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Conference of African Ministers of Finance,
Planning and Economic Development
 Forty-eighth session

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

Eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union
Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary
Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the
Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
 Addis Ababa, 30 and 31 March 2015

Report of the Committee of Experts

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Committee of Experts of the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Addis Ababa from 25 to 27 March 2015.

Part One

I. Opening of the meeting [agenda item 1]

A. Attendance

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

* The Specialized Technical Committee replaces the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF) and the Conference of African Ministers of Integration (COMAI). The Specialized Technical Committee brings together ministers of finance, monetary affairs, economic planning and integration.

3. The following regional economic communities were represented: Central African Economic and Monetary Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, Economic Community of West African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Southern African Development Community.

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, , United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Office to the African Union, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

5. The following Member States of the United Nations were represented: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. Representatives of the following bodies were also present: African Development Bank, Central Bank of West African States, Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank, Business Foundation of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development, Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development, Pan-African Postal Union.

7. Observers were present from the following organizations: ActionAid International, Action Jeunesse pour le Développement, African Capacity-Building Foundation, African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), Africa Leadership Forum (ALF), African Monitor, Association of African Universities, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Capacity and Development Services (CAPDEV), Centre for Democratic Development, Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI), Development Initiatives Africa Hub, Development Research and Training, European Union, Fikir Leselam Development Organization, Freann Financial Services Limited, Geological Society of Africa, GK Kanki Foundation, Global Education, Global Fund, Indian Ocean Commission, Information Network Security Agency, Institute for Conscious Global Change, Institute of Development Studies, Integrated Seed Sector Development, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Organization of la Francophonie, International Trade Union Confederation, League of Arab States, MED Confederation, Mzalendo Trust, National Bureau of Statistics, Nurses Across the Borders, Ohaha Family Foundation, ONE Campaign, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, Overseas Development Institute, Oxfam International, Plan International,

RMA Capital, Save the Children, Statistics South Africa, Third World Network (TWN), Transparency International Cameroon, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), University of Cape Town, University of Münster, University of Oxford, University of Waterloo, West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, World Vision International, World Wide Fund for Nature, World Wide Web Foundation.

B. Opening statements

8. The opening session was chaired by Mr. Bouh Sid'Ahmed, First Vice-Chair of the outgoing Bureau, Technical Adviser at the Ministry of Finance of Mauritania. Opening statements were made by Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union; Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA; and Mr. Abraham Tekeste, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia.

9. In his statement, Mr. Maruping expressed thanks to representatives for their attendance and to the Government of Ethiopia for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegations. He noted the importance of the meeting in moving towards the finalization of the first ten-year plan of Africa's strategic structural transformation framework adopted by the Assembly of the African Union: the African Agenda 2063. He stressed that African countries were committed to the structural transformation of their economies according to their own designs and adhering to their own set of priorities to realize the aspiration of their citizenry via the adoption of Agenda 2063, adding that the process would require collective action to ensure proper planning at the national, regional and continental levels, the mobilization of all stakeholders, and sustainable financing plans.

10. He noted the relevance of the discussion on Agenda 2063 at a time when the world was preparing for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015. He urged the Committee to ensure that it prepared effectively and wisely to ensure that Africa's voice could be heard, heeded and fully appreciated during the second and third sessions for the drafting of the outcome document of the third Conference on Sustainable Development, to take place in April and June respectively, and during the Conference itself.

11. He indicated that implementation of Agenda 2063 would also require international finance, reform of the international trading system and technology, innovation and capacity development, while ensuring that external debt loads were sustainable. He also stressed the need for accurate statistics in order for African countries to plan, monitor and evaluate their structural transformation programmes.

12. He applauded the African leadership for establishing, in 2008, the tripartite free trade area covering the countries of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC). He considered that action an important milestone in the integration process and called upon other regional economic communities to emulate the initiative.

13. Mr. Hamdok expressed appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its contribution to the organization of the meeting and its support for the Economic Commission for Africa in that process. He highlighted the impressive growth that Ethiopia had achieved, which reflected the broader progress made across Africa over the last two decades. He identified

favourable factors such as a rising middle class, stronger macroeconomic management and development planning and high commodity prices as key drivers of that growth. In spite of adverse events such as the Ebola crisis and the contraction in emerging markets, the medium-term outlook for Africa remained strong.

14. That said, however, growth on the continent had not translated into job creation; in most cases it had exacerbated inequalities, and generally had not been inclusive. African economies were still largely characterized by low-value economic activity, which impeded both participation in regional and global value chains and sustainable economic growth. Drawing attention to the importance of structural transformation for economic development and recognizing that free markets alone would not be sufficient in that process, he argued for the need for long-term development planning.

15. He stressed the importance of all stakeholders working towards tackling the challenges of implementing Agenda 2063, particularly through active participation in the forthcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development. He reminded participants that the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda had emerged from a collaborative region-wide effort. He hoped that actionable recommendations and specific strategies for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063 would emerge from the present meeting, particularly those encompassing mobilization initiatives, partnerships and compacts.

16. Mr. Tekeste, speaking on behalf of his country's federal authorities, welcomed participants to Ethiopia and to the meeting of the Committee of Experts. He congratulated the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa for organizing the meeting, which allowed for reflection on important continental matters. He noted that Agenda 2063 set a new vision for the continent with important implications in the areas of development planning citizen mobilization and financing for development. He noted that African financing needs were considerable, especially for regional integration, intra-African trade and infrastructure. He emphasized the importance of Africa tapping into its own pool of wealth to finance its agendas, particularly Agenda 2063.

17. In that context, he proposed concerted efforts towards securing finance and more effective and inclusive ways of channelling funds to where they could be most effective and to currently hard-to-reach markets. That would require a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy targeting Africa's significant untapped resources that could cover critical investment needs in the areas of skills development, economic transformation and infrastructure development. In addition, it was necessary to integrate policy frameworks; specifically, Agenda 2063, into national and regional development plans, strategies and other initiatives, in order to ensure that African countries' goals were achieved and their aspirations were met.

18. Engagement with the private sector was pivotal for the success of Agenda 2063, as was ownership by all stakeholders, including young people, women and the diaspora. He called for action to ensure an enabling domestic environment for active public participation aligned with global sustainable development principles, including respect for human rights, inclusiveness and climate change adaptation and mitigation. He encouraged stakeholders to tap into international resources and ensure that Africa's voice was heard and strengthened in global policy development arenas, taking into account the specific needs and concerns of the continent. He stressed that deliberations at the present meeting would underpin the implementation of Agenda 2063 and be taken forward to the third International Conference on

Financing for Development, which he urged participants to attend. He reiterated the firm commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to Agenda 2063.

II. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work [agenda item 2]

19. The following countries were unanimously elected by the Committee to form the new Bureau:

Chair: United Republic of Tanzania

First Vice-Chair: Egypt

Second Vice-Chair: Gabon

Third Vice-Chair: South Africa

Rapporteur: Guinea

20. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work
3. Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa
4. Intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda
5. Data revolution
6. Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa
7. Presentation on the theme of the Conference: “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development”
8. Follow-up actions on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
9. Statutory issues
10. Other matters
11. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts and the draft resolutions
12. Closing of the meeting

Part Two: Account of proceedings

III. Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa [agenda item 3]

A. Presentation

21. The representative of the secretariat provided an overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa, highlighting the main messages from document E/ECA/COE/34/3-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/3(I). He said that Africa’s growth prospects remained strong (with growth of 5 per cent on average) and that the continent was making economic and social progress, despite regional and global challenges. The continent’s remarkable growth was underpinned by improved governance and macroeconomic

management, a growing middle class and rising aggregate demand, diversified trade and investment ties with emerging partners, and improved regional integration and diversified trade partnerships within the continent. In the medium term, however, the continent was vulnerable to downside risks related to falling commodity prices and the weak economic recovery of developed countries.

22. In terms of social development, Africa was continuing to make progress in areas such as poverty reduction, gender parity, representation of women in parliament, and health; however, underlying fundamentals to support long-term growth and structural transformation, such as high-quality education, remained inadequate. Despite the continent's robust economic performance over the past decade, strong growth had not been able to reduce widespread poverty and create decent jobs for the continent's youthful population. If that continued, the continent would be unable to take full advantage of its demographic dividend and achieve its development potential during the following decade.

23. Africa's sustainable development required an increased focus on structural transformation and inclusive growth, through productive capacity underpinned by value addition and beneficiation of commodities and natural resources. In that regard, the continent should adopt policies to improve its business environment, close its human and infrastructure gap, reduce its financing gap by taking advantage of domestic resource mobilization, and foster competitive sectors by shifting labour from low-productivity sectors to higher productivity sectors such as industry.

B. Discussion

24. In the ensuing discussion, participants said that growth in Africa had been characterized by high levels of disparities between countries, low productivity and few employment opportunities. More emphasis should be placed on improving the continent's economic and social infrastructure, with a view to encouraging private investors and tackling the impediments to private sector development and regional integration. There was also a need for social indicators to be developed, in particular those regarding the labour market, to enable the continent to produce accurate statistics on the labour market and to formulate adequate education policies, which were important because educational outcomes affected social inclusion and structural transformation. Participants agreed on the critical need to make the most of the continent's demographic dividend. They also discussed the accuracy of certain indicators and highlighted the need for the continent to set up an alert mechanism to anticipate crises and measure the impact on African economies (to be known as the Observatory of Economic Development), and the quality and sustainability of Africa's current growth and economic performance, with a view to identifying how to achieve the continent's full potential and ensure that growth was inclusive.

C. Recommendations

25. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) African countries should build on the progress made so far and continue establishing robust institutions that improve the business environment and promote economic governance and macroeconomic management, with a view to increasing resilience to external shocks;

(b) African countries should develop strategies to close the human capital gap and should implement education policies that will ensure that young Africans are equipped with the skills that the labour market needs, in order to make the most of the demographic dividend and ensure equal opportunities for all Africans;

(c) An early-warning mechanism should be set up (to be known as the Observatory of Economic Development), to anticipate crises and assess their potential impact on African countries;

(d) African countries should improve their physical infrastructure, in particular in the transport and energy sectors, to reduce the continent's infrastructure deficit, with a view to boosting intra-African trade, encouraging private investment and strengthening the processing sector, through effective structural transformation strategies.

IV. Intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda [agenda item 4]

A. Presentation

26. The representative of the secretariat gave a brief overview of the consultation process that led to the formulation of the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda and its adoption by the Assembly of the African Union at its session held in January 2014. He compared the priority areas of the common position with those included in the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and showed that there was substantial convergence between the priorities identified in both documents.

27. He also compared the six essential elements for delivering on the sustainable development goals identified in the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda with the priorities set forth in the common position, indicating that science and technology were not included among the six elements identified in the Secretary-General's report, and were only mentioned in the section entitled "Mobilizing the means to implement our agenda". He also noted that, in the section dealing with justice, the Secretary-General's report focused on the rebuilding of societies crises and conflicts, while the common position emphasized prevention and the root causes of conflict. He compared the common African position with the positions of various countries on the post-2015 development agenda.

28. He presented the road map proposed by the co-chairs of the intergovernmental negotiation on the post-2015 development agenda and the road map for the development of indicators and monitoring mechanisms for the sustainable development goals. An African group of negotiators on the post-2015 development agenda had been established to coordinate efforts and ensure that Africa spoke with one voice, and to forge alliances with other regions with the ultimate goal of ensuring that Africa's priorities were integrated into the post-2015 agenda.

29. He also underscored the need for national consultations on the development of indicators for the sustainable development goals, culminating in a continental consultation on the topic that reflected African priorities and that would inform the final discussions on the development of indicators for the sustainable development goals.

B. Discussion

30. In the ensuing discussion, various participants highlighted the link between the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063. They enquired about the elements from the common African position that had been reflected in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. They noted that it was also important to highlight the areas of divergence between the two instruments and to develop strategies to ensure that African negotiators spoke with one voice on the issues highlighted in the common African position. They underlined the need for more clarification and a deeper discussion on the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, including goals, targets and indicators, and called for the sharing of documentation relating to the process and the outcomes of those negotiations.

31. Other participants raised the issue of the development of indicators for the post-2015 development agenda and underscored the need to support countries in that regard. As part of the programme of action with regard to the indicators, a pan-African consultation on targets and indicators was scheduled to take place in May 2015 to ensure that they reflected Africa's key priorities.

C. Recommendations

32. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) The African Union Commission should keep countries informed about the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda;

(b) Member States should strengthen the capacity of African statisticians to formulate, apply and evaluate indicators. A regional mechanism should also be established for the development of indicators;

(c) Member States should conclude the sustainable development goals indicators urgently to meet the 2016 United Nations Statistical Commission deadline;

(d) Member States should take an active part in the formulation of targets and indicators for the sustainable development goals by organizing national consultations with stakeholders and participating in the continental consultation for the formulation of indicators that reflect Africa's priorities in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

(e) The African group of negotiators should speak with one voice, coordinate its efforts and adopt a strategy to ensure that the common African position is reflected fully in the outcome document on the post-2015 development agenda;

(f) All member States should support the African negotiators on the post-2015 development agenda.

V. Data revolution [agenda item 5]

A. Presentation

33. The representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the data revolution in Africa, structured around the following elements: update on the development of statistics in

Africa; status of implementation of the African Charter on Statistics; status of implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa; update on the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics, to be based in Tunisia, and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, to be based in Yamoussoukro; and data revolution in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

34. He said that great strides had been made in many areas of statistics in Africa, but that several challenges remained, including the lack of political will, inefficient resource allocation and weak capacities of national statistical systems. The African Charter on Statistics had entered into force, following ratification by 16 countries since April 2014, with 22 countries yet to sign or ratify it. He underscored the need to continue calling upon all African countries to ratify the Charter and to align their national statistical laws and strategies for the development of statistics with the principles of the Charter.

35. He also highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. Several working groups had made significant progress in various areas, including statistics on governance, peace and security, with the establishment of the City Group on Governance Statistics by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session; the 2010 round of the general population and housing census; the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme; the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics; the Yamoussoukro Declaration, adopted in February 2015 at the third Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, on the institutionalization of 2015–2024 as the decade of civil registration and vital statistics in Africa; and the establishment of an Africa Day of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

36. He informed the meeting about the progress made toward establishing the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre. The African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Governments of Tunisia and Côte d'Ivoire, was to fast-track the process by allocating equipment and financial resources for their operationalization.

37. He also highlighted the importance of a data revolution, which would enable Africa to produce quality data and timely indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063. The data revolution would broaden the scope of what might be termed the “data ecosystems” in African countries.

B. Discussion

38. In the ensuing discussion, participants re-emphasized the role of and the need for reliable and credible data, particularly in the context of Agenda 2063. They observed that progress had been made in the development of governance indicators, but that much remained to be done in the area of national accounts. They highlighted the importance of institutional and human capacity, data quality, data standardization and statistical policy harmonization across the continent, and stressed the importance of full implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. A data revolution was of relevance for the closing of data gaps and streamlining of data sources of varying degrees of quality and reliability. The data revolution would also allow for the harnessing of new technologies and partnerships to close data gaps and needs in an innovative manner. It was important, however, to ensure that the concept of a data revolution was fully understood by all concerned. A high-level

conference would be held as part of the present joint meetings, from 27 to 29 March 2015, to reach a consensus on the definition of Africa's new data ecosystem.

39. One of the main challenges raised was the limited staffing for the handling of civil registration and vital statistics at both the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission. That challenge was being addressed by leveraging the knowledge of a core group of experts on civil registration and vital statistics, with support from the Government of South Africa. The low priority given to the generation, analysis and dissemination of statistics at the national level was also highlighted.

40. Participants discussed progress in the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre in the context of the harmonization and coordination of statistics and the strengthening of statistical capacity at the local, national, subregional and regional levels. The establishment of those institutions had been based on decisions adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its sessions held in January 2013 and January 2014, respectively. Participants noted that significant progress had been made toward operationalizing both the Institute and the Training Centre, and called for support for both institutions.

C. Recommendations

41. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) African countries that have not done so should fast-track the signing, ratification and domestication of the African Charter on Statistics;

(b) The Yamoussoukro Declaration on the institutionalization of 2015–2024 as the decade for repositioning civil registration and vital statistics in Africa's continental, regional and national development agenda should be implemented by countries;

(c) Individual countries should conduct the 2020 round of population censuses in a timely manner to ensure coherence and comparability with other countries;

(d) Countries should implement the African programme for the generation of governance, peace and security statistics, and the African Union Commission should ensure that it is integrated into the African Peer Review Mechanism;

(e) Countries should implement the Ouagadougou decision of 2004 on labour market measurements and the improvement of statistics on informal and private sector investment;

(f) The Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission should urgently strengthen their internal capacity to implement the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, and should be supported by partners in this endeavour;

(g) The African Union Commission should accelerate the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre and the strengthening of existing statistical training centres to ensure better coordination and harmonization of statistics in Africa;

(h) The Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia should allocate adequate resources and equipment for the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre;

(i) The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should lead the mobilization of resources for civil registration and vital statistics.

VI. Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa [agenda item 6]

A. Presentation

42. The representative of the secretariat outlined the current status of regional integration, focusing particularly on infrastructure development. He observed that tremendous efforts had been made by all the regional economic communities in the area of regional integration. Some regional economic communities had gone further and signed a charter on economic and monetary integration.

43. Despite the achievements, he stressed that the implementation of regional integration continued to face both traditional and emerging challenges, such as poor infrastructure, poor governance, concerns over sovereignty, overlapping memberships of regional economic communities, and emerging epidemics, such as Ebola, which had severely affected West African countries. In response to those challenges, African leaders had taken strong positions, including the decision taken in April 2013 in Port Louis at the sixth African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Regional Integration, which called upon the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to take the necessary steps to accelerate the regional integration agenda.

44. He also emphasized that infrastructure was key to accelerating regional integration and economic growth in Africa. In that respect, he stressed the importance of implementing regional and continental initiatives such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. He observed that there was a mismatch between infrastructure investment needs and the resources available. In view of that mismatch, he called upon African Governments to support and enhance the initiatives on innovative sources of financing, such as levying taxes on airline tickets, hotel bills and financial transactions.

B. Discussion

45. There was general agreement that regional integration would not be achieved without political will. The meeting heard that many decisions on regional integration had already been adopted by African leaders, but had not been implemented at the regional and national level. To address that challenge, the domestication of integration decisions agreed at both the regional and the continental level into national strategic plans was said to be critical. There were also calls for the implementation of regional integration initiatives to be accelerated, including the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. Furthermore, it was noted that attainment of the regional integration agenda was being negatively affected by the criteria set for assessing regional integration at both the regional and the continental level. Some of the targets that had been set for economic indicators were not realistic and needed to be revised.

46. Funding regional integration activities and programmes, particularly in infrastructure, remained a key challenge. Domestic resource mobilization would not meet all the infrastructure financing needs in Africa. Finding alternative sources for the financing of infrastructure development was described as crucial. South–South cooperation also had a key role to play in supporting the financing of infrastructure development. However, coordination remained a concern that needed to be addressed. In addition, a suggestion was made for African central banks to take an active role in mobilizing funds to finance infrastructure development. In an effort to mobilize more funds, it was reported that Guinea, the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme planned to organize a forum to map out resources to support attainment of the goals of the post-2015 development agenda.

47. Limited capacity for regional integration at the national level remained a challenge as far as the negotiation and implementation of regional and national initiatives on integration were concerned. It was reported that a number of countries were not fully aware of some of the decisions that had been taken at the continental and regional levels with regard to integration. The need was therefore highlighted for member States to enhance awareness of regional integration issues at the national level, including via education and training. Some countries had already introduced initiatives to raise citizens' awareness of the benefits of regional integration. In addition, the need for quality data for the effective monitoring and assessment of regional integration issues was emphasized. On that matter, participants underscored the important role of intensive dialogue among pan-African institutions, such as the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme in enhancing the collection and analysis of data.

C. Recommendations

48. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) Member States should enhance knowledge-sharing, including education and training, on regional integration issues with key stakeholders;

(b) Member States should support and enhance the initiatives on innovative sources of financing, as decided by the Assembly of the African Union at its January 2015 session;

(c) African central banks should take an active role in supporting Governments in the mobilization of resources for regional integration initiatives, particularly in infrastructure, using appropriate monetary and credit policies;

(d) The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should strengthen the collection of data, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, business and industry structure, production and consumption, and the use of the International Comparison Programme, which provides information on consumption in Africa;

(e) Regional economic communities should revise the indicators used for assessing regional integration;

(f) The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and member States should strengthen South–South cooperation and triangular cooperation in order to support African integration.

VII. Presentation and discussion on the theme of the Conference: “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development” [agenda item 7]

A. Presentation

49. Mr. Christopher Kachiza, Acting Director of Strategic Planning, African Union Commission, made presentations on the issues paper on the theme of the Conference, “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development”; on the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063; and on the financing and domestic resource mobilization strategy.

50. His first presentation provided the background to the development of Agenda 2063. That process had been guided by the African Union Vision and the solemn declarations adopted by the Assembly of the African Union during the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity. He defined Agenda 2063 as a strategic framework for the socioeconomic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years, which built on and sought to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development. It was a vision, a transformational framework and a plan, building on past frameworks to position the continent in the changing global context.

51. Agenda 2063 sought to harness the continent’s competitive advantages to eradicate poverty, while establishing enduring peace and stability and empowering women and young people. The initiative had been developed through wide consultations with stakeholders in various sectors on the continent. Agenda 2063 comprised a framework document and its popular version, which had been adopted by the Assembly of the African Union in January 2015, together with its first 10-year implementation plan, which was being developed for presentation to policy organs in June 2015. The implementation plan was built on seven aspirations shaped by the consultations and the technical studies that had been conducted. There were goals and priority areas for each aspiration to facilitate integration into the existing frameworks. The framework consisted of six chapters, ranging from a situation analysis to risks and mitigating strategies.

52. In the second presentation, he provided information on the progress made to date in the preparation of the draft 10-year plan, presented the structure and scope of the plan and the way forward for the completion of the draft. The plan was being developed pursuant to a directive from the African Union Executive Council. It consisted of priority areas, specific targets, indicative strategies, policy measures and the roles and responsibilities at the national, regional and continental levels to guide all stakeholders for the first 10 years of the implementation of Agenda 2063. The plan identified the key success factors and risks, and also mitigating strategies. It was built on the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity, accountability and transparency. Monitoring and evaluation constituted a key element of the plan, together with the imperative need to identify the skills required to implement the plan and the skills shortages that must be filled. Consultations with stakeholders had commenced,

with a view to facilitating the adaptation of Agenda 2063 to national conditions and its implementation.

53. In the third presentation, he noted that the financing strategy took cognizance of ongoing and recently concluded domestic resource mobilization studies and initiatives. Those included the proposals of the High-level Panel on Alternative Sources of Funding for the African Union, led by the former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo; the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, led by the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki; the study on mobilizing domestic financial resources for implementing NEPAD national and regional programmes; and the African Union Commission's resource mobilization strategy.

54. The strategy recognized that the landscape for development finance had changed dramatically over the past decade, in terms of its actors, driving forces and financing instruments. Those instruments had evolved both institutionally and strategically from the traditional mechanisms of development cooperation, transforming development finance into a multipolar arena. The strategy had also prepared and categorized potential uses of funds and the corresponding resource mobilization and mediation vehicles, together with the actions to be taken to realize the specific domestic resource mobilization activity.

55. He outlined the challenges to unlocking financing, as well as the existing financing vehicles and institutional arrangements. Given their size and complexity, the financing needs of Agenda 2063 required Africa to consider the domestic and international financial markets as alternative sources of finance for most of its large-scale industrial projects, infrastructure projects and trade finance lines of credit.

56. Following those presentations, the representatives of Mauritania and the Economic Community of West African States presented subregional perspectives on Agenda 2063 for North and West Africa respectively. The representative of Mauritania noted that Agenda 2063 had been discussed at the previous meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for North Africa, held in Rabat in March 2015. The Committee had underscored the strategic dimension of the 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and identified financing as a critical constraint on its implementation. It had suggested a number of measures to overcome that constraint, including reforms of national financial systems to enhance the capacity of member States to mobilize savings and diversification of the sources of financing for development with particular attention to domestic resource mobilization. The Committee had urged external partners to fulfil their official development assistance commitments and recommended the creation of a financing fund for Agenda 2063 and the development of innovative sources of financing.

57. The representative of the Economic Community of West African States outlined factors that would have a positive impact on the implementation of Agenda 2063, including: strong statistical and development planning systems at the national level; sound monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and strong domestic resource mobilization capacities. He also underscored the importance of institutional settings at the national level, noting that countries required coordination at the ministerial level to ensure coherence among all ministries involved in the implementation of development plans and strategies.

B. Discussion

58. In the ensuing discussion, participants commended the presenter on the quality and comprehensiveness of his presentations. They noted that the framework document of Agenda 2063 had been adopted by the Assembly of the African Union. The current deliberations were therefore not intended to revise the document but to provide inputs for the first 10-year implementation plan, which was being elaborated. Several issues relating to the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 were discussed, most of which revolved around the role of statistics, monitoring and evaluation, capacity-building, and alignment of the continental plan with national and regional development plans. Participants agreed that member States should own and lead the implementation of the Agenda, and that this would compel the regional economic communities to align their actions accordingly. They also mentioned the pertinence of empowering key stakeholders in the implementation of the Agenda. Other areas covered during the discussion included the role of youth and gender empowerment, research and development, communications, and risk mitigation.

59. Participants highlighted the importance of adopting balanced economic and social policies, and of ensuring that policies were flexible and dynamic to allow for adjustments, in the light of any new developments.

60. Participants underscored the importance of data and data analysis for development, and stressed that decisions on Agenda 2063 should be anchored on credible evidence. There was therefore a need to support initiatives to strengthen African statistical capacity. It was essential to establish baseline information on priority areas of Agenda 2063, as that would enable progress in its implementation to be measured in a credible manner. That required the articulation of relevant indicators through an inclusive process involving all major stakeholders. It was acknowledged that African countries differed in their level of social and economic development; Agenda 2063 therefore had to be implemented in a flexible manner. Countries had to adopt policies that were appropriate to their specificities, with a view to achieving the goals of Agenda 2063.

61. An in-depth discussion on monitoring and evaluating Agenda 2063 followed, in which participants emphasized the need for a clearly defined methodology to monitor and evaluate the continental plan. They underscored the necessity of periodically assessing the alignment of national and regional development strategies with Agenda 2063. In that regard, they expressed the view that member States and regional economic communities should include activities that would contribute to achieving the goals of Agenda 2063 in their development plans. In essence, the criteria to measure the alignment of Agenda 2063 with national and regional plans, as well as an accompanying monitoring framework, had to be elaborated. Participants stressed the need to be realistic in setting time frames for achieving the goals of Africa's development plans and cautioned against setting time frames that were unlikely to be met, thereby damaging the credibility of such plans. Some participants expressed the view that a time frame of 10 years was too long for an implementation plan, and others pointed out the need for effective coordination of all stakeholders at national and regional levels in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

62. Participants emphasized the need to critically review past and ongoing development initiatives in Africa, such as the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa, the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), among others, and to use lessons from those initiatives

in preparing the implementation plan for Agenda 2063. That would help to avoid duplication of efforts and the waste of scarce resources. They noted that two of the fifty years of the Agenda had already elapsed and underscored the need to accelerate the preparation of the first 10-year implementation plan.

63. The importance of developing a communications strategy for Agenda 2063 was highlighted. Participants pointed out that the Agenda had to be internalized in member States, since member States were central to its implementation. That called for an awareness-raising campaign to mobilize national support, from the public and private sectors, for its implementation. Overall, a good communication plan was critical for ownership of Agenda 2063 at the national and regional levels.

64. Participants identified capacity-building by member States, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission as critical to the implementation of Agenda 2063. They also noted that the extent to which countries required capacity-building varied across the continent in the light of differences in countries' levels of social and economic development. Hence, a uniform approach to capacity-building was unlikely to be successful on the continent. Participants identified statistics, development planning and negotiations as critical areas where capacity-building was required in order to enhance existing skills on the continent. Weak institutional capacities and the lack of reliable statistics hindered countries from formulating sound and effective development plans and from tracking their progress towards inclusive growth and economic transformation. In that regard, national statistics offices had to be strengthened to ensure their ability to generate timely, reliable and disaggregated statistics. Development planning skills were needed to ensure the sustainability of Agenda 2063, as the initiative would only be sustainable if results were locally owned and could be replicated and scaled up by member States. In terms of negotiating skills, member States and institutions tasked with planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Agenda 2063 had to develop and strengthen their human and institutional capacities to better negotiate with partner institutions and Governments on matters relating to the continent's development agenda.

65. Overall, participants agreed that implementation of Agenda 2063 could be a challenging endeavour. To facilitate the process, member States had to play a leadership role, starting with the alignment of their medium-term and long-term national development planning frameworks with the Agenda. For some countries, that should be a relatively straightforward task, since the aspirations of the Agenda were similar to theirs. That might, however, pose a challenge to countries that lacked the capacity to undertake the alignment exercise. It also required them to adopt a comprehensive approach to development. To be effective, the domestication and alignment efforts should be extended to the district level, where the bulk of the population lived.

66. It was noted that the principle of subsidiarity would be applied in implementing Agenda 2063. Based on that principle, action would be taken by member States at the national level, by the regional economic communities at the subregional level, and by the African Union Commission at the continental level. Research and development were also identified as critical to the achievement of the objectives of Agenda 2063. Those objectives could only be achieved, however, if peace and security prevailed on the continent. In that regard, the flagship programme of Agenda 2063 that aimed to end armed conflicts by 2020 was commendable, especially as it focused on women and girls, who were particularly vulnerable to wars and conflicts.

67. Participants recognized the importance of the aspiration in Agenda 2063 that called for an Africa whose development was people-driven, one that relied on the potential of its people, particularly its young people and women, and one with well-cared-for children. They acknowledged that women's empowerment and gender equality were important dimensions of the Agenda, and emphasized the need to ensure that women's organizations were consulted and the needs and priorities of women taken into account in the development of the 10-year action plan for the implementation of the Agenda. Those needs and priorities also had to be factored into the goals, priority areas, targets and indicators of the African structural transformation framework.

68. Given the long-term horizon of Agenda 2063, participants emphasized the need to pay special attention to young people and children in the 10-year action plan for its implementation, considering that harnessing Africa's demographic dividend was an important dimension of the Agenda.

69. Participants recognized that the ability to mobilize resources for the implementation of development plans varied among African countries. Regarding public financial management, they underscored the need to reduce leakages caused by inefficiency and to optimize the mobilization of resources. That could be achieved by improving transparency and accountability through appropriate budgetary standards and government procurement practices. Countries were encouraged to leverage partner support to complement their domestic resources. The important role of the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, was highlighted by participants, who also stressed the need to create an enabling environment for both local and foreign private sector activity. The lack of available and accessible credit, both short and long term, was noted as a constraint to private sector development in Africa. Pan-African financial institutions, central banks and international financial institutions could all play a role in addressing that constraint, including through mechanisms such as guaranteed funds and support for public-private partnerships.

70. Participants emphasized the role of central banks in financing development. While recognizing that the actions of central banks had been limited by national legislation in the past, they also recognized the relevance of extending the role of the central banks from that of merely ensuring price stability to that of promoting employment and growth. Similarly, Africa needed not only to create new financial institutions but also to strengthen the existing ones and to set up mechanisms for their coordination. Some participants expressed the view that central banks should engage in dialogue on monetary cooperation and coordinate financing for development with other African financial institutions. It was noted that huge illicit financial flows were leaving the continent every year and that mechanisms should be put in place to limit such flows. The recovered funds should be directed to project financing.

71. Lastly, participants emphasized the crucial need for African countries to improve their domestic resource mobilization, including by expanding their tax base and improving their tax collection systems. They appreciated the focus on domestic resource mobilization and emphasized that all resources, whether mobilized internally or externally, should be allocated to projects and programmes covering the aspirations of Agenda 2063, including the empowerment of young people and women.

C. Recommendations

72. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) The African Union Commission should ensure that the selection criteria for projects in the 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 are determined through an inclusive process and taking into account geographical balance. All stakeholders, including women's, young people's and children's organizations, should be involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the action plan and have their specific needs reflected in the plan;

(b) The 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 should be disaggregated to highlight bankable projects at the continental, regional and national levels, and should include annual and medium-term implementation benchmarks;

(c) Expert meetings and ministerial committee meetings should be held to review the implementation and financing plans of the flagship projects prior to their submission to the Assembly of the African Union;

(d) The African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and member States should develop strategies to mitigate risks such as wars and conflicts that divert resources from development projects;

(e) The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa should take the lead in evaluating past and existing development frameworks and should draw lessons from that exercise for the implementation of Agenda 2063;

(f) Member States and the regional economic communities should integrate Agenda 2063 into their national and regional development plans respectively, and should report, on an annual or a biennial basis, on progress made in the implementation of the Agenda. In this regard, they should define outputs that would help in achieving the goals of the Agenda and recommend projects to be included in the 10-year plan for the implementation of the Agenda;

(g) The capacity of the African Union Commission should be strengthened to ensure effective coordination of the implementation of Agenda 2063;

(h) The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with member States, should address identified capacity gaps;

(i) Member States and regional economic communities should accord more attention to the establishment of enablers for mobilizing and financing development in line with the principle of subsidiarity, specifically, measures to accelerate the following efforts need to be prioritized: trade facilitation; financial market deepening and broadening; the preparation of bankable projects; and the production and use of labour market statistics;

(j) The African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the member States, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, African stakeholders and external partners, should work on a strategy for financing, and mobilizing domestic resources for, Agenda 2063, and should implement the strategy expeditiously;

(k) The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should support the efforts of member States to strengthen their

national development planning and management systems, which are essential for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063;

(l) The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa should mobilize the resources needed to come up with and implement strategies to popularize and raise awareness of Agenda 2063 among member States, with a view to encouraging all national stakeholders to take ownership of the Agenda.

VIII. Follow-up actions to the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 [agenda item 8]

A. Presentation

73. The representative of Zambia, as the Chair of the group of landlocked developing countries, made a statement about the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, which had been adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014.

74. He noted the special challenges associated with landlocked developing countries' lack of direct territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets. He invited member States, international, regional and subregional organizations and other stakeholders to implement actions outlined in the Vienna Programme of Action in the following six priority areas: fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance; international trade and trade facilitation; regional integration and cooperation; structural economic transformation; and means of implementation.

75. He called upon member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation. He reiterated the call, made in paragraph 75 of the Programme of Action, to regional economic commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to mainstream agreed actions into their programmes of work, as appropriate and within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

76. He also called upon the African Union Commission to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into its programme of work for Agenda 2063 with regard to infrastructure, the flagship projects and, in particular, the high-speed train project, to improve the connectivity of landlocked developing countries and their access to the sea in order to facilitate international trade and regional integration and cooperation.

77. Finally, he expressed confidence that member States, the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa would act upon the call made to them in that regard and take the necessary actions in support of Africa's social and economic transformation as articulated in Agenda 2063.

B. Discussion

78. Participants commended Zambia on its statement on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and expressed their support for the initiative.

C. Recommendations

79. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

(a) The 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 should incorporate the measures set out in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, in line with the following six priority areas:

- (i) Fundamental transit policy issues;
- (ii) Infrastructure development and maintenance;
- (iii) International trade and trade facilitation;
- (iv) Regional integration and cooperation;
- (v) Structural economic transformation;
- (vi) Means of implementation.

IX. Statutory issues [agenda item 9]

A. African Union Commission statutory issues

1. Presentation

80. The representative of the secretariat presented the statutory issues of the African Union, as detailed below.

(a) Rules of procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration

81. He presented the rules of procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, pointing out that the Committee was one of 14 specialized technical committees established by the Executive Council of the African Union. The committees were all organs of the African Union and as such they should operate according to the rules of procedure to be adopted by the Executive Council. The rules of procedure of the various committees consisted of 33 similar articles, with the exception of article 5, which related to their power and functions.

(b) Progress report on the establishment of the African Union financial institutions and the study on the feasibility of a pan-African stock exchange

82. Recalling the provisions of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (also known as the Abuja Treaty) and the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the African Union financial institutions, he stressed the objective and activities to be carried

out by the African Investment Bank, the African Monetary Fund, the African Central Bank and the pan-African stock exchange. He drew attention to the challenges faced and called upon member States to take appropriate measures with a view to speeding up the establishment of the institutions.

(c) Briefing on the outcome document of the African Private Sector Forum

83. He described the objective of the African Private Sector Forum and the outcome of the seventh edition of the Forum, held from 3 to 5 December 2014 in Nairobi. At the Forum, participants had called upon the African Union Commission to create an innovative platform for public–private dialogue, which would build on public–private dialogue schemes already in place at the local, national and regional levels, as highlighted in the study on private sector dynamics in regional economic integration and free trade agreements, which was carried out by the African Union Commission and the European Union. Participants had also called upon African countries to design special policies to facilitate the access of small and medium enterprises to private equity investment facilities and to encourage the creation of compartments for small and medium enterprises in national and regional stock exchanges.

(d) Preparation of the common African position on financing for development

84. He recalled that, as part of the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the African Union Commission was drafting a common African position based on the perspective paper of the African group of negotiators. The perspective paper emphasized that the Addis Ababa outcome document on financing for development should include significant financial and non-financial commitments to be mobilized from a variety of sources, as well as other forms of commitments to address, among other things, issues of infrastructure, industrial diversification, trade, economic transformation, rural development and agriculture, education, health, women and young people, children, debt cancellation and alleviation, technology facilitation mechanisms, capacity-building, repatriation of illicit financial flows, reform of global governance institutions for economy and finance, strengthening cooperation in the fields of taxation, volatility of commodity prices, exchange rates, and the data revolution, with a view to supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve the sustainable development goals.

(e) Report of the meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs

85. He presented the outcome document of the sixth ordinary meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs, which had been held in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 September 2014. He emphasized the need for the Subcommittee to present its report to both ministers of trade and ministers of finance, given that customs departments in Africa had the dual role of collecting revenue and facilitating trade. The Subcommittee had made a number of recommendations concerning the institutional arrangements for the continental free trade area negotiations and the role of the Subcommittee therein; the interconnectivity of computerized customs clearance and information systems; integrity and ethics in customs administrations; and capacity-building in customs administrations for the continental free trade area and regional integration.

(f) Report of the African Risk Capacity Agency

86. Lastly, he presented a report on the work of the African Risk Capacity Agency and the establishment of its financial affiliate, ARC Insurance Company Limited, capitalized at \$200 million. He emphasized that the serious drought in the Sahel had triggered payments totalling \$25 million in January 2015 from the Agency's insurance company to the Governments of Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal, to help them launch immediate relief operations. The responses funded by ARC Insurance Company Limited were already under way. For its part, the United Nations estimated that 50 per cent of the target set in the international appeal for the Sahel, which was launched after the payouts, in the second week of February 2015, would be met by June 2015. Following requests from its 25 member States, ARC Insurance Company Limited would develop insurance products for floods, tropical cyclones, outbreaks of disease and epidemics, which should become available within two years.

2. Discussion

87. In the ensuing discussion, participants stressed the need for the rules of procedure of the Specialized Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration to be examined by legal experts from the ministries of justice of member States. Article 5, on the power and functions of the Committee, was amended. Other provisions were also amended and rephrased.

88. Participants noted that the issues raised had been well synthesized and they applauded the inclusion of new and emerging issues such as technology, innovation, capacity-building, and monitoring and evaluation of data. However, participants underscored the need for the document entitled "Financing for development: Africa's perspectives" to be an ambitious one and called for Africa to be bold during the negotiations. The negotiation process would involve Africa negotiating within the Group of 77 and China prior to the second drafting session of the outcome document for the third International Conference on Financing for Development. Participants also noted that there were some recommendations that had emerged from the regional consultation on financing for development, which was held on 23 and 24 March 2015, that could be used to improve the document on Africa's perspectives.

89. Participants suggested some issues that Africa should address during the negotiations, including the price volatility of natural resources; Africa's participation in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development initiative on fighting international tax evasion and illicit financial flows, in order to improve tax collection in Africa; improving the quality of official development assistance; and climate financing. It was agreed that negotiations on double taxation agreements were being conducted to attract investors and should not be viewed as a drain on financial resources for African member States.

90. Participants took note of the report of the sixth ordinary meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs and emphasized the need for adequate measures to guarantee the integrity and ethics of customs administrations. It was reiterated that the 2015 Africa Governance Day should be dedicated to that issue. They also took note of the report on the establishment of the African Union financial institutions and the study on the feasibility of a pan-African stock exchange.

91. The African Risk Capacity Agency was a cost-effective mechanism for channelling official development assistance, because it had reduced fragmentation with its singularity of

purpose, avoided conditionality because compliance rules were set by its African membership, and ensured predictability thanks to pre-agreed, objective triggers for disbursement. Participants encouraged donors and African countries with means to support disaster risk management and African empowerment on the continent by channelling funds through the Agency, as an efficient African-owned institution. Recognizing the challenge of financing the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063, participants encouraged the African Union Commission and the secretariat of the African Risk Capacity Agency to explore how the Agency's unique public-private partnership structure could be replicated to attract private capital and socially responsible investment for the continent's development agenda, in particular for agricultural, infrastructure and other large-scale projects.

3. Recommendation

92. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation: Customs, central banks and statisticians should work jointly in order to provide a policy-based structure for the economy.

B. Economic Commission for Africa statutory issues

1. Presentation

93. The representative of the secretariat presented a number of statutory reports, including the following: the annual report on the work of the Commission, set out in document E/ECA/COE/34/1; the proposed planned work programme for the period 2016–2017; the report on the outcomes of the survey which the Commission had carried out among its partners, in 2014; the report on the African Social Development Index; the review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action); the progress report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning; the report on United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme; the report on the outcome of the regional consultations on financing for development; and a note on the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

94. The 2015 annual report of the Commission highlighted the main programme activities and achievements of the Commission secretariat from April 2014 to March 2015, including the follow-up to the outcomes and decisions of the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abuja in March 2014. During the year under review, the Economic Commission for Africa had made significant progress on several fronts. Among its achievements were the preparation and launch of several important reports and publications that had helped to shape policy in various areas, including the Economic Report on Africa.

95. Regarding the Commission's proposed planned work programme for the period 2016–2017, the overall objective was to support efforts by African countries to achieve sustained and inclusive growth in order to accelerate the continent's structural transformation, in line with the priorities of NEPAD, the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063.

96. The 2014 survey of the Commission's partners had revealed a favourable perception by partners of the contribution made by the Commission in terms of its influence on policy in

support of Africa's transformation agenda; the credibility and trust that it had demonstrated through the production of high-quality, evidence-based and good-fit policy research and knowledge delivery services; its accountability mechanisms and learning culture; and its operational effectiveness in delivering its knowledge production and capacity development services on time.

97. The strategy for implementing the work programme in 2016–2017 would continue to revolve around nine interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, corresponding to Africa's priorities for structural transformation. The modalities for implementation would include policy research and capacity-building; the collection of high-quality statistics to provide a sound basis for policy formulation, implementation and the tracking of results and impacts; and enhanced partnerships with a wide range of partners.

98. As explained in the report on the African Social Development Index, the index was a tool developed by the Economic Commission for Africa to track progress on inclusiveness across the life cycle and different dimensions of development, at the request of member States. The index aimed to measure the impact of social policies on human exclusion in six areas: survival, health, education, employment, productive income, and decent life. It provided an important policy tool for member States to identify policy gaps and formulate appropriate measures for ensuring that every individual was part of the development process. The index had been piloted in five African countries which provided opportunities to test and further refine the tool, making it more responsive to the needs of member States. A policy mapping framework was being developed to help identify and assess the effectiveness of social policies in reducing human exclusion.

99. The review of the Istanbul Programme of Action observed that African least developed countries had made mixed progress towards the Programme's goals and targets and continued to be confronted with multiple and complex development challenges. The review confirmed the necessity for the development partners of those countries to accord them additional, enhanced, preferential, concessional and most favourable treatment in the areas of finance, technologies, know-how and other resources and differential and flexible treatment in respect of international commitments and obligations that were not commensurate with their capacity, needs and stage of development.

100. The progress report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning for the period from March 2014 to March 2015 highlighted the successful efforts by the Institute to build on its record of the preceding five years with regard to the number and diversity of its courses and the candidates admitted to those courses. The decentralized delivery of the Institute's programmes, which had begun in 2010, had been carried forward in 2014 and the range of its institutional partners had been enlarged in keeping with the strategy of ensuring local presence, visibility and impact across different parts of the African continent. In all, 37 short courses had been organized by the Institute in 2014, drawing a total of nearly 800 participants from 51 member States spread across the five subregions of the African continent.

101. The short courses which the Institute had dispensed in 2014 had included a policy research, fellowship and dialogue portfolio within its overall pedagogical approach. The Institute's portfolio of postgraduate training courses had also been expanded to include new master's degree programmes in development planning, industrial policy and trade policy. The spirit of innovation and outreach that partly underpinned the Institute's 2010–2015 strategic

plan had been carried further in different ways, including the hosting for the first time in the Institute's history of a short course in Arabic, in Cairo, in December 2014. In spite of the challenges which it faced, not least of which was the outbreak of the Ebola virus and a shortfall in the flow of extrabudgetary resources, the Institute had been able to meet its key programme objectives for 2014, posting a 100 per cent record of programme implementation.

102. The report on United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme focused on activities in support of the decisions of the Assembly of the African Union; direct technical assistance to the African Union and its NEPAD programme; and support coordinated through the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in Africa (RCM-Africa), convened by the Economic Commission for Africa.

103. A regional consultation in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development had been held on 23 and 24 March 2015. The consultation had taken place immediately before the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Meeting participants comprised representatives of member States, civil society and the private sector, research institutions, think tanks and regional and multilateral financial institutions. The outcomes of the consultation would feed into the ongoing negotiations by the African group at the United Nations in New York in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015.

104. As discussed in the note prepared by the secretariat, the General Assembly had established the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2013 as the main United Nations platform dealing with sustainable development. The Forum provided political leadership and guidance; followed up and reviewed progress in implementing sustainable development commitments; addressed new and emerging challenges; and enhanced the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In that context, the Assembly had invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the Forum, including through annual regional meetings, involving other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders. To that end, the Economic Commission for Africa and other regional actors, including the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, were called upon to organize an annual multi-stakeholder forum on sustainable development, to be referred to as the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The Regional Forum would provide Africa's collective input to the annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

2. Discussion

105. In the ensuing discussion, participants commended the Commission on its achievements over the past year and the efforts that it had made in preparing a comprehensive work programme for 2016–2017. They commended the focused activities conducted by the Economic Commission for Africa to advance the African agenda. They also noted with appreciation the quality of the Commission's knowledge products and their contribution in informing policy dialogue at the national level. They welcomed the country profile initiative, which could serve as an effective monitoring tool for Agenda 2063, the post-2015

development agenda and the economic transformation of the continent, and expressed interest in extending the publication of country profiles to other countries, suggesting that publication of those profiles should be aligned with the planning and budgeting cycles of member States. In that regard, they called on the Commission to further strengthen its collaboration with member States on data collection. The representative of Guinea commended the Commission in particular on its strong and active involvement in the response by member States to the Ebola crisis, and for its innovative initiatives to that end.

106. On the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, participants reiterated the need to institutionalize the review process for least developed countries and to ensure that it was properly mainstreamed in the Commission's programme of work and in member States' development plans and strategies. On the issue of landlocked developing countries, participants supported the statement made by Zambia as the current Chair of the group of landlocked developing countries concerning follow-up actions to the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, and called upon member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation.

107. With regard to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, participants welcomed the significant progress registered in its work and expressed appreciation for the efforts deployed by its Governing Council and management to further the decentralization of the Institute's programme delivery.

108. On the issue of financing for development, participants emphasized the importance for Africa to have a strong, coordinated and coherent position and made clarifications on the two reports on financing for development – one from the Africa group and the other from the consultative meeting held on 23 and 24 March 2015 – and recalled that the Africa group report, which represented the African position, was a living document that provided the necessary space for negotiation in New York. The Africa group should maintain its position based on the content and scope of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, capture new and emerging issues, and identify obstacles and constraints in assessing progress in financing for development. They stressed that the section on illicit financial flows should include the provision that the money should be returned to the countries of origin without conditionalities.

109. Participants welcomed the establishment by the General Assembly of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the organization of the annual regional multi-stakeholder meetings on sustainable development, which would enable Africa to prepare a collective input to the annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum.

3. Recommendations

110. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) The Economic Commission for Africa should support efforts to align national development planning to Agenda 2063 and organize seminars in various African countries on the domestication of Agenda 2063;

(b) The Economic Commission for Africa should reflect the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries in its programmes of work and ensure that

Agenda 2063 takes into account the special needs of, and provides support to, landlocked and transit African countries;

(c) Member States should mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries in their development plans and strategies;

(d) Member States should endorse the draft document entitled “Financing for development: Africa’s perspectives” as a living document, taking into account inputs from the Chair’s summary of the proceedings of the regional consultations held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015.

X. Other matters [agenda item 10]

111. No other matters were raised at the meeting.

XI. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts and the draft resolutions [agenda item 11]

112. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the draft report of its meeting (as contained in document E/ECA/COE/34/L-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/Draft/Rpt(I), together with nine draft resolutions for consideration and adoption by the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

113. Several participants made comments and observations and proposed amendments to the report as well as to the draft resolutions. After extensive discussions on some of the resolutions, the Committee unanimously adopted the report and the draft resolutions as amended. The resolutions, as amended by the Committee, are attached to the present report for consideration and adoption by the Conference of Ministers.

XII. Closing of the meeting [agenda item 12]

114. Closing remarks were made by Mr. Maruping, Mr. Hamdok and Mr. Hamisi Mwinyimvua (United Republic of Tanzania), Chair of the Bureau. . They all expressed their gratitude to participants for their hard work, their contributions to the discussions during the meeting, and their commitment to the successful implementation of Agenda 2063. They also applauded the strong partnership between the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa, as evidenced by the successful organization of the meeting. Finally, they commended the experts for their professionalism in formulating recommendations on important issues, for consideration and possible approval by their ministers.

115. The Chair then declared the meeting closed.

Annex I

Resolutions

928(XLVIII) Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling decision Assembly/AU/Dec.565(XXIV) adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, in which the Assembly, among other things, adopted the Agenda 2063 framework document and the popular version of Agenda 2063;¹ requested the African Union Commission to intensify measures aimed at popularizing Agenda 2063; further requested member States and the regional economic communities to accelerate the domestication of Agenda 2063 and integrate it into their respective development initiatives and plans; and also requested the African Union Commission to finalize all necessary consultations on the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 with a view to submitting it to the African Union policy organs at their June 2015 meetings,

Appreciating the strong collaboration between the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank in formulating and popularizing Agenda 2063,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made and the measures taken in the elaboration and finalization of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063,

Noting that several member States and regional economic communities are in the process of developing successor plans to their current national and regional development frameworks,

Recognizing the importance of identifying and addressing the capacity requirements for the implementation of Agenda 2063, including the first 10-year implementation plan, and the importance of developing human and institutional capacities, systems and work processes,

Recognizing also the need for solid data, including baseline data, and the institution of periodic reviews, for the tracking of progress, and the need to revitalize and strengthen national statistical and planning systems,

Welcoming the proposed study on capacity needs for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the recognition of the need to build critical skills in statistics, planning, negotiation and other areas,

1. *Urges* the African Union Commission, in the finalization of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063:

- (a) To further improve on the milestones, targets and strategies contained in the plan;
- (b) To explore synergies and opportunities for the harmonization of the objectives, targets and indicators of Agenda 2063 and those of the post-2015 development agenda;
- (c) To establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks;

¹ *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*, third edition, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, January 2015.

(d) To clarify roles and responsibilities and strengthen coordination mechanisms with relevant partners and stakeholders;

(e) To remove and avoid imposing specific targets on public expenditure and to maintain flexibility in fiscal policy and budget allocations in accordance with countries' priorities, specific characteristics and levels of development;

2. *Requests* member States to review the draft 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and provide comments thereon to the African Union Commission by 30 June 2015;

3. *Calls for* the holding of expert meetings and ministerial committee meetings to review the implementation and financing plans of the flagship projects prior to their submission to the Assembly of the African Union;

4. *Urges* member States to take all necessary measures to popularize Agenda 2063 at all levels and to incorporate it into their national plans;

5. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities and other stakeholders to support member States in incorporating Agenda 2063 into their national plans;

6. *Urges* member States, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and all regional and external stakeholders:

(a) To consider the financing of Agenda 2063 in a manner that takes into account, first, domestic resource mobilization; second, the leveraging of existing and new financial intermediation vehicles to be created; and, third, access to finance facilitation resources such as project development funds and guarantee and risk-sharing facilities;

(b) To address the issues of illicit financial flows, natural resource rent maximization and regional capital market development;

(c) To deepen the examination of the strategy for the domestic and external financing of Agenda 2063;

7. *Undertakes* to involve civil society and the private sector in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;

8. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to organize a multi-stakeholder consultation on the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 by 30 September 2015;

9. *Also calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to employ South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063;

10. *Requests* the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish by 31 March 2016 an economic development observatory, mandated with setting in place an early warning system for risks to African economies and proposing measures to mitigate their possible consequences.

929(XLVIII) Third International Conference on Financing for Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Taking note of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/204 of 20 December 2013, on follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014, on modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which calls upon the regional commissions, with the support of regional development banks and other relevant entities, to hold regional consultations, as appropriate, the outcome of which could serve as input to the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Welcoming the steps taken by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session to convene inclusive and transparent intergovernmental consultations, with the participation of major institutional stakeholders, in relation to the financing for development process,

Welcoming also the fact that the third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, and will be at the highest possible political level, attended by Heads of State and Government, relevant ministers, including ministers for finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation, special representatives and other representatives,

Welcoming further the draft document entitled “Financing for development: Africa’s perspectives”,

Noting the contributions of the regional consultation held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015 in the lead-up to the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Noting also the January, April and June 2015 consultations of the negotiation process for the formulation of the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Emphasizing the importance of producing an ambitious outcome document at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular in order to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda,

Stressing that the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development should take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the right to development, while at the same time respecting the development policy space of African countries for the implementation of their poverty eradication and sustainable development programmes,

Highlighting the importance of taking into account the priorities of Africa as identified in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda, the African Agenda 2063 and the continental programmes embedded in the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

1. *Endorses* the draft document entitled "Financing for development: Africa's perspectives" as a living document, taking into account inputs from the Chair's summary of the proceedings of the regional consultations held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015;

2. *Requests* the African groups of negotiators in New York to use the draft document entitled "Financing for development: Africa's perspectives", as an input in negotiating the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development and urges Africa to speak with one voice throughout the International Conference on Financing for Development process.

930(XLVIII) African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Reaffirming the commitments to sustainable development made by African countries at major United Nations conferences and summits, notably at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1997 special session of the General Assembly on the five-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 2000 Millennium Summit, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and also those contained in multilateral environment agreements and in declarations and decisions of the Assembly of the African Union,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/290, in which the Assembly referred to the decision contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, to establish a high-level political forum on sustainable development which would subsequently replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, and decided that the high-level political forum should provide political leadership and guidance, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, and enhance the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling also the recommendation contained in the outcome document of the African regional implementation meeting for the follow-up processes to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,² that the Economic Commission for Africa should convene the Africa Regional Political Forum in preparation for the sessions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with other relevant partners,

Acknowledging the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and the annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Noting with appreciation the work on the sustainable development goals currently being undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and other partners,

1. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to take all necessary steps to convene on a biennial basis the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

2. *Undertakes* to work in close collaboration with national Governments to support the convening of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

3. *Encourages* member States to scale up their commitment to and support for the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

² *Outcome Document of the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting for the Post-Rio+20 Follow-up Processes.*

931(XLVIII) Data revolution and statistical development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that the implementation of Agenda 2063 will require comprehensive, accurate and timely data,

Building on its resolution 923 (XLVII) on the post-2015 development agenda,

Reiterating the importance of statistics information for fostering Africa's economic and political integration and for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, policies and initiatives, such as Agenda 2063, the extraordinary summit on employment, poverty eradication and inclusive development, and the post-2015 development agenda,

Recalling that at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Malabo on 26 and 27 June 2014, the Assembly of the African Union asked the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Development Programme to organize a high-level conference on the data revolution,

Taking into account the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, which called for a data revolution to make information and data more available, more accessible and more broadly disaggregated,

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force in April 2014 of the African Charter on Statistics,

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 and initiatives such as the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics, and the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme,

Recognizing that there is a lack of reliable data on key indicators of labour markets, migration and informal economy that can be used to monitor and evaluate progress made on commitments such as the Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa,

Noting that several African countries are graduating to middle-income status,

1. *Endorses* the report of the High-level Conference on the Data Revolution, adopts its recommendations and calls upon member States, the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other development partners to implement it;

2. *Resolves* to lead the African data revolution, bringing together diverse data communities and using a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies, with a view to providing timely and disaggregated data for decision-making, service delivery, citizen engagement and information to drive Africa's social, economic and structural transformation;

3. *Undertakes* to ensure that the African data revolution is built on the principle of openness across the data value chain and on vibrant data ecosystems driven by national priorities and anchored in national statistics systems that are inclusive of all data communities and stakeholders;

4. *Commits itself* to providing adequate funds for the data revolution and data communities to ensure their sustainability;

5. *Commends* member States that have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics and calls upon those that have not done so to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;

6. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the relevant agencies of the United Nations to create a working group for the development of indicators for the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 (2014–2023);

7. *Calls upon* member States to participate actively in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses;

8. *Requests* member States to implement the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics and the African Union Commission to ensure that the programme is integrated into the Africa Peer Review Mechanism;

9. *Requests* the African Union Commission and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia to accelerate the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics, to be based in Tunis, and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, to be based in Yamoussoukro, to ensure better coordination and harmonization of statistics in Africa;

10. *Calls upon* development partners to strengthen the capacity of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa working group on the labour market and the informal economy, in order to produce better statistics and implement the framework for work statistics put forward at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in Geneva from 2 to 11 October 2013;

11. *Calls upon* member States to conduct labour force surveys on a regular basis in order to obtain data on the status of employment in their countries, and requests the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration, with the support of development partners such as the African Development Bank, the European Union and the World Bank, to strengthen the production of migration statistics in Africa with a view to improving the monitoring of the Joint Labour Migration Programme;

12. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to fast-track the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;

13. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to develop an index measuring the emerging-economy status of

African countries, in line, among other things, with the guidance in Agenda 2063 and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda.

932(XLVIII) African Social Development Index

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that, despite the unprecedented rates of economic growth in Africa since the turn of the millennium, exclusion continues to hinder economic and social development,

Mindful that the path towards an inclusive structural transformation requires social policies that will provide equal opportunities for all and will convert economic growth into direct improvements to people's lives,

Noting that this transformation process requires people-centred policies,

Acknowledging that, during the second session of the Committee on Gender and Social Development, in 2011, member States requested the Economic Commission for Africa to develop a tool to measure progress towards inclusive development,

Taking note of the significant number of member States that participated in the elaboration and piloting of the African Social Development Index, as a policy tool that reflects the particular context of Africa and was designed by experts from the continent,

Recognizing the efforts made by the Governments of Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal and Zambia in establishing national implementation teams and in participating as pilot countries in the development and application of the African Social Development Index,

Noting that the African Social Development Index assesses progress in addressing social inclusion in the Economic Commission for Africa country profiles,

Emphasizing that the African Social Development Index adopts a holistic and comprehensive approach to inclusive development by addressing not just poverty, but also the various dimensions of exclusion throughout the human life cycle, with a gender and geographical focus,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa in developing the African Social Development Index as a policy tool to support member States in their efforts to promote inclusive development and develop social and economic policies with a view to reducing human exclusion on the continent;

2. *Encourages* all member States to adopt the African Social Development Index and mainstream it into their national development plans, and to acknowledge the need to address human exclusion as a condition for progress towards inclusive development;

3. *Recommends* that the African Social Development Index become a standard reference point for assessing progress in social development on the continent;

4. *Urges* all stakeholders, including development partners, academic institutions and civil society organizations, to support African Governments in rolling out the African Social Development Index and in building national capacities to use the tool as a monitoring and policy instrument throughout the continent;

5. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Conference of Ministers at its March 2016 session on the implementation of the present resolution.

933(XLVIII) Framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/1 adopting the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government supported the development and implementation of a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union,

Recalling also the Declaration signed by the United Nations Secretary-General and the African Union Chairperson on 16 November 2006 entitled “Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union”,

Aware that the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union has since entered in effect and has provided an important vehicle for focused United Nations support for the capacity-building efforts of the African Union,

Aware also that the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union comes to an end in 2016 and that the African Union has called for a successor programme to be formulated to continue the United Nations-African Union partnership, based on Agenda 2063,

Aware further that the African Union Commission and the United Nations, under the auspices of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, have taken the initiative to draw up a framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027, which is anchored on Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan,

1. *Commends* all the stakeholders in the partnership – the United Nations entities and the African Union, including the regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development – on the efforts deployed to implement the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union;

2. *Also commends* the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, its clusters, subclusters and subregional coordination mechanisms for delivering invaluable support to the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

3. *Welcomes* the initiative to formulate the framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027;

4. *Endorses* the framework as the successor to the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union;

5. *Requests* the African Union Commission to submit the framework to the Assembly of the African Union for consideration and adoption at its twenty-fifth ordinary session in South Africa in June 2015, and for its subsequent transmittal to the General Assembly at its seventieth session in September 2015 for consideration and adoption as the new United Nations programme of support for the African Union;

6. *Calls upon* the General Assembly, bilateral and multilateral partners and the international community at large to lend their full support to the implementation of the framework in tangible and enabling ways.

934(XLVIII) Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/137, in which the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs, continues seriously to impede sustainable and inclusive development in African landlocked developing countries,

Recalling that the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action is to address in a holistic manner the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints,

Taking note of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan,

1. *Endorses* the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;

2. *Invites* African landlocked and transit developing countries, regional and subregional organizations and all other stakeholders to implement the Vienna Programme of Action in its priority areas of fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

3. *Urges* concerned member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into the programme of work of the Commission, as appropriate and within its mandate, and to submit analytical reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in its paragraph 75;

5. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and all other relevant regional and subregional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programme of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner in line with Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan;

6. *Encourages* the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, as appropriate, and in line with the subregional and national priorities of landlocked developing countries.

935(XLVIII) Least developed countries in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling paragraph 149 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), which entrusts United Nations regional commissions and agencies with the responsibility of undertaking biennial reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling also paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 69/231, recalling paragraph 157 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in which the General Assembly was invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, which would be informed, among other things, by national and regional reviews,

Recognizing that 34 out of the 48 countries belonging to the United Nations category of least developed countries are on the continent of Africa, with corresponding implications and benefits for improved development circumstances,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,³

Welcoming the significant progress made by African least developed countries in reducing extreme poverty, child and maternal mortality and malnutrition and expanding access to primary education, and recognizing the need for continued strong partnerships to sustain progress in these areas;

Noting that African least developed countries have made mixed progress towards achieving the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action and continue to be confronted with multiple and complex development challenges,

Concerned that, during the initial years of implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, some of these countries have experienced reduced economic growth, with persistent narrow production and export bases, continued infrastructure deficits and an underskilled labour force, all of which factors have constrained their own ongoing efforts and those of their development partners to promote sustainable development, compounded by a decline in official development assistance resources,

Underscoring that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in African least developed countries rest with themselves,

Emphasizing that good governance, inclusiveness and transparency, and also domestic resource mobilization, are central to the development process of African least developed countries and that these efforts need to be given tangible and substantial international support,

Recalling the critical influence of international factors and stronger support measures by development partners on strong and sustainable economic growth and development in African least developed countries,

³ A/69/95-E/2014/81.

Stressing that partnerships between African least developed countries and development partners should be strengthened within the framework of shared responsibility and mutual accountability through renewed and strengthened global partnerships,

Expressing satisfaction at the proposals for specific least-developed-country deliverables, in particular for a technology bank and investment promotion regimes dedicated to the least developed countries, as outlined in paragraphs 14 and 45, respectively, of resolution 69/231,

1. *Calls for* the adoption and full operationalization of specific least-developed-country deliverables, namely the technology bank and investment promotion regimes dedicated to the least developed countries;

2. *Encourages* African least developed countries to intensify their efforts to fulfil the commitments and recommendations of the Istanbul Programme of Action with the objective of graduating from the status of least developed countries;

3. *Calls upon* development partners to provide African least developed countries with additional, enhanced, preferential, concessional and most favourable treatment in the areas of finance, technologies, know-how and other resources, and to accord them differential and flexible treatment in respect of international commitments and obligations that are not commensurate with their capacity, needs and stage of development;

4. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the African Union Commission and other partner institutions on their commitment and technical expertise in taking forward the concerns and requests from African least developed countries;

5. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the African Union Commission and other partner institutions to continue to address the concerns and requests from African least developed countries, with a view to ensuring that those countries are able to satisfy the necessary graduation criteria;

6. *Also requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to hold the next biennial regional review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 during the tenth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

936(XLVIII) Progress and further development of the African Risk Capacity Agency

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling decision Assembly/AU/Dec.417(XIX) of the Assembly of the African Union, adopted at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa in July 2012, to endorse in principle the proposal to establish the African Risk Capacity Agency as a specialized agency of the African Union, with a view to providing cost-effective contingency financing for participating countries seeking to improve their planning and preparation for and response to natural disasters,

Commending the secretariat of the African Risk Capacity Agency on the expedient implementation of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.417(XIX), the mobilization of over \$200 million for the continent, and the efficient operationalization of the Agency, which represents a new regional integration model,

Acknowledging that, as witnessed in the case of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, African Governments will require both stronger operational capacity – through their own health systems at the national level and through the African Centre for Disease Control at the continental level – and financing to cover the costs involved in containing disease outbreaks before they become pandemics,

1. *Welcomes* the progress report of the African Risk Capacity Agency on the establishment of its financial affiliate and on the drought insurance payments of \$25 million which it has triggered and transferred to States members of the African Union in the Sahel region ahead of other aid;

2. *Requests* the secretariat of the Agency, under the mandate set out in article 2 of the Agreement for the Establishment of the African Risk Capacity Agency, to help States members of the African Union to improve their capacities to plan and prepare for and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters, and to develop an outbreak and epidemic insurance product to complement the efforts of the African Centre for Disease Control;

3. *Requests* the African Union Commission, with the support of the secretariat of the Agency, to explore how the institutional and financial structure of the Agency could be replicated to attract private capital for the achievement of the goals outlined in Agenda 2063, in particular those pertaining to agricultural, infrastructure or other large-scale projects, while maintaining continental standards for socially responsible investment;

4. *Requests* development finance institutions and partners to channel their support for risk management in Africa through existing African-led institutions;

5. *Urges* all States members of the African Union to sign the Agreement for the Establishment of the African Risk Capacity Agency, in order to benefit from the Agency's risk management advisory services, tools and expertise;

6. *Calls upon* development partners and institutions to support the African Risk Capacity Agency, which plays an important role in Africa's natural disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.