell its own story and create its own narratives through robust statistics. It should also seek its own agenda within the existing global context. He thanked the Ministers for approving the ECA new strategic direction, saying that the comments given would be used to shape the process and its outcomes. Lastly, he thanked the Ivorian Government and people for their hospitality and for hosting a highly successful event.

119. A representative of the Egyptian delegation then gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Conference. He thanked the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the Conference and for the excellent facilities made available. He also thanked the AU Commission and ECA for successfully planning and organizing the Conference.

120. In his closing address, Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan also attested to the importance of industrialization for Africa's continuous growth. The importance of Africa's industrialization was the reason why so many representatives from all walks of life had met in Abidjan for the Conference. He re-echoed the vision of the President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to transform Cote d'Ivoire into an emerging nation by 2020.

121. Africa, he said, needed to adopt a structural approach to industrialization, with all actors working together to make that a reality. Also, while the continent was growing at a rate of 5 per cent, that of the rest of the world was 3 per cent. Despite that growth, however, very few jobs were being generated for the youth, contributing to income and employment inequalities as well as maternal mortality. Also, wider markets, deeper forms of integration and the recommendations of the ECA Economic Report for Africa would bring Africa at par with the Asian tigers. Lastly, Cote d'Ivoire was determined to take the outcomes of the Conference on board in its industrialization process. He then formally declared the Conference closed.

Annex I - Resolutions and Ministerial Statement adopted by the commission at its Forty-sixth session

A. Resolutions

907 (XLVI) Industrialization for an emerging Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Acknowledging that Africa's recent strong economic performance, its vast untapped human and natural resource endowments and the dynamic changes that characterized the global economic structures, powers and markets over the past decade create real opportunities as well as challenges for the continent to promote industrialization and foster sustainable and shared growth, and inclusive economic transformation, create jobs and reduce poverty,

Further acknowledging the endorsement of the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development Action for Africa and the African Mining Vision by the African Heads of State within the African Union Summit in 2007 and 2009 respectively as continental frameworks for industrial development for enhancing economic diversification, value addition and harnessing mineral resources for sustainable development inter alia,

Recognizing that in order to industrialize and transform its economies, Africa needs to effectively implement policy actions at national, regional and continental levels, including coordinated effective long-term development plans and industrial strategies to address constraints and harness emerging opportunities from increased South-South cooperation and other development partners for Africa's economic and social development,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on formulating a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from least developed country status:

1. *Calls on* African Governments to adopt and implement a coherent industrial policy in order to speed up and deepen value addition of local production, linkages between the commodity sector and other economic sectors to allocate resources within the national budget for industrial development;

2. *Urges* African Governments to create appropriate inclusive and transparent institutional industrial-policy mechanisms to develop prioritized country-specific, industrial-policy roadmaps for value addition in close collaboration with stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, research and innovation institutions;

3. *Also urges* African Governments to develop appropriate policies that focus on adding value locally, fostering local participation in the value chain, removing red tape and streamlining regulations, as well as securing technical and financial assistance for developing linkages;

4. *Further urges* African Governments to adopt appropriate strategies to link indigenous firms to regional and global supply chains, including customized supply-chain development programmes for these firms to remain competitive;

5. *Urges* African Governments and the regional economic communities to negotiate regional trade arrangements and foster intra-African trade, including fast-tracking implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area agreement and regional trade arrangements to improve regional infrastructure, harmonize customs procedures and measures to address tariff and non-tariff barriers;

6. *Encourages* African countries to address tariffs and non-tariff barriers, infrastructure constraints and bottlenecks, including cross-border infrastructure as well as feeder roads linking agricultural producers to processing centres and use commodity access to secure favourable infrastructure financing, besides leveraging public-private partnerships for infrastructure provision;

7. *Calls on* African countries to improve policy coherence and implementation through coordination among ministries and other stakeholders, including the private sector in line with AIDA and AMV;

8. *Also calls on* African countries to improve coordination at regional and continental levels, and closely align national industrial development frameworks with the priorities of the accelerated industrial development of Africa Action Plan while working together to develop a united vision on how to influence the global economic agenda and help shape the outcomes of globalization for the benefit of Africans;

9. *Further calls on* African countries to allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa and other regional initiatives on industrialization;

10. *Requests* the African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa to undertake a study and recommend the appropriate strategies and mechanisms to encourage and support home-grown high-tech technologies, indigenous knowledge and knowledge-based innovation, including the establishment of regional technology centres in each regional economic community;

11. *Further calls on* the African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa to develop a coherent approach that will assist African countries to build capabilities and effectively pursue industrialization based on their comparative advantage; and

12. *Requests* that the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Office of the High-Level Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to assist least developed countries and land-locked developing countries to develop industrial policies as a basis for resource-based industrialization and economic diversification.

908 (XLVI) Refocusing and recalibrating the Economic Commission for Africa to support Africa's structural transformation

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Decision of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government (Assembly/AU/Dec.450 (XX)), which endorses the strategic reorientation and refocusing of the Economic Commission for Africa to support accelerated structural transformation of Africa,

Further Recalling the terms of reference of the Commission as adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 671A (XXV) of 29 April 1958 and amended by its resolutions 974 D.1 (XXXVI) of 5 July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Cognizant of General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 which call for the role of the regional commissions to be strengthened,

Further cognizant of General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/288, the Outcome Statement of Rio+20, which invites the United Nations regional commissions and other regional organizations to support developing countries to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction as well as promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 67/266 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, which mandates the regional commissions to undertake operational activities for development at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Noting with appreciation the consultative process being undertaken in the African region on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and stressing that the priorities of the agenda should include, among others, structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; innovation and technology; gender equality and human development,

Welcoming efforts by African countries to embark on broad structural transformation and achieve middle-income status, which is anchored on the promotion of good governance, sound macroeconomic policymaking and management, better planning of the economy, effective management of natural resources and climate change, harnessing the potential of its demographic dividend, boosting domestic resources mobilization, achieving gender equality and investments in physical infrastructure and human capital,

Taking note of the paper by the Executive Secretary entitled ECA new strategic directions for the transformative development of Africa (E/ECA/COE/32/10); the Revised Strategic Framework/Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2014-2015 (E/ECA/COE/32/15); the Proposed Programme Budget for the period 2014-2015 (E/ECA/COE/32/12) and the Statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (E/ECA/COE/32/14),

1. *Calls on* the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance its capabilities with regard to evidence-based policy research, generating high quality and real time data and statistics and providing enhanced advisory services and capacity development to member States;
2. *Mandates* the Executive Secretary to realign the programmes and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa to the new strategic orientation with a view to supporting the transformative development agenda of the African Union;
3. *Endorses* the revised Strategic Framework and related Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2014-2015;
4. *Also Endorses* the updated statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning as the specialist training institution responsible for economic policy design and management and development planning, monitoring, and evaluation; and *requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations towards the issuance of the appropriate administrative advice to ensure its effective implementation;
5. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide support to ECA to enhance its work in accordance with Africa's priorities and in line with the decision of the African Union Heads of State and Government.

909 (XLVI) Realizing and harnessing demographic dividend in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that Africa's demographic dividend represents an opportunity for the continent to experience broad-based social development and accelerated economic growth as a result of population changes that are more conducive to stimulating economic growth with significant impact in reducing poverty,

Noting that for Africa to realize and capitalize on its demographic dividend, it is essential to increase and sustain investment in women and youth, especially education for girls, maternal, newborn and child health and meeting the unmet needs of women for comprehensive reproductive health services, including family planning,

Further noting with appreciation the ongoing work in this area by the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, the African Development Band and other partners such as the United States Agency for International Development, the Gates Foundation and the Packard Foundation,

Convinced that to realize gains from Africa's demographic dividend, greater efforts are required to improve governance, transparency and accountability,

1. *Commits to:*

- Ensuring effective integration of job creation, social, demographic and health factors into broader development strategies and policies, especially in the formulation of medium-term strategic plans;
- Harnessing its demographic dividend to build its comparative and competitive advantage through appropriate human development strategies;
- Ensuring equitable, sustained and effective investments in the health and education sectors, as well as in science and technology;
- Increasing investments in maternal, newborn and child health, especially comprehensive reproductive health services, enhancing nutrition security and promoting health care of older population;
- Integrating new entrants to the labour market and the working poor into the formal economy through labour policies that create full and productive employment and decent work opportunities for all, especially youth facilitating equitable social protection systems for all;
- Strengthening accountability mechanisms that rally all relevant development partners, build on empowering people and enhancing their effective participation in society.

2. *Requests* the African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa to develop a continental demographic dividend initiative that will allow the African continent to accelerate economic development and contribute to the African renaissance;

3. *Invites* multilateral agencies, bilateral partners, foundations, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and universities to work with the African Union Commission, Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to provide technical assistance, expertise and financial resources to enable member States to act to realize and capture the benefits of their demographic dividends;

4. *Requests* the African Union Commission to bring the Continental Demographic Dividend Initiative and the contents of this resolution to the attention of the Union's conferences of ministers of health; social development; industry; education; and youth development;

5. *Also requests* the African Union Commission to establish a research fund to facilitate research activities on the demographic dividend in Africa, with support from member States and development partners.

910 (XLVI) African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the progress being made by the continent towards attaining the Millennium Development Goal targets and conscious of the challenges that still remain in efforts to attain all the Goals by 2015,

Recalling the decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union requesting the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, to submit annual status reports and related statistics on Africa's progress towards the Goals to the Assembly,

Cognizant of the limited role played by African stakeholders in shaping the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs,

Recalling the Decision of the African Union Heads of State and Government in July 2012, which requested the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to deepen consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda with the objective of identifying African priorities,

1. *Takes note of* the draft report on the Progress in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa 2013 and recommends its adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in May 2013;
2. *Calls upon* countries to allocate adequate resources to fast track the MDGs;
3. *Takes note of* the draft African Common Position which reflects Africa's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda;
4. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to establish an African technical working group to translate Africa's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda into concrete goals targets and to feed them into the Sustainable Development Goals process and the post-2015 global agenda;
5. *Further calls* upon all African countries and the regional economic communities to own, support, advocate and create alliances on the African common position to enable Africa to speak with one voice in the global discussion to chart the post-2015 development agenda.

911 (XLVI) Statistics and statistical development

The Conference of Ministers,

Reiterating the importance of statistical information for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and policies and for fostering Africa's economic and political integration,

Noting the progress made by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank in developing and implementing continental frameworks, strategies, initiatives such as the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and the continental gender statistics programme aimed at supporting the African integration agenda,

Recognizing that despite progress made to date, there is still much to be done to bring the statistical development of this continent to the level that will effectively help it support and own its development narrative,

Welcoming the central role devoted to statistics within the repositioned Economic Commission for Africa in its quest to generate research, policy knowledge and consensus, and to offer capacity development and advisory services in different thematic areas contributing to the development agenda of African countries,

Also welcoming the decision of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on the Creation of the African Union Institute for Statistics,

Further welcoming the offer by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to host the African Statistical Training Centre when established,

1. *Commends* countries which have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics and calls on those which have not done so to sign and ratify it as expeditiously as possible;

2. *Resolves* to allocate adequate resources for the production and use of statistics in line with the principles of the African Charter on Statistics;

3. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme to create a working group for the development of indicators for the post-2015 development agenda based on the priorities identified under the African common position and to come up with a draft list of indicators by the end of 2013;

4. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to devote the next meeting of Directors General of National Statistical Offices to promote the production and use of detailed economic statistics including natural capital accounts, with a view to adequately supporting the transformation of African economies;

5. *Urges* the African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to prepare a five-year strategic plan for the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre to be submitted to the meeting of Directors General of African National Statistical Offices by November 2013;

6. *Requests* the African Union Commission, Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the regional economic communities to prepare a strategic plan for the operationalization of the African Union Institute for Statistics and to organize an expert group meeting to identify the ways and means for its implementation as per the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union;

7. *Calls on* national statistical institutes to establish coordination units within their establishments to ensure regular gathering of statistical data, based on harmonized instruments developed by the Specialized Technical Group of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa;

8. *Requests that* the capacity of the statistics division of the African Union Commission should be built to enable it to coordinate its statistics production strategy on governance, peace and security;

9. *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Governance Institute and other development partners to continue to support efforts by the African Union Commission to implement the Technical Group's action plan.

912 (XLVI) Extraordinary African Union Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance

The Conference of Ministers,

1. *Takes note of* the Report of the Experts' Meeting for the Validation of the Statutes and Annexes of the African Monetary Fund, the Report of the Experts' Workshop for the validation of the Draft Interim Report of the Technical Study on the establishment of a Pan-African Stock Exchange, and the progress report on alternative sources of funding the African Union (AU);

2. *Requests* the African Union Commission to transmit the revised Statutes of the African Monetary Fund, the draft report of the technical study on the establishment of a pan-African stock exchange, and the revised study on alternative sources of funding for the African Union. Member States should provide their comment to the African Union no later than the end of June 2013;

3. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission to convene an extraordinary conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance in October/November 2013 to consider the revised statutes of the African Monetary Fund, the draft report of the technical study on the establishment of a pan-African stock exchange, and the revised study on alternative sources of funding the African Union and South-South and triangular coalition in support of Africa's post-2015;

4. *Invites* all African Union Member States to participate at this extraordinary conference;

5. *Requests* that adequate financial resources should be committed towards the successful convening of the conference.

B. Ministerial Statement

1. We, African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, met in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 25 and 26 March 2013 for the Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

2. We welcomed in our midst the presence and participation of the Ministers of Industry and Trade and, as has become customary, the Governors of the Central Banks of many of our countries and regions.

Industrialization for an Emerging Africa

3. We deliberated on the theme, “Industrialization for an Emerging Africa”, a subject we consider crucial to the capacity of our countries to reap the full benefits of growth. In today’s global economic context and in view of the continent’s own need for structural transformation, industrialization has become an imperative for Africa’s development and its careful pursuit cannot be postponed any longer.

4. We noted that the average growth rate of African countries rebounded to 5.0 per cent in 2012 after a slowdown in 2011 occasioned by a combination of adverse internal and external conditions. Besides high commodity prices, it is encouraging to note that a variety of factors contributed to this economic performance, including improved macroeconomic management and business environment, strengthened domestic demand associated with rising incomes, a growing middle class and rapid urbanization, increased public spending, enhanced trade and investment ties with emerging economies, and post-conflict economic recovery in several of our countries.

5. We note, however, that despite Africa's return to a positive growth trajectory, the pattern of development on the continent has remained mixed. Africa’s growth has not translated into commensurate job creation and poverty rates remain high in most of our countries, in part because our economies continue to rely heavily on primary commodity production and exports. This dependence, and the associated vulnerability to price fluctuations, entails huge forgone income through lack of value addition and lost opportunities to create additional and decent jobs that the processing of commodities would bring. Progress in promoting value addition, linkage development and diversification of exports remains limited to a few countries, sectors and commodities.

6. We understand that for Africa to translate growth into an all encompassing structural transformation, it must actively pursue a strategy of commodity-based industrialization which we are convinced is both possible and beneficial. In addition to its predominantly young and

urbanizing population, Africa can boast of significant natural resources, including plentiful land and fertile soils, as well as oil and minerals. Adding value to commodities creates employment and revenue, contributes to the diversification of the local technological skill base and industrial capabilities, results in efficiency gains of cluster development, and generates positive spill-over effects in terms of knowledge and information. It also helps countries to reduce exposure to the high risks that characterize primary commodity markets due to speculation and price fluctuation.

7. We acknowledge that making the most of Africa's commodities requires dynamic and visionary leadership as well as effective and coordinated actions to adopt and implement a coherent industrial policy. It also calls for the introduction of accompanying and enabling macroeconomic and trade policies; strategic interventions to insert indigenous firms in regional and global value and supply chains; boosting of local skills and technological capabilities lifting of infrastructure constraints and bottlenecks; improved policy implementation through better coordination among ministries; and negotiation of regional trade and investment arrangements that foster intra-African trade. We particularly underscore the fact that the development of infrastructure and energy constitute major drivers for a successful programme of industrialization and we commit ourselves to working with all stakeholders in our various countries to mobilize the requisite financing, including financial inclusion using postal services.

8.

9. We also recognize that the private sector has a critical role to play in the industrialization of Africa. While continuing to welcome all the FDIs we can attract, we particularly encourage African private sector investors to engage actively in the industrial sector. To this end, we commit to working in partnership with the private sector over the long haul in order to ensure the fruitful gestation and expansion of initiatives undertaken to stimulate industrial production including in the agro-industrial sector, and enhance industrial productivity on the continent. By the same token, we invite the private sector to partake in public programmes aimed at accelerating the structural transformation of Africa.

10. We note the opportunities for individual and coordinated action provided by regional frameworks such as the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) Action Plan, the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the Continental Free Trade Area. We understand that regional markets offer tremendous opportunities waiting to be tapped. In addition to facilitating local production linkages between and within countries, regional markets also provide learning opportunities and allow domestic firms to build their production capabilities step by step.

11. We further recognize that trade agreements with industrialized and emerging countries are important for entering new markets. However, these agreements need to be designed, negotiated and sequenced in a manner that creates and preserves the policy space required for industrialization and the effective implementation of regional integration initiatives. Opportunities abound in the multi-polar and post-structural adjustment global environment for the creative development and application of policies and strategies for the rapid industrialization of Africa.

12. In encouraging resource-rich African countries to better leverage their natural wealth to achieve industrial development, we also encourage non-resource-rich countries to make the necessary investments in their human, physical and institutional capabilities to achieve the transformation of their economies. We note that whether resource-rich or not, all African countries must sooner rather than later venture into sophisticated, innovative, non-resource-based activities through which they can build domestic value in an incremental manner, underpinned by transition towards knowledge-driven growth and development.

The Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

13. We welcome the progress made by African countries towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, concerned about the slow advances in achieving them and cognizant of the enduring spatial, gender-based, income-based, and demographic inequalities in access to social services, we commit to invest in improving the availability and quality of social services particularly in the areas of environment, health, education, water and sanitation, as part of a new, transformative social policy and development compact.

14. Looking ahead to the post-2015 development agenda, we underscore the central importance of context, self-effort, ownership, resource availability and other enablers to the prospects for more robust outcomes in the achievement of set targets. In this regard, we commend AUC, ECA, and AfDB for their efforts in conducting regional and continent-wide consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and request the institutions to ensure that the African priorities are effectively reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the agenda. To this end, we call on the three collaborating institutions to translate the African common position into concrete goals, indicators and targets, by mobilizing all the energies and partnerships necessary to ensure success.

Follow-up to Rio+20

15. We note the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) outcome document as a key African input to the Rio+20 follow-up processes and request AUC, ECA, AfDB, and other relevant partners to expedite the development of a Regional Action Plan for coordinated implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes in Africa. Such a plan should include strategies for the integration of the Rio+20 outcomes into national development policies, strategies and plans, taking into account the need for balancing economic, social and environmental development imperatives. We also urge that necessary steps be taken to achieve an early convergence between the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Rio+20 follow-up processes, particularly the SDGs, towards ensuring a “Delivery as One” United Nations development agenda.

Africa's demographic dividend

16. We note the importance for Africa to introduce immediate measures to capitalize on its demographic dividend, through increased and sustained investments in health and education, particularly for women, the girl-child, the youth and disadvantaged social groups, with a view to enhancing the continent's competitive advantages. These investments should be further enhanced by the adoption of appropriate social, urban planning, and macroeconomic policies.

We encourage AUC and ECA, in collaboration with AfDB and other institutional partners, to continue and extend their ongoing work in these areas.

ECA strategic reorientation

17. We note the new ECA strategic orientation and refocusing of its programme priorities and methods of delivery designed to enable the Commission to better serve the African transformation agenda in a changing world. We also note the support expressed by African leaders for the ECA reorientation and their call to the United Nations Secretary-General “to provide required support to ECA to enhance its work in accordance with Africa's priorities”.

18. We welcome the outcomes of the refocusing exercise at ECA that places statistics for evidence-based policymaking and effective planning at the core of generation of research, policy, knowledge and consensus. We also endorse the new strategy for delivery of capacity development and advisory services in different thematic areas that are germane to the development agenda of African countries. In support of ongoing efforts towards the transformation of African economies, we commit to strengthening national statistical systems with particular emphasis on the production and use of detailed economic statistics and related aggregates. We also commit to providing African statistical institutions, including ECA, with the data needed for their work. We note the progress made in implementing the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), as well as the institutional arrangements for implementing these frameworks.

19. We also welcome the aspects of the ECA refocusing and restructuring exercise that confer full responsibility for all the Commission’s training activities and related workshops on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), and the deeper programmatic integration of the Institute into the ECA that this implies. We note the significant progress which the Institute has made over the last few years in retooling itself to serve the training needs of member States. Furthermore, we salute the partnership the Institute is building with African universities and think-tanks for decentralized delivery of its training programmes. We also encourage its expanding and closer collaboration with AUC. We once again salute the increase in the United Nations regular budget allocation to the Institute and welcome expansion of ECA extrabudgetary support to the Institute. We call on member States to continue to support IDEP programmes and activities by meeting their obligations to it in a regular and timely manner. We also urge the Executive Secretary of ECA to take the appropriate administrative steps to complete processing of the Institute’s updated statutes with the relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the Economic and Social Council.

Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

20. We took note of the actions taken by AUC and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) in line with the decision of the 19th AU Assembly on the participation of Africa in the Global Partnership (GP) for Effective Development Cooperation, which was launched in June 2012, replacing the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF). We reiterate calls for Africa to be allocated a second seat on the steering committee as a major constituency for development cooperation. We welcome the inclusion of the GP as a standing agenda item of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. We call for

African countries to actively engage in the GP and propose that an African consultative reference group comprising two representatives per region should be created on a rotational basis, with AUC/NPCA as the secretariat, for the purpose of consulting regularly on the activities of the GP, preparing African common positions and supporting the African representatives on the steering committee.

Africa 2063

21. We welcome the Africa 2063 project and encourage AUC, ECA, and AfDB to continue working on the initiative so that the continent can achieve its vision of becoming an integrated, competitive, prosperous and peaceful continent that represents a dynamic force in the global economy. To this end, we commit to consolidate Africa's position as a new growth pole and emerging market in the next 50 years. We also commit to work together to develop a united vision to influence the global economic agenda and shape the outcomes of globalization for the benefit of our people.

Vote of thanks

22. We thank the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the Conference and for the excellent facilities made available to us. We also thank the people of Côte d'Ivoire for their generosity and warm hospitality.

23. We are also grateful to AUC and ECA for successfully convening the Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Annex II - Report of the Committee of Experts of the Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Committee of Experts of the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 21 to 26 March 2013.

A. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were represented: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Labour Organization (ILO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Organization for Migration (IOM); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); World Bank (WB), World Health Organization (WHO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and World Food Programme (WFP).

5. Observers were present from the following organizations: Action Aid International (AAI); African Advisory Board; African Centre for Development Capacity Building (AFCAB); African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD); African Centre For Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD); African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC); AMYRIS, Cote d'Ivoire Association for Export Promotion (APEX-CI); The Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP); African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD); Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI); Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA); Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU); International Organization for the Francophonie (OIF); Africa Governance and Monitoring Project; African Advisory Board; African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF); African Centre for Development Capacity Building; African Export Import Bank; African Health

Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA); African Monitor (African Voices for Africa's Development); Association of African Central Banks (AACB); Central Bank for West African States (BCEAO); Centre for Constitutional Governance; Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU); Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI); Columbia University; Congress of African Economists; Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CODA); Gates Institute; Mo Ibrahim Foundation; OXFAM International; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); United States Mission to the African Union (USAU); Packard Foundation; African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP); Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT); African Advisory Board (AAB); Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Ivorian Centre for Economic and Social Research (CIRES); East-West Centre (EWC); European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM); Ivorian Employers' Association; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); University of the Congo; University of Thies, West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA); William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

B. Adoption of the agenda and election of the Bureau

6. The following agenda was adopted by the Committee:
 1. Opening of the Meeting
 2. Election of the Bureau and Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
 3. Recent Economic and Social Developments in Africa
 4. Review of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda
 5. Assessment of Progress on Regional Integration in Africa
 6. Harnessing the Demographic Dividend for Africa
 7. Presentation of the Theme of the Conference: Industrialization for an Emerging Africa
 8. Implementing the Rio+ 20 Outcomes in Africa
 9. Presentation of Statutory Issues
 10. Any Other Business
 11. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Report of the Committee of Experts and the Draft Resolutions
 12. Closing of the Meeting

Election of the Bureau

7. The following officers were unanimously elected by the Committee to form the new Bureau:

Chairperson:	Côte d'Ivoire
First Vice-Chairperson:	Kenya
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Algeria
Third Vice-Chairperson:	Lesotho
Rapporteur:	Cameroon

C. Account of proceedings

Opening of the meeting [agenda item 1]

8. Opening statements were made by Mr. Dieudonné Bouddhou, the Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau of the Conference, Mr. Abdallah Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA and Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs. The meeting was opened on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire by H.E. Ms. Nialé Kaba, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's office responsible for Finance and the Economy.

Opening statements

9. In his opening statement, Mr. Dieudonné Bouddhou, Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau of the Committee of Experts of the Joint Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, welcomed participants to the 2013 conference. He thanked the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for their hospitality and for hosting the conference in the beautiful city of Abidjan.

10. Mr. Bouddhou congratulated Her Excellency, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission and His Excellency, Mr. Carlos Lopes Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA on their recent appointments as Heads of the two premier African institutions. He also commended the staff of the two institutions for their hard work in preparing for this year's conference.

11. The theme of the conference, he said, "Industrialization for an Emerging Africa", was both timely and important, as it would help focus attention on the challenges of achieving structural transformation in Africa through resource-based industrialization. He highlighted some of the activities implemented by ECA and AU Commission as follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the 2012 conference under the guidance of the outgoing Bureau. These included the organization of the eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII), which focused on the theme of natural resources for development; the African Governance Forum; establishment of the African Minerals Development Centre at ECA to support implementation of the African Mining Vision; and support to African countries in the context of climate-change negotiations. He expressed profound gratitude to all the members of the outgoing Bureau for their support and collaboration in making those achievements possible.

12. Mr. Abdallah Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, in his statement, said that the Conference had become the main platform for policy dialogue and consensus building on pertinent economic and social development issues of concern to Africa. The Conference also provided strategic statutory guidance to the work of ECA and the AU Commission.

13. Mr. Hamdok provided an overview of recent economic and social conditions in Africa and highlighted some of the main activities undertaken by the ECA secretariat in support of the development agenda of member States. Africa grew at the impressive rate of 5 per cent in 2012, driven primarily by high commodity demand and prices and supported by improved macroeconomic policies. However, growth had been uneven across countries and sectors, and had not led to significant job creation and poverty reduction. Policies and strategies were needed to ensure inclusive and equitable growth that would benefit the majority of Africans. In that regard, deliberations on the theme of the 2013 conference would help in devising appropriate strategies and policy recommendations for accelerated resource-based industrialization in Africa.

14. The Deputy Executive Secretary highlighted the important role played by ECA to support Africa's development. It included enhancing the continent's voice in global processes for discussions on climate change, trade, and articulation of Africa's common position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; promotion of South-South cooperation for infrastructure development, trade and agriculture development and addressing the problem of illicit financial flows from Africa. ECA had also undertaken a major study on Africa's relationship with Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).

15. In his statement, Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs, said that the discussion on the theme of industrialization for an emerging Africa was long overdue because Africa accounted for only 12 per cent of global GDP. Nonetheless, the continent could also count on a youthful population available for using the continent's vast natural resource endowment to achieve rapid industrialization and structural transformation. The current Conference, therefore, provided an opportunity to discuss the measures for promoting commodity-based industrialization that would add value to Africa's natural resources, create jobs for the youth, in particular, and reduce poverty. For industrialization to take off longstanding shortfalls in the areas of infrastructure, human resources, finance and science and technology had to be addressed. Moreover, since 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union, it was an opportune time to reflect on the development achievements and challenges over the past 50 years in order to define the AU agenda for the next 50 years.

16. On behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, H. E. Ms. Nialé Kaba, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Finance and the Economy, welcomed participants to Abidjan and to the Conference. She thanked the AU Commission and ECA for the honour bestowed on her country in hosting the Conference. She expressed appreciation at the fact that the meeting also demonstrated the tremendous goodwill and support of other African countries for the recovery and resurgence of Côte d'Ivoire.

17. She said that the choice of the theme of the conference, "Industrialization for an Emerging Africa", underscored the centrality of industrialization for Africa's development. She highlighted some of the major challenges and obstacles that African countries had to tackle in the context of industrialization, including the need to promote inclusive growth; the

need to convert Africa's natural resources into high value- added goods; and the importance of diversification and structural transformation. Sharing her country's experience with industrialization, she said that Côte d'Ivoire aspired to attain the status of a middle-income country by the year 2020, a goal pursued and implemented under the country's national programme on industrialization adopted in 2012. The plan focused on promoting the private sector as the driver of economic growth and industrialization, and was expected to help attract foreign direct investments. The outcome of the meeting, she said, would help Côte d'Ivoire in finalizing its industrial policy.

18. Following her opening statement, the Minister, on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, declared the meeting of the Committee of Experts of the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economy open.

Recent economic and social developments in Africa [agenda item 3]

19. A representative of the secretariat provided an overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa. Overall, growth remained strong in 2012, reaching 5 per cent, which was above the global average, despite the global slowdown and uncertainty. However, economic performance varied across subregions and sectors and growth continued to depend on commodity exports, despite notable diversification into non-primary commodity sectors. Growth prospects for 2013 were assessed as solid despite the slowdown in the global economy, but were subject to various risks. Progress on social development was also slow and challenging, as inequality, hunger, poverty, poor quality education, underemployment and unemployment remained issues of concern. Structural transformation, underpinned by value addition, was vital for poverty reduction, inclusive growth and improved social conditions in Africa and would have to rest on enhanced domestic resource mobilization.

20. In the general discussions that followed, several participants noted that positive growth rates did not always translate into high-quality growth nor was it sufficient for inclusive development. Growth, it was agreed, should be accompanied by economic diversification and value added for it to be sustainable and inclusive.

21. Accelerated industrialization could contribute to sustainable and inclusive development in Africa. However, it was necessary to identify and properly articulate the different development options or models available to the continent as the most viable options. In that regard, some participants underscored the need for in-depth human resource study or audit to establish the status of the continent's human resource capacity and/or the gaps, in order to determine an appropriate development path for the continent. In the same vein, the importance of developing indigenous mechanisms to finance Africa's innovation and industrialization was emphasized.

Review of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda [agenda item 4]

22. Under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the status of implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa in 2012, highlighting major progress as well as challenges. In terms of progress, both primary enrolment and completion rates had improved, with approximately 70 per cent of African

children completing primary school. Gender equality had also improved in primary schools but was slow at other levels. For instance, only eight countries had met the target of 30 per cent of women in parliament. While significant strides had also been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, major challenges persisted in the areas of poverty reduction, food security and health, with nearly half of the continent's population still living on less than \$1.25 per day, with high income inequality, maternal and child mortality as well as unemployment and underemployment rates, with the incidence of vulnerable employment reaching 76 per cent. There was a need to accelerate progress towards the current MDGs, with particular emphasis on achieving food security.

23. The second presentation focused on the ongoing regional consultations for an African common position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda being prepared by AUC, ECA, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa, in response to a request from the AU Heads of State and Government. A draft common position was recently adopted in Tunis, covering four priority areas: economic transformation, technological innovation, human development and financing and partnership. A number of enablers of development had also been identified, including peace and security, good governance, institutional capacity and infrastructure development. The Committee of Experts was requested to review the draft African Common Position and provide their comments and views, which would then be transmitted to the Conference of Ministers for their consideration and endorsement, before submission to the AU Heads of State and Government for adoption at its summit in May 2013. The African Common Position was expected to serve as an input to the General Assembly discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda that would replace the MDGs.

24. The discussion that followed highlighted a number of important points and recommendations as follows:

(a) African countries were invited to adopt a multi-sectoral approach in health interventions, in order to fast track progress in that area;

(b) Increased investments in agricultural production and agro-processing were needed, as a strategy to accelerate achievement of food security through food self-sufficiency;

(c) African countries were invited to play a leading role in defining and shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in order to ensure that it would truly address Africa's development needs;

(d) A post-2015 development agenda should be sufficiently inclusive, without necessarily increasing the range of development goals and indicators contained in the MDGs framework and the process should be pursued through a bottom-up approach rather than through the traditional top-down approach that has characterized the formulation of previous development agendas or frameworks;

(e) Reliable statistics and the capacity to develop appropriate indicators were very important for measuring and tracking progress in Africa's development;

(f) The ongoing discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda should allow for necessary adjustments to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs by 2015.

Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa [agenda item 5]

25. The presentation by the secretariat queried the extent of progress made after 50 years of efforts at achieving regional integration in Africa. The modest achievements included establishment of a common market and customs union in Eastern Africa and the design of several projects to promote integration, notwithstanding the challenges of financing. Progress had also been made in setting up institutions of integration such as AfDB and the Pan-African Parliament, while discussions were well underway for the establishment of the African Monetary Fund and the African Investment Bank, among others.

26. Several challenges impeding regional integration in Africa were highlighted: free movement of persons was still ineffective; financing of projects on integration continued to depend largely on external contributions; micro-sovereignty was still rife and remained an obstacle to political integration; linguistic differences continued to hamper unity on the continent; statistics, a fundamental element of sovereignty, had been neglected; intra-African trade remained low at 10 per cent of the continental total; and the creation of a single currency was far from becoming a reality, with over 40 currencies currently in circulation on the continent.

27. The discussion on regional integration in Africa should revisit the major debate on integration approaches proposed by Presidents Nyerere and Nkrumah at independence to see if they were suitable for Africa today. Nkrumah had called for rapid integration so that sovereignty tendencies would not inhibit the drive toward integration, while Nyerere had called for a gradualist approach to integration, based on the development of regional pillars.

28. Following the discussion, the Committee recommended that:

(a) Governments should ensure more stakeholder involvement and inclusiveness in Africa's integration processes and programmes, particularly for ordinary citizens, civil society and the private sector;

(b) Governments should ensure increased resource mobilization to support the development of small and medium enterprises in Africa, as a way of boosting indigenous production and intra-African trade as catalysts for regional integration;

(c) Governments should implement strategies for Africa's integration and development plans;

(d) Governments should alleviate infrastructure constraints by increasing investment, with a view to enhancing regional integration and boosting trade among African countries;

(e) ECA should undertake a comparative study on the gradualist and rapid approaches to African integration recommended by Presidents Nkrumah and Nyerere,

including the detailed timelines, costs and other implications of the two approaches, which could serve as a basis for making an informed choice between the two approaches.

Harnessing the demographic dividend [agenda item 6]

29. Under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat gave an interactive media presentation called ENGAGE, which focused on harnessing the demographic dividend for Africa, noting that reducing high fertility could create opportunities for economic growth if the right kinds of educational, health and labour-market policies were in place.

30. The presentation drew attention to the favourable experiences in Asia which were now referred to as the “Demographic Dividend” and highlighted the role of the pace of the demographic transitions in those countries. In particular, the decline in infant and child mortality, followed by declines in fertility, and the supportive role of key health interventions, such as maternal and child survival and birth spacing through family planning, were highlighted. Those trends were replicated in several African countries such as Botswana, Morocco and South Africa. Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda were likely to follow suit.

31. The two discussants on the ENGAGE presentation highlighted the relevance of the demographic dividend for Africa and called on African countries to actively adopt their own approaches to realizing the benefits and accelerating economic growth.

32. Several participants shared their country experiences and also raised questions about interactions between many development factors and processes and the certainty of the success of various approaches, in particular, the applicability of demographic transition and dividend experiences from outside Africa. The Committee recognized that the demographic transition, i.e., declines in child mortality and fertility, was bound to occur. Transitions across African countries were also heterogeneous. The discussion also focused on how to influence the pace of those declines and what social and economic policies were necessary to accelerate them. Realization of the demographic dividend would have to be customized to the circumstances of each country.

33. African countries needed to find their own paths to the demographic transition and could also define their own vision for achieving the demographic dividend. They did not necessarily need to follow other regional models and, in fact, the African demographic dividend could prove to be quite unique in structure, process and character. The discussion concluded with several member State participants indicating their interest in pursuing the dividend and learning further about what combination of social, health and fiscal policies would best provide for sustainable economic growth and in particular, job creation.

34. The following recommendations emanated from the session:

(a) The demographic dividend did not have a single solution that fitted all member States. Each country should develop its own approach to realizing the dividend, taking its own specific circumstances into account. Moreover, the approaches should take into account the importance of culture in each setting;

(b) The interventions needed to address the demographic dividend would require a multi-sectoral approach. In particular, investments in education, health, nutrition and job

skills training were critical to enhancing the demographic change required to set the stage for realizing the demographic dividend for African countries;

(c) Immediate responses were needed for the youth as new entrants into the labour force and family formation. Securing their productive future should evolve from identifying efficient models of job creation, by those responsible;

(d) The vision for the future must be defined by African countries and they should continue to ensure that the MDGs were met and that the post-MDG goals enabled each country to realize the demographic dividend;

(e) African countries should integrate demographic dimensions in all development programmes, and strengthen the link between the demographic dividend and economic growth, including promoting inclusive development.

Presentation and discussion on the theme of the Conference: Industrialization for an Emerging Africa [agenda item 7]

35. Under this agenda item, two presentations were made by the secretariat to introduce the theme of the Conference. The first presentation, based on a document entitled, “Reaping the benefits of value addition and linkage development in Africa”, reviewed the current state of value addition and industrialization in Africa and the positive growth trajectory of the continent. It highlighted the benefits and weaknesses of industrial development, indicating that resource-based industrialization was an imperative that was both possible and beneficial for Africa. The benefits of resource-based industrialization and moving up the value chain included: employment creation, income growth, dynamic benefits and efficiency gains. Furthermore, value addition would develop fiscal, consumption and production linkages. Success of linkage development depended mainly on the competitiveness of local firms and the effectiveness of government policy. The successes of Argentina, Malaysia, Thailand and Venezuela had demonstrated how resource-based industries could be developed by mobilizing domestic entrepreneurship and implementing effective industrial policies. African countries should, therefore, capitalize on their resource endowments and the commodity price boom, while taking into consideration the global, regional and national dimensions of linkage development. Africa should also take advantage of regional and continental policy initiatives, such as AIDA, the African Mining Vision, the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme and the AU Declaration on the Continental Free Trade Area.

36. The second presentation on the theme of the Conference addressed five major issues related to industrialization in Africa: (a) the continent needed to industrialize, as industrial development had tremendous transformative potential because of its role as the engine of economic development and catalyst of innovation and trade; (b) Africa had enormous potential to industrialize. The continent had 60 per cent of the world’s arable land, although only 10 per cent of its agricultural products had any form of value addition. Furthermore, Africa was endowed with many sources of energy, while a significant amount of the world’s mineral resources were located on the continent; (c) Africa’s industrialization was delayed, in part, by the continent’s colonial heritage that strongly influenced its economic structure; (d) industrialization was a pre-condition for economic emergence and was necessary for achieving structural transformation; and (e) the path to industrialization entailed imposing a minimum charge on export of primary commodities to encourage local production and value

addition; moving away from economic growth based on primary products; ensuring financial sovereignty; and implementing an energy policy that responded to the needs of industrialization.

37. The Chairpersons of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) provided the subregional perspective on the theme of the Conference as reflected in the outcomes of the meetings of the ICE, which were held recently in the five subregions of the continent. The ICE meetings had addressed similar themes and issues related to industrialization in their respective subregions.

38. Mr. El Eulmi, Officer representing the Secretary of State in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of forecasts and statistics, Government of Algeria, summarized the main outcomes of the 28th session of the ICE for North Africa on the theme, "Promoting diversification and sophistication for structural transformation in North Africa", which took place from 26 February to 1 March 2013 in Rabat, Morocco. In addition to ensuring harmony with the theme of the Conference of Ministers, the choice of the theme of the ICE was also in response to the request made at the 27th session of the ICE for ECA to undertake a study on diversification in North Africa. The 28th session of the ICE made recommendations in the following five main areas: (a) institutional reforms and good governance; (b) the role of the State; (c) support for sectors with high value addition; (d) an integrated approach that incorporated all relevant sectors; and (e) regional integration and cooperation.

39. Mr. Tohougbe Yehouan Anatole, Technical Adviser, Sustainable Development, State Ministry of Planning and Development, Cote d'Ivoire, presented a report on the main outcomes of the 16th session of the ICE, which was held 18-19 March 2013 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on the theme, "Inclusive green growth to accelerate socioeconomic development in West Africa". The ICE meeting had commended the recent strong macroeconomic trends in the West Africa subregion, and highlighted the challenges that needed to be addressed, including reliance on commodity exports, governance deficits, insecurity, high youth unemployment and the lack of decent jobs. The meeting urged member States to harmonize their training curricula to facilitate labour mobility, promote technical and vocational training, prioritize the agricultural sector and deepen regional integration in the subregion through the harmonization of macroeconomic and sectoral policies.

40. Ms. Chantal Elonbat-Mbedey, Director of Regional Integration at the Ministry of Economy of Cameroon, presented a report on the outcome of the 29th session of the ICE which was held from 27 February to 1 March 2013 in Libreville, Gabon on the theme, "The green economy in Central Africa". The vision of the CEMAC subregion, she said, was to achieve industrialization-based emerging country status, by the year 2025. To that end, each country in the subregion had its own programme for emergence and transformation. The presentation also highlighted the progress made by countries in the areas of infrastructure (especially in energy and transportation), agriculture and conservation. The following factors were essential for successful industrialization: well-designed national industrial strategies based on the realities of each country; improved access to finance by small and medium enterprises; promotion of private-public partnerships; and capacity development, especially of women entrepreneurs. Equally important was political will.

41. Professor Ben Turok, member of the South African Parliament, opened the general discussions with brief remarks on the salient points made in the various presentations. Using

the experience of South Africa, he emphasized the importance of value addition, focusing on the linkages between the mining and manufacturing sectors. Over the years, South Africa's high port charges had led to low competitiveness of the country's manufactures and had encouraged exports of raw materials, essentially contributing to the country's de-industrialization.

42. Overdependence on mineral resources for economic growth was unsustainable, and countries should use their natural resources to develop the manufacturing sector. In addition, they should identify factors such as skills, entrepreneurship, technology, infrastructure and transport costs, that could be leveraged to support value addition. Similarly, African Governments had a responsibility to reduce the constraints to industrialization, such as enclave development of the mining sector, and to address bottlenecks identified. Citing the example of mining and manufacturing, Professor Turok highlighted the need for disaggregation of industrial statistics for the accurate measurement of value addition. He also highlighted the need for countries to protect their infant industries, urging them to examine their respective value chains and take decisive actions in support of increased benefits from the exploitation of natural resources.

43. The general discussions highlighted several important issues related to industrialization and value addition, including: industrial plans, strategies and policies; data and statistics; creating an enabling environment; financing of industrialization; innovation and technology transfer; and capacity development.

44. The Committee noted that the lack of coherent industrial policies at the national, regional and continental level and across sectors had hampered the industrialization process in Africa. In that regard, there should be well-designed and articulated plans at the national and regional levels that were coherent with continental frameworks, such as AIDA. Such policies should promote inclusive and sustainable development with clearly defined roles for the State and the private sector, based on their comparative advantage, including appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks. In addition, countries must consider the global policy space in which they were operating. In that regard, member States voiced concerns over global trade schemes that were favouring the export of raw commodities over products with value addition.

45. Participants highlighted the importance of statistics and data in formulating and monitoring industrial policy. Several key areas in which accurate economic statistics were necessary for effective policymaking included: natural capital accounting, employment and the informal sector, and sectoral and product disaggregation vis-à-vis value addition.

46. The need for good governance, including political stability, accountability, strong institutions and macroeconomic stability, was also underscored as part of the necessary enabling environment for industrial development. In addition, infrastructure, especially energy and transportation, were cited as key enablers.

47. Most of the participants identified the lack of adequate financing as a major constraint to Africa's industrialization efforts. Large-scale industrialization was a complex undertaking that required domestic, regional and external resource mobilization. Regional development banks and financial institutions such as AfDB had an important role to play in helping African

countries to mobilize resources for industrialization, including supporting the implementation of key continental initiatives on industrialization.

48. Other key factors identified for successful industrialization were innovation and technology, including research and development, and capacity development through improvements in the education system, to emphasize technical and vocational training.

49. Based on the presentations and discussion, the following key recommendations were made:

(a) Design and implement industrial policies driven by clear visions, national ownership and effective leadership, focusing on value addition, sectors with high growth potential, including deliberate policies to protect infant industries;

(b) Adopt appropriate policies to reduce export of raw materials and enhance value addition;

(c) Identify and maximize the policy space available within existing global trade regimes as part of national industrial policy formulation;

(d) Strengthen subregional and regional integration through implementation of CFTA to enable the harmonization of industrial and other strategies and to open markets for African enterprises;

(e) Ensure coordination of different structures and institutions involved in industrial development at the national, subregional and regional levels, such as those dealing with mining, energy and finance, in order to enhance effectiveness in formulating and implementing industrial policies;

(f) Ensure multi-stakeholder involvement and contribution to the industrialization process, in particular the private sector;

(g) Take concrete measures to increase energy sources in order to boost productivity and competitiveness;

(h) Develop statistical capacity and infrastructure to produce comprehensive, reliable and comparable data for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation;

(i) Develop curricula that focus on education, training and skills development in line with each country's specific needs and requirements;

(j) AUC to sensitize member States on existing continental frameworks and roadmaps for industrialization;

(k) ECA and AUC to provide assistance to member States in the design and implementation of industrial strategies that were consistent with existing regional policy frameworks, such as AIDA;

(l) ECA to undertake a study on the role of women in the industrialization process;

(m) AfDB and other development finance institutions at the national, subregional and regional level to provide support in mobilizing resources for national and regional industrial projects;

(n) African countries should make financing of industrialization a key priority in their planning and development, including allocating adequate resources and creating an enabling environment for domestic resource mobilization;

(o) AfDB and other national and subregional development finance institutions were invited to assist in raising financing for national and regional industrial projects and for transport, energy and communication facilities.

Implementing the Rio+20 outcomes in Africa [agenda item 8]

50. Under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat made a presentation on progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The objective of the presentation was to seek endorsement and guidance on the effective implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes in Africa. The Rio+20 outcome document entitled “The future we want”, largely addressed and reflected Africa’s concerns, interests and priorities, as articulated in the African Consensus Statement to the Conference adopted at the regional preparatory meeting in October 2011. Africa should continue to act strategically and capitalize on the political momentum for sustainable development that Rio+20 had generated, in order to ensure that the conference outcomes were translated into concrete programmes of action to accelerate progress towards sustainable development in the region.

51. The presentation drew attention to the November 2012 Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM), jointly organized by ECA, AUC, AfDB and UN-DESA. The Africa-RIM focused specifically on the implications of the Rio+20 outcomes for Africa. The outcomes of the Africa-RIM was Africa’s collective input to the post-Rio+20 follow-up process and provided a framework for the continent’s engagement in the global processes and implementation of Rio+20 outcomes. Ministries responsible for planning, economy and finance were thus urged to actively engage in the implementation of the Africa-RIM outcomes. Implementing Africa-RIM outcomes would entail considering the appropriateness of the principles and priorities identified in the outcome document, determining how all encompassing the SDGs would be, taking into account regional specificities, and identifying the key constraints and challenges to achieving sustainable development.

52. The Committee underscored the importance of Rio+20 and the sustainable development agenda as key enablers of Africa’s development as they highlighted issues of key concern to the continent. Notable among them was the protection and sustainable exploitation of Africa’s natural resources. In that regard, national capital accounting and labour market statistics were key to supporting Africa’s sustainable development agenda. Equally important was the need for parliamentary oversight over natural resource transactions to ensure transparency and accountability, and the use of indigenous knowledge as a means of addressing common environmental problems and sustaining Africa’s natural capital.

53. The following recommendations emerged from the discussions:

(a) Member States were invited to take the African Mining Vision and the Land Policy Initiative into account in their efforts to harness natural resources;

(b) The Committee recommended that Ministers responsible for finance, planning and economy should take the lead in implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes, including incorporating them into national development policies, strategies and plans;

(c) Member States were invited to facilitate the establishment or strengthening of coordination mechanisms at national and subnational levels as well as the design of the institutional framework for sustainable development at the global, regional and subregional levels;

(d) The meeting also recommended that there should be coherence and synergy between ECA, AUC and AfDB, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes in Africa, including through the urgent preparation of a Regional Action Plan.

(e) Parliaments were invited to provide oversight for the exploitation of natural resources, to ensure that all exploitation contracts included provisions that would benefit the local population, generate wealth, and protect the environment;

(f) Member States were invited to carefully consider the potential contribution of local and indigenous knowledge and technology in the ongoing consultations on the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, including for the harnessing of natural resources;

(g) Member States were invited to ensure that natural resource and social capital accounting would be part of the discussions in the context of the programme of work on measuring progress to complement GDP, called for by Rio+20;

(h) Member States, AUC and RECs were invited to harmonize policies for the exploitation of natural resources, particularly for transboundary resources;

(i) Member States were invited to report labour-market statistics on a quarterly rather than annual basis.

Presentation of statutory issues [agenda item 9]

A. ECA statutory issues

1. Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action

54. Under this agenda item, the secretariat presented a review of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which was the fourth global specific programme (2011-2021) for LDCs. The messages arising from the presentation included: (a) African LDCs experienced improved performance as measured by Gross National Income per capita, economic vulnerability and human asset indices; (b) LDC exports were more

diversified, signaling reduced exposure to economic shocks; (c) LDCs were still largely dependent on primary commodities and extractive industries despite improvements; (d) despite improvements in economic structure, African LDCs were experiencing increased instability in agricultural production and a rise in the number of victims of natural disasters; (e) enrolment and gender parity had improved at primary school level but less so at tertiary levels; and (f) under- five mortality had declined significantly but access to safe water and sanitation remained limited.

55. Two African countries were eligible for graduation. Equatorial Guinea had met the graduation criteria for the second time in a row, hence eligible for graduation, while Angola had met the criteria once.

56. The Secretariat concluded its presentation with the following policy recommendations addressed to both LDCs and the international community:

(a) A call for an increase in official development assistance allocations to productive sectors, including infrastructure to promote economic resilience to shocks;

(b) LDCs and development partners should support the manufacturing sector to promote value addition and economic diversification;

(c) LDCs should gain increased access to climate financing to strengthen their resilience to disasters and climate-related shocks;

(d) LDCs, with the support of development partners, should invest in improving availability and quality of social services;

(e) LDCs are urged to use regional integration and cooperation as strategies to expand trade and create jobs.

57. In the discussion that followed, the Committee commended ECA for the presentation and called for the institutionalization of the review of the IPoA for LDCs at the Conference. In addition to the recommendations of the Secretariat, the Committee recommended that ECA and AUC should institutionalize the review on the implementation of the IPoA for LDCs, devote more time to this review, organize discussions on a theme and ensure an adequate representation of LDCs at the joint annual conference.

2. New ECA strategic direction

58. The Secretariat gave a presentation on the New Strategic Direction of ECA to support the transformative development agenda of Africa, recalling earlier reform exercises by ECA to reposition itself. Remarkable transformations in the global environment included the new phase of globalization and the fundamental shifts in global economic power, which had seen the emergence of many countries of the global South as new centres of economic power. Those global transformations had coincided with remarkable changes on the African continent itself, including its status as one of the regions with the highest economic growth rates in the world. That had been accompanied by commendable improvements in governance, facilitated by the emergence of a range of national and regional institutional mechanisms and norms, alongside significant reductions in conflict across much of the continent.

59. Against the backdrop of global and regional transformations, ECA had had to reposition itself to better support the continent's transformative development agenda. The meeting was briefed on the extensive consultative processes that had accompanied the ECA repositioning exercise, including engagement by all the major stakeholders of the organization – African heads of state and government, ministers of finance and economic planning, African ambassadors, multilateral and bilateral partners, and more importantly, the staff of ECA. The meeting was presented with the key elements of the ECA recalibration, which consisted of a refocusing of its work programme and a shift in its working and delivery methods.

60. In the discussion that followed, experts expressed their strong support for the reform initiative that ECA had embarked on. In particular, the meeting lauded the Commission's prioritization of the generation of data (statistics) on various social and economic aspects of Africa's development agenda, recognized as the only way to control the narrative of the continent's realities. Similarly, participants recognized the centrality of capacity-building, in light of the continent's capacity gaps that are a real challenge to the implementation of policy proposals and the realization of development goals.

61. The meeting recommended that an assessment should be made on progress made by the continent in its integration efforts, with a view to identifying the gaps in the process and establishing strategic plans with clear targets and timelines, including mechanisms to monitor achievements. Importantly also, it was recommended that ongoing discussions on the transformation of ECA should be broadened to provide opportunities for African peoples, through civil society, to contribute to the reform and transformation agenda.

3. Update on the statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

62. The Secretariat made a presentation on the changes, mainly comprising updates and edits, introduced in the statutes of IDEP by its Governing Council following a thorough review. The Secretariat pointed out that the updates on the statutes were informed by (a) the ongoing reform in ECA, which had positioned IDEP as the sole training hub of the Commission; (b) the mandates received by the Governing Council from the Annual Conference of African ministers for a strategic repositioning of the Institute; (c) the deepening of the training collaboration between IDEP and several departments of the AUC; and (d) the need to align the Statutes of IDEP with the actual workings and functioning of the Institute.

63. In its presentation, the secretariat provided an overview of the changes introduced in the Statutes, which had affected the following articles (a) Article I – Purpose and functions of the Institute – paragraph 1.a; (b) Article I – Purpose and functions of the Institute – paragraph 1.b; (c) Article III – Status and organization of the Institute – paragraph 2; (d) Article 4 – The Governing Council - paragraph 2; (e) Article 4 – The Governing Council - paragraph 4.a; (f) Article 4 – The Governing Council -, paragraph 7.

64. In the context of the updated statutes, the secretariat also noted that the IDEP Governing Council had endorsed a proposal for the Chairperson of AUC to appoint a member of the Commission at the level of a commissioner to become a member of the Governing Council, while the Director of Economic Affairs should become a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of IDEP.

65. In the ensuing discussion, the Committee welcomed and endorsed the updates introduced into the Statutes of IDEP. The Committee sought clarification on the types of resources available to support the work of the Institute which was currently funded by the United Nations Secretariat, ECA, member States and some partners. The Committee further sought clarification on the accreditation and collaboration procedures adopted by the Institute when training sessions were organized outside of the IDEP headquarters in Dakar. The importance of developing targeted, tailor-made trainings was also stressed during the rich debate. Also, there was a need to focus on capacity building and technical assistance to support of member States in the context of the ongoing ECA restructuring and refocusing.

66. The secretariat welcomed the observations made by the Committee and explained the current modalities of the Institute, details of which were included in its Annual Management Reports. It also explained the procedures for accreditation it was building for courses organized outside its headquarters and the partnerships it had already forged or was negotiating with African universities and think tanks such as the University of Johannesburg, the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, the University of Nairobi, the University of Ibadan, Université Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, the University of Yaoundé II and the University of Casablanca. Also, tailor-made training had grown in the IDEP portfolio of activities as one of the most important modalities for delivering its courses. The Institute training mandate had been further reinforced and boosted by the transfer of all ECA training activities and associated workshops to IDEP, as part of the ongoing restructuring of the Commission.

67. Most participants commended the efforts of IDEP in responding to the training needs of member States and called for more resources to be made available to the Institute in order to expand its capacity to offer training at the highest level of quality and relevance. The AUC expressed satisfaction with its growing collaboration with IDEP which spanned several domains such as regional integration, gender and social policy, and encouraged member States to extend robust support to the Institute as it strived to respond to their expressed needs. Member States further encouraged IDEP to expand its database of African experts who could be called upon as resource persons for its training activities; a recommendation to which the secretariat responded positively by informing participants that an application on its website allowed experts to register in its database. The delegation from South Africa expressed its appreciation for the work IDEP had been doing in its country, and informed delegates that it was actively pursuing the payment of its financial contribution to the Institute. The delegation from Guinea similarly announced an impending series of training activities to be hosted in Guinea by IDEP for the country's planning officers. The Committee welcomed the collaboration which IDEP had established with various African universities and related institutions in the decentralized delivery of its training programmes.

4. ECA Annual Report, Revised Strategic Framework for 2014-2015 and Programme Budget for 2014-2015

68. Under this agenda item, the secretariat presented the ECA Annual Report (E/ECA/COE/32/5), the Revised Strategic Framework for 2014-2015 and the Proposed Programme Budget for 2014-2015.

69. The presentation of the annual report highlighted the main achievements during the period between April 2012 and March 2013. The presentation focused on major achievements and impact of ECA under the following 10 substantive subprogrammes: macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development; food security and sustainable development; governance and public administration; information and science and technology for development; regional integration, infrastructure and trade; gender and women in development; subregional activities for development; development planning and administration; statistics; and social development.

70. The Committee's attention was drawn to several achievements consisting of important meetings and conferences and key flagship publications. With regard to meetings and conferences, the Secretariat mentioned the 8th African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) on "Harnessing and governance of natural resources for Africa's Development"; the 2nd Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa and Africa Regional Implementation meeting for the 20th United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and meetings of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows. Publications included the Economic Report on Africa (ERA) 2012, whose theme was "Unleashing Africa's potential as a pole of global growth"; the 2012 Africa MDGs report; the fourth issue of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa; the Third African Governance Report (AGR III): Elections and the management of diversity in Africa; and the fifth report on Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA V). Subregional activities for development entailed increasing the capacity of and technical services to RECs and member States in the areas of youth employment, gender equality, statistics, social development and regional integration. Also, IDEP expanded its training programmes and developed e-learning platforms.

71. Regarding the Revised Strategic Framework for 2014-2015, the secretariat pointed out that although a strategic framework had been endorsed at the joint ECA-AU Conference of African Ministers of Finance in March 2012 in Addis Ababa, major global and regional developments necessitated a revision of the ECA strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015. Key among those were the outcomes of Rio+20; the consultations on a post-2015 development agenda; and the decision of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 20th ordinary summit (Assembly/AU/Dec.450 (XX)) in January 2013, which endorsed the refocusing of ECA to support the transformation agenda of Africa.

72. Those developments led ECA to retool itself and recalibrate its programmes to: (a) take a frontline role in generating original data and knowledge; (b) ground its policy research and advocacy on clear and objective evidence; and (c) promote policy consensus and offer meaningful capacity development and advisory services in key thematic areas. The Secretariat highlighted the new structure of the ECA Strategic Framework, which included the following subprogrammes: macroeconomic policy; regional integration and trade; innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources; statistics; capacity development; gender and women in development; subregional activities for development; development planning and administration; and social development policy.

73. Following the presentation of the Revised Strategic Framework for 2014-2015, the Secretariat informed the Committee that new programmes and activities had been designed for the Programme Budget for 2014-2015 to align it with the revised Strategic Framework.

74. In the discussion that followed, the Committee endorsed the revised ECA Strategic Framework and the accompanying Proposed Programme Budget for 2014-2015 and welcomed the focus on statistics. The Committee called for strengthened synergies between ECA activities and those of AUC and AfDB and pointed to the need for a more inclusive approach to the Commissions' reform, both within and outside ECA.

B. AUC statutory issues

75. The secretariat presented the statutory issues of the African Union, including: (a) Report on the establishment of a Pan-African Stock Exchange; (b) Draft statutes of the African Monetary Fund; (c) Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa; (d) Alternative Sources of Funding the African Union; (e) Update on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation; and (f) Report of the fifth African Private Sector Forum.

76. The secretariat informed the meeting that an independent experts' workshop was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2012 to validate the draft interim report of a technical study on the establishment of a pan-African stock exchange. The workshop had recommended that a regional group should commit to establish a regional market and set up working parties for the various stakeholders, among others.

77. On the draft statutes of the African Monetary Fund (AMF), the secretariat reported that a meeting of experts from selected member States had been organized in Yaoundé, in October 2012 to discuss the statutes of the AMF. The said meeting had agreed on all articles of the statutes with reservations from some member States about Article 7, Section 1, on authorized share capital, callable capital and paid-up capital. The revised statutes were being presented for recommendation to the Conference of Ministers for endorsement.

78. The secretariat presented the status of implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and SHaSA. While 27 African countries had signed so far, only eight had ratified the Charter. It was important to fast tracking the signing and ratification of the Charter by countries for its entry into force. The various statistical working groups under SHaSA had also made progress. The civil registration and vital statistics system was important and the decision by the Heads of State and Government to institutionalize the biennial meeting of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of civil registration was laudable. Countries should allocate adequate resources to support the work of the various working groups under SHaSA.

79. The Guinean delegation drew attention to the work done by the pilot group on innovative financing, which was at the core of development, within the framework of the post-2015 agenda. In addition, the Guinean representative informed participants about a meeting on innovative financing to be held from 3 to 5 July 2013 in Conakry, and invited African countries, international organizations, private sector partners and civil society to participate actively in that important event.

80. The secretariat reported that the fifth African Private Sector Forum had been held in Abidjan from 5 to 8 November 2012 under the theme, "The role of the private sector in promoting investment and agro-industry in Africa".

81. Referring to Decision 465 of the 20th AU Summit, the representative of the Government of Guinea presented the measures and arrangements planned for operationalizing the triangular coalition and South-South cooperation in support of the post-2015 agenda. South-South cooperation would support Africa's regional integration and implementation of the IPoA, which was an appropriate framework for mobilizing new development finance sources. A regional capacity development project was under preparation by the Guinean Government, with the support of AU and ECA. The Committee commended the work done for the establishment of the coalition. Nevertheless, the report prepared by the working group should be translated into the working languages of the Union and submitted at the extraordinary meeting of the Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance and Planning to be held in May 2013, alongside the 21st Summit of the African Union.

82. In the discussions that followed, the Committee of Experts commended the work accomplished on the establishment of the Pan-African Stock Exchange. Nevertheless, the translated study report should be made available to all member States to allow them to make concrete contributions.

83. On the AMF statutes, additional work should be done to determine the minimum start-up capital required for the Fund to be operational and sustainable. The meeting urged AUC to conduct an analysis to assess the impact of the eurozone crisis and the response of the IMF in relation to the objective of the AMF. Also, the statutes should be sent to all member States to provide political space for national consultations on the document. In that regard, it was agreed that an extraordinary session of the AU Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance would be necessary to finalize and adopt the statutes.

84. The Committee took note of the report and requested countries that had not signed and ratified the Charter to take the necessary steps to do so and also requested AUC to continue to play the lead role in coordination and implementation of SHaSA with the support of AfDB, ECA and other partners, in order to produce quality, harmonized data to inform the African integration agenda.

85. On alternative sources of funding the African Union, the meeting was updated on the progress on the study. It requested AUC to finalize the study as per the July 2012 decision to undertake a comprehensive study of all options, to provide quantifiable data on the expected impact on all member States.

86. The Committee of Experts noted the update and proposals on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the report of the fifth African Private Sector Forum.

87. The Committee of Experts welcomed efforts by the Government of Guinea to establish South-South cooperation and a triangular coalition in support of Africa post-2015. However, it requested that the document be submitted to all delegations for discussion prior to consideration by the Ministerial Conference.

88. The Committee of Experts made the following recommendations:

(a) An extraordinary session of the AU Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance should be organized prior to the AU Summit in May 2013 to consider the technical study report of the establishment of a pan-African stock exchange, the statutes of

the African Monetary Fund, the study on alternative sources of funding the African Union, South-South cooperation and the triangular coalition in support of Africa post-2015;

(b) AUC should make the report on the eurozone crisis available; and member States should provide their remarks and comments on the AMF statutes to AUC no later than 15 April 2013.

Any other Business [agenda item 10]

89. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

Consideration and adoption of the Draft Report of the Committee of Experts and the Draft Resolutions [agenda item 11]

90. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the draft report of its meeting (as contained in document E/ECA/COE/32/L, AU/CAMEF/EXP/Draft/Rpt (VII)) together with the six draft resolutions for consideration and adoption by the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance. Several delegations made comments and observations and proposed amendments to the report as well as the draft resolutions. After extensive discussions on some of the resolutions, the Committee unanimously adopted the report, including the draft resolutions as amended. The six draft resolutions amended by the Committee are attached to this report for consideration and adoption by the sixth Joint ECA Conference of Ministers and AU .

Closing of the meeting [agenda item 12]

91. Closing remarks were made by Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs; Mr. Abdallah Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; and Professor Lambert N'Galadjo, Chairperson of the Committee of Experts.

92. In his closing remarks, Dr. Mkwezalamba thanked the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the meeting. He commended all the participants for their hard work and contribution to the discussions during the meeting. He highlighted some of the issues on the agenda of the meeting and the major recommendations made. In particular, he noted that the draft African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to be adopted by the Conference of Ministers would help to define Africa's priorities and goals on the new development agenda, to further the continent's interests. The common position would be transmitted to the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government for their adoption in May 2013. He informed the meeting that the sixth joint meeting would be the last meeting he would be attending as Commissioner for Economic Affairs as his tenure had come to an end. He expressed his deepest gratitude to the Committee for the support received during his tenure and wished the Committee well in its future endeavours.

93. In his closing remarks, Mr. Hamdok expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the meeting and the warm hospitality shown to all delegations. He thanked all distinguished delegates for their active participation and congratulated the new Bureau on their election and thanked all participants for their useful contribution to the

discussion. He highlighted some of the main issues discussed by the Committee of Experts and said he was sure that the recommendations adopted by the meeting would inform critical decisions to be taken by the Ministers. He observed that the Conference had taken place at a time when Africa was on the rise and its image positively defined. Those positive changes would continue to inform the ECA work programme. He thanked the Committee of Experts for the support to the ongoing reforms being undertaken by the secretariat and the Chairperson of the Committee of Experts for an excellent job in moderating the various sessions. He also paid tribute to Dr. Mkwezalamba for his work over the past eight years as AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs.

94. In his closing remarks, Professor Lambert N'Galadjo Bamba, Chairperson of the Committee of Experts, thanked all the participants for their cooperation and hard work. He said that the recommendations which had been adopted would help put industrialization at the centre of the African development agenda. The Chairperson of the Bureau also expressed his deepest gratitude to the staff of AUC and ECA for their hard work, particularly in producing the report of the meeting, under tight deadlines, in four languages. He further expressed gratitude to the interpreters and translators, the staff of the hotel, and all those who had made the meeting of the Committee a success.

95. He then declared the meeting closed.