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Regional cooperation**Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields****Report of the Secretary-General****Addendum****Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and Economic Commission for Africa***Summary*

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains information on the resolutions and decisions adopted or endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its thirtieth session, held in Beirut from 25 to 28 June 2018, and the Economic Commission for Africa at its fifty-second session, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 25 and 26 March 2019. The full texts of the resolutions and decisions are available at www.regionalcommissions.org/our-work/regional-commissions-sessions-resolutions-and-decisions.



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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

1. At its thirtieth session, held in Beirut from 25 to 28 June 2018, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopted resolution 332 (XXX), on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution Developing the work of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of resolution 332 (XXX) of 28 June 2018 of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Approves the splitting of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development into two committees, the Committee on Financing for Development in the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Committee on Trade Policies in the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which will each hold biennial sessions, in accordance with the provisions of Commission resolution 332 (XXX), annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Resolution 332 (XXX) Developing the work of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to its resolutions 313 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 on the frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the Region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and 214 (XIX) of 7 May 1997 on the establishment of that Committee,

Recalling the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by member States at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission, in which they requested that focus be placed on financing for development and that a forum for discussing the issue be created,

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions on splitting the Committee into two committees, which would each hold biennial sessions,

Realizing the importance of increased participation of member States in prioritizing, planning and developing Commission programmes on financing for development,

Aware of the need to enhance coordination and complementarity between the Commission and Arab regional organizations in their work on financing for

development policies, in order to respond to the needs of member States and build their capacity to finance national development plans,

Recognizing the importance of the role of the Commission in tackling trade policy issues to support Arab States on the path towards regional integration and sustainable development,

Guided by action taken by other United Nations regional commissions to develop the work of their subsidiary bodies to better respond to the priorities of their member States,

1. *Approves* the splitting of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development into two committees, the Committee on Financing for Development in the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Committee on Trade Policies in the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which will each hold biennial sessions, without any additional financial implications;

2. *Decides* that the Committee on Financing for Development shall undertake the following:

(a) Discussing priorities under the programme of work and midterm action plans of the Commission in the field of financing for development;

(b) Following up on progress in financing for development policies in member States and making recommendations in that regard;

(c) Monitoring developments in regional and international forums, conferences and processes with regard to financing for development, and coordinating regional efforts towards the implementation of related resolutions and recommendations emanating from such platforms;

(d) Supporting cooperation between the secretariat of the Commission and specialized ministerial councils of the League of Arab States, and organizations and unions formed under its umbrella, and with other specialized regional organizations, to build capacity and harmonize policies and strategies aimed at leveraging funds to finance development; and supporting communication efforts, partnerships and the harmonization of positions in the international arena;

3. *Also decides* that the Committee on Trade Policies shall undertake the following:

(a) Discussing priorities under the programme of work and midterm action plans of the Commission in the field of trade policies;

(b) Following up on progress in trade policies in member States and making recommendations in that regard;

(c) Monitoring developments in regional and international forums, conferences and processes with regard to trade policies, and coordinating regional efforts towards the implementation of related resolutions and recommendations emanating from such platforms;

(d) Supporting cooperation between the secretariat of the Commission and specialized ministerial councils of the League of Arab States, and organizations and unions formed under its umbrella, and with other specialized regional organizations, to build capacity and harmonize policies and strategies to develop trade policies; and supporting communication efforts, partnerships and the harmonization of positions in the international arena;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present a report to the Commission at its thirty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

B. Economic Commission for Africa

2. At its fifty-second session, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 25 and 26 March 2019, the Economic Commission for Africa adopted resolution 966 (LII), on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution

Review of the intergovernmental structure of the Economic Commission for Africa pursuant to Commission resolutions 943 (XLIX) and 957 (LI)

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Africa resolution 966 (LII) of 26 March 2019,

Endorses the adjustments to the intergovernmental structure of the Economic Commission for Africa, as set out in Commission resolution 966 (LII), annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Resolution 966 (LII)

Review of the intergovernmental structure of the Economic Commission for Africa pursuant to its resolutions 943 (XLIX) and 957 (LI)

The Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,

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

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

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

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

Noting the new strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa for an empowered and transformed Africa and the structural reform of the secretariat of the Commission to deliver ideas and actions for an empowered, inclusive and transformed Africa in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, through its three core functions, namely, its function as a think tank, its convening function and its operational function,²

1. *Takes note* of the review of the intergovernmental structure, its findings and recommendations;
2. *Endorses* the following adjustments to the intergovernmental structure of the Economic Commission for Africa:
 - (a) To organize the sectoral subsidiary organs as follows:
 - (i) Committee on Economic Governance;
 - (ii) Committee on Statistics and Data;
 - (iii) Committee on Private Sector Development, Regional Integration, Trade, Infrastructure, Industry and Technology;
 - (iv) Committee on Climate Change, Blue Economy, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management;
 - (v) Committee on Social Development, Poverty and Gender;
 - (b) To change the name of the subregional intergovernmental committees of experts to “intergovernmental committees of senior officials and experts”, with a view to ensuring effective policy uptake and greater participation of senior government officials in the committees.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

3. At its thirtieth session, held in Beirut from 25 to 28 June 2018, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopted the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region and a number of resolutions relating to its programme of work, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Summary of the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region

4. The representatives of States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia reaffirmed their commitment to placing technology and innovation at the heart of the inclusive and sustainable development process in the Arab region and to harnessing the power of technology and innovation to build a more peaceful, prosperous and just future for all in the Arab region.

5. The Commission stated its firm belief that technology and innovation were key enablers of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and could provide creative solutions to achieve people-centred, sustainable and inclusive development. The

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

² See resolution 2018/23, annex.

Commission was also encouraged by the potential for technology and innovation to contribute to sustainable development in advancing the structural transformation of the Arab economies, enhancing productivity and creating decent jobs in the Arab region.

6. The Commission would seek to put in place national and regional policies to support the development of technological ecosystems adapted to the socioeconomic, environmental and political context of Arab countries and able to attract private sector investment and foster innovation. It would develop legislative and fiscal policy proposals to promote investment in technology and innovation and develop regional strategies that stimulate technology transfer, and leverage synergies between the industry and research institutions to address gaps in industrial productivity and enhance competitiveness while reducing technological dependencies.

7. The Commission would facilitate the integration of graduates into the labour market through the adaptation of educational outcomes to future employment requirements. It would also maximize the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and enhance digital skills.

8. The Commission would promote technology-driven social inclusion, inter alia, by ensuring that the benefits of technology and innovation reach vulnerable groups, remote communities and those living in cities destroyed by conflict.

9. The Commission would leverage technology to increase efficiency in the delivery of public services, promote environmental sustainability, mitigate conflicts and reduce disasters.

10. The Commission resolved to mobilize and scale up national and regional financing and investment for technology and innovation, especially in least developed countries, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, and utilize all financial facilities available for Arab least developed countries. In this context, the Commission commended the secretariat's steadfast promotion of cooperation and regional integration and requested that it further its activities in that regard, with an emphasis on technology and innovation.

Resolution 329 (XXX)

Establishment of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies in the Arab Region

11. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies in the Arab Region.

12. The Commission recommended the expansion of capacity-building efforts at various technical levels through holding regional and national workshops on models, means and financial instruments to support climate change negotiations, assessment processes and access to financing and technology transfer, and providing regular updates on climate change developments to negotiators and other actors in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation, while emphasizing the principle of coordination in implementation with the concerned organizations.

13. The Commission requested the secretariat to take the necessary measures, in coordination with the League of Arab States, to ensure effective implementation of the activities pertaining to the second phase of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socioeconomic Vulnerability in the Arab Region, to ensure that the multidimensional aspects of climate change are taken into account in work on water, energy, food security and sustainable development, to support the Arab Climate Outlook Forum, and to strengthen partnerships with the concerned organizations.

Resolution 330 (XXX)
Support for the Palestinian people

14. The Commission asserted the unity of the Palestinian people, wherever they may be, and their common plight under Israeli policies and practices that sought to fragment that unity.

15. The Commission condemned in the strongest terms continued Israeli violations of the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and international human rights law and Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, in particular forced displacement, illegal decisions to annex occupied East Jerusalem, de facto annexation of settlements in the West Bank, the continued illegal and inhuman blockade of the Gaza Strip, the use of excessive force against unarmed civilians, the destruction of homes and facilities, and continued arbitrary arrests, settlement construction and land confiscation, and reaffirmed the need to hold Israel accountable for those violations.

16. The Commission also condemned the recognition by the Government of the United States of America, and by other States, of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the relocation of their embassies thereto and affirmed that Jerusalem would remain the capital of the State of Palestine.

17. The Commission warned of the implications of politicizing humanitarian and development assistance extended to Palestinian institutions and financial support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which compromised the ability of those institutions to provide services to the Palestinian people, including refugees.

18. The Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat in support of the Palestinian people and welcomed the establishment of the Palestine Unit under the Emerging and Conflict-related Issues Division of the secretariat.

19. The Commission invited member States to intensify communication with the general secretariat of the League of Arab States, the Commission and other concerned United Nations agencies on issues relating to supporting the Palestinian people, to provide support to the secretariat of the Commission in its efforts to assess the cumulative, multilayered and long-term impact of the Israeli occupation and practices on the Palestinian people, and to increase their support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

20. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue to support the Palestinian people and their institutions, inter alia, through providing normative and technical needs-based support to Palestinian institutions for the implementation of the National Policy Agenda 2017–2022 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Resolution 331 (XXX)
Comprehensive approaches to technical cooperation in response to member States' emerging needs

21. The Commission expressed awareness of the emerging challenges in the Arab region, particularly the difficulties associated with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

22. While underlining that there was scope for better long-term planning of technical cooperation activities, the Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat in building on its comparative advantages and linking its technical cooperation work with its other core functions of research, analysis and consensus-building to support policy formulation, and noted with appreciation its additional efforts in catering to the increasing needs of member States.

23. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the ongoing collaboration with United Nations country teams on the development of technical cooperation activities by the secretariat and member States according to their priorities, and for the efforts exerted by the secretariat to provide support to United Nations development entities operating in the Arab region by virtue of its thought leadership position.

24. In addition, the Commission requested the secretariat to leverage its coordination role among United Nations regional development entities in the establishment of mechanisms to provide guidance for technical cooperation activities with member States and to enhance the impact of such activities.

Resolution 333 (XXX)

Adoption of the proposed amendments to the strategic framework and programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019

25. The Commission welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to align its activities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in response to emerging regional needs and challenges and adopted the proposed amendments to the strategic framework and programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019, taking into account comments made by member States.

Resolution 334 (XXX)

Adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

26. The Commission affirmed the important role of its subsidiary bodies in developing, coordinating and following up on its programme of work in their respective areas of competence, so as to secure optimum benefits for member States.

27. The Commission invited member States to put in place the measures necessary to ensure the implementation of the recommendations set out in those reports, as adopted by its member States.

B. Economic Commission for Africa

28. At the fifty-second session of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 25 and 26 March 2019, the Commission adopted a ministerial statement on the theme “Fiscal policy, trade and the private sector in a digital era: a strategy for Africa”. It also adopted a number of resolutions relating to its programme of work, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Summary of the ministerial statement

29. The African ministers of finance, planning, economic development and integration, having deliberated on the theme “Fiscal policy, trade and the private sector in a digital era: a strategy for Africa”, adopted a ministerial statement in which they recognized that digitization may enhance fiscal policy performance and development finance; called upon African countries to improve their telecommunications infrastructure by doubling broadband connectivity by 2022 and to extend the coverage to remote areas on the continent; acknowledged that, along with numerous new opportunities, digitization had also given rise to a number of emerging threats and challenges that needed to be assessed with a view to undertaking appropriate remedial actions; noted that Governments needed to design and improve innovative digital mechanisms that facilitate revenue collection and increase the

efficiency of tax administration; and acknowledged the need to increase significantly the availability of high-quality and timely data.

30. The ministers noted that progress had been made in regional integration and committed themselves to taking measures and steps to enhance the incorporation into domestic law and implementation of regional integration agreements and treaties, including the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, and called upon member States to address the impediments to economic integration such as restrictions on visas and residence permits.

31. The ministers noted that, in terms of its infrastructure development, Africa continued to lag behind other regions and acknowledged the need to strengthen resource mobilization in order to close the infrastructure gap. They also recalled the commitment made by Member States pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/242](#) of 20 December 2018, to convene the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the highest possible level.

32. The ministers acknowledged the support provided by the United Nations system to the organs of the African Union at the regional and subregional levels within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and requested the General Assembly to strengthen the Mechanism and its secretariat through the provision of adequate human and financial resources.

33. In addition, the ministers acknowledged and appreciated the commendable capacity development activities being undertaken by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, reiterated their commitment to ensuring the sustainability of the Institute through the payment of annual assessed contributions and the settlement of outstanding contribution arrears and called upon the United Nations and, in particular, the Commission and its partners to increase their support to the Institute in the interests of structural transformation in Africa.

34. The ministers noted the 2020 programme priorities of the Commission, reaffirmed their commitment to support the proposed budget and called upon the United Nations to approve the 2020 plan and budget of the Commission. They also noted the review of the intergovernmental structure of the Commission, its findings and recommendations and endorsed the proposed adjustments to the intergovernmental structure, including the new sectoral subsidiary organs and the change of name of the subregional intergovernmental committees of experts to “intergovernmental committees of senior officials and experts”.

Resolution 962 (LII)

Data and statistics

35. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development took note of decision EX.CL/Dec.987 (XXXII) of the Executive Council of the African Union, in which it requested the States members of the African Union to allocate 0.15 per cent of national budgets to support the production, dissemination and use of statistics for the implementation of national development plans, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The Conference of Ministers urged development partners to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems, requested member States to increase the availability of data relevant to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and integrated regional indicators, and requested the Commission to strengthen the capacity of member States to make use of the integrated tool developed by the Commission for monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

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

36. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development encouraged African landlocked developing and transit developing countries to intensify their efforts to implement the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024.

37. The Conference of Ministers called upon development partners, the private sector and other stakeholders to further strengthen their efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. The Conference also called upon the Commission to continue to provide technical support to the landlocked developing countries of the region in areas related to the Programme of Action, such as infrastructure investment, transport facilitation, productive capacity development, logistical integration and logistics cost studies.

38. The Conference of Ministers requested the Commission, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the African Union, the African Development Bank and other relevant regional organizations further to assist African landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in infrastructure development, development of bankable projects, production capacity development, trade facilitation and structural transformation through, in particular, enhanced investment and technical assistance, and to promote greater cooperation between African landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries and enhanced regional integration.

39. The Conference of Ministers also requested the Commission, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, to undertake the 10-year regional review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Resolution 964 (LII)**2020 programme plan and budget**

40. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, having examined the 2020 programme plan and budget,³ called upon the Commission to develop a medium-term programme framework covering three to five years, to facilitate the engagement of member States with the Commission; annual plans and budget would be derived from the framework and performance measured on its bases. The Conference of Ministers also called upon the Commission to increase the level of ambition in its programme of work.

41. The Conference of Ministers adopted the 2020 programme plan and budget of the Commission, taking into consideration the above calls.

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

42. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, mindful that the African continent has a continuing shortfall in investment in transportation infrastructure, and recognizing that railways constitute an efficient and environmentally sustainable way of moving people and goods within individual African States and across the continent, called upon the Commission to continue, including through its subregional offices, its awareness-raising and

³ E/ECA/COE/38/12, annex.

advocacy efforts for States across the African continent on the Luxembourg Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Railway Rolling Stock (Luxembourg Rail Protocol) at the earliest opportunity, with a view to elucidating its merits and potential contribution to the financing of rolling stock in rail projects. The Conference of Ministers also called upon the Commission to inform interested parties from the public sector and the private sector across the continent on, and educate them in, the way that private credit and leasing could assist with providing the financial resources necessary to revitalize and expand the African rail network, and the benefits of becoming party to the Luxembourg Rail Protocol.

Resolution 967 (LII)

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

43. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, taking note of General Assembly resolution [73/242](#) of 20 December 2018, in which the Assembly decided to convene the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in 2021, called upon African least developed countries to continue their efforts to mobilize resources both domestically and internationally and implement the Istanbul Programme of Action to accelerate economic and social development.

44. The Conference of Ministers encouraged the Commission and its development partners, including countries in Africa that are not in the least developed country category, to continue their support for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and invited the Commission, with the cooperation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to organize a regional review meeting for Africa in 2020, prior to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Resolution 968 (LII)

Fiscal policy, trade and the private sector in a digital era: a strategy for Africa

45. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, resolved to leverage the use of digital technology to strengthen revenue collection and public finance management in Africa and review current taxation frameworks to accommodate the digital economy, taking due account of the changing nature of businesses caused by digitization to support the efforts being made in the context of the digital identity, digital trade and digital economy initiative for Africa, called upon decision-makers in Governments, the private sector and civil society to foster and prioritize financing for building digital infrastructure, working to digitize payments in every sector, and putting in place regulations to ensure that digital financial services may be used by everyone and everywhere and are duly protected against cybercrime.

46. The Conference of Ministers urged the Commission to support member States and the African Tax Administration Forum in their efforts to develop frameworks that leverage digitization to strengthen revenue mobilization and public financial management through automation, digital identity and the modernization of fiscal processes, and also urged the Commission to support member States in building digital infrastructure that could be used to combat illicit financial flows.

47. In addition, the Conference of Ministers requested the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African

Development Bank, the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other relevant partners, to develop a comprehensive African digital trade and digital economy development strategy, including principles for good digital identity and harmonized standards, and a regional regulatory framework for digital finance and financial technology.

Resolution 969 (LII)

Digitization and the digital economy initiative

48. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development commended the Economic Commission for Africa for setting up the African digitization initiative and requested the Commission to continue to work on policy research, regional dialogue and capacity development on digitization and the digital economy in member States, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, member States, the African Development Bank, the African Tax Administration Forum, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank and other stakeholders.

49. The Conference of Ministers also requested the Economic Commission for Africa to fully operationalize a centre of excellence on digitization and the digital economy, with a view to tackling the critical issue of capacity shortfalls in the digital sector of member States, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities, the African Development Bank, the African Tax Administration Forum, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, development partners and African institutions of higher learning. The Conference urged the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure that the centre of excellence had tangible, time-bound and results-based deliverables to support member States.

50. In addition, the Conference of Ministers invited member States to consider developing strong security systems to combat cybercrime and cyber-related threats emanating from the digitization of their economies.
