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**REPORT OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> JOINT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE AU STC ON  
FINANCE, MONETARY AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND  
INTEGRATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR AFRICA (UNECA) CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS  
OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 31 MARCH TO 5 APRIL 2016**

**REPORT OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> JOINT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE AU STC ON FINANCE,  
MONETARY AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND INTEGRATION AND THE  
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (UNECA)  
CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF FINANCE,  
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 31 MARCH TO 5 APRIL 2016**

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 5 April 2016. The Ministers' meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Committee of Experts held from 31 March to 2 April 2016.

## **II. Bureau**

2. The Bureau of the meetings was elected as follows:

Chair:	Southern Africa – South Africa
First Vice-Chair:	Central Africa – Democratic Republic of the Congo
Second Vice-Chair:	North Africa – Algeria
Third Vice-Chair:	West Africa – Côte d'Ivoire
Rapporteur:	East Africa – Uganda

## **III. Theme and outcome documents of the meetings**

3. The meetings were held under the theme: **Towards an integrated and coherent approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals**. The theme was discussed under a broad Ministerial Policy dialogue and three high level roundtable discussions on:

- a) Harmonization, synergies and sensitization: the need for a coherent development approach;
- b) Integration of the results framework, monitoring and evaluation; and
- c) Financing.

4. The outcome documents of the meeting included a Ministerial Report, a Ministerial Statement, Resolutions and the Report of the Committee of Experts.

**EX.CL/971(XXIX)**  
**Annex**

**REPORT OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS**

United Nations

African Union



**Economic and  
Social Council**



**African Union**

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**Economic Commission for Africa  
Conference of African Ministers of Finance,  
Planning and Economic Development  
Forty-ninth session**

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

**Ninth 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, 4 and 5 April 2016**

**REPORT OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS**

## REPORT OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

### Introduction

1. The meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the ninth 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, Ethiopia, from 4 to 5 April 2016.

### Part One

#### I. Opening of the meeting [agenda item 1]

##### A. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by the following Member States of the African Union: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of the 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, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, International Monetary Fund International Telecommunication Union, International Organization for Migration, 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 for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Capital Development Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, 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 on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Office to the African Union, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank, World Food Programme, World Health Organization.

5. Observers from the following Member States of the United Nations were present: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Finland, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), West African Economic and Monetary Union.

6. Representatives of the following intergovernmental and regional organizations were also present: African Development Bank, League of Arab States, New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

7. Observers were present from the following organizations: Action Aid Ethiopia, Advectas, Afei Diagnosis Center, Africa Forum, African Capacity-Building Foundation, African Economist, African Tax Administration Forum, AgriDevCo, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Arab Reform Initiative, China Hyway Group, China-Africa Business Council, China-Africa Development Fund, Chongqing Haifu Medical Technologies, Consulting Development Associates, Deer Jet Medical Company, Echnoserbe Consulting, Fight Against Desert Encroachment, Garment Industry Transparency Initiative, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, German Agency for International Cooperation, Global Green Growth Institute, Green Thinkers Youth Association and Network for African Youth Development, GRID-Arendal, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Road Transport Union, Jiangsu Bioperfectus Technologies, Mother and Child Multisectoral Development Organization /Blue Energy, One Campaign, Oxfam, Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Poken Team, Reality of Aid African Network, Rotary International, Sanbao Pharmaceuticals, Save the Children, Shapoorji Pallonji, Tax Justice Network Africa, Times of Zambia, Transparency International Secretariat, Ubuntu Leadership Institute, Upbeat Marketing, Wideway Sinostar Investment, World Vision International, Wuhu Kanggi Pharmaceutical, Yuemei Group.

8. Morocco and the State of Palestine, non-members of the African Union were also represented.

## **B. Opening statements**

9. The opening session of the Joint Annual Conference Ministers 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 chaired by Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Deputy Minister of Finance of the United Republic of Tanzania, Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the Joint Conference of Ministers.

10. Opening statements were delivered by Mr Carlos Lopes, United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission. There were also two statements by special guests, H.E. Mr Matata Ponyo, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo and H.E. Mr Nickey Iyambo, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia and a keynote address by H.E. Mr Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

11. In his opening statement, Carlos Lopes, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa noted that a year ago, there was a general agreement among various stakeholders about Africa's remarkable economic performance and encouraging macroeconomic prospects. But, in 2016, things have radically changed with regard to the impact of the Ebola outbreak that cost the continent 30 billion USD and the current decline of commodity prices with downside risks for African economies. He underscored that Africa's economic growth declined moderately following the slight contraction in growth in the global economy, which was mainly due to subdued growth in emerging markets and developing economies, while a cheered recovery continued in developed economies. Looking forward, Africa's real GDP growth is expected to increase by about 4.3 per cent in 2016 and 4.4 per cent in 2017. He further underscored that with a barrel price of USD 30.8, Africa will earn USD 47.1 billion less in trade surplus in 2016, relative to that in 2015. In that context, he

underlined that Africa's total foreign debt is expected to rise from 30 percent of GDP in 2010 to 37.1 percent of GDP in 2015. He noted that there is need for flexibility in placing debt ceilings and accessing debt as the issue of debt sustainability will essentially depend on comprehensive treatment of all components of debt in a debt restructuring and the provision of clear mechanism to engage all stakeholders to build up consensus on how to close the gap in financial architecture. He concluded by noting that Africa's growth performance has not been inclusive enough to generate the decent job opportunities needed to take advantage of its human and natural resource endowment. In that perspective, he underlined the imperative need for industrialization through the expansion of commodities value chains and agro-processing and the importance for coherent policies that are entrenched into a coherent development strategy and transformational leadership.

12. In her opening statement, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission thanked the government and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all delegations since their arrival in Addis Ababa. She observed that there is a 90 per cent convergence between Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 and urged all stakeholders to work together to ensure that an integrated and coherent framework for monitoring and evaluation of the two Agendas is in place for their successful implementation.

13. She highlighted five critical trends which can either derail the implementation of Agenda 2063, or be used to accelerate Africa's economic transformation. These trends include (i) shortage of skilled workers which undermines Africa's competitiveness in the areas of science and technology; (ii) green industrialization as a catalyst for economic diversification; (iii) modernising agriculture and agro-processing for food security and resilient growth as several countries are prone to extreme weather conditions; (iv) domestic investment in infrastructure as a driver of economic diversification and industrialisation (v) Developing the African private sector, to build its competitiveness, innovation and transformative impact with the support of Governments, Regional Economic Communities and continental institutions. She also noted the growing cost of non-integration in the aviation and other transport sectors, in the energy sector, in building viable regional value chains, in the blue economy and addressing the skills deficit. In addition she called for more inclusive allocation of private and public resources for the empowerment of women and youth.

14. Furthermore, she underlined the importance of domestic resource mobilisation and the development of African financial institutions for financing Agenda 2063, particularly the African Central Bank and the African Monetary Fund. In conclusion, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma underlined the importance of platforms for improving dialogue and cooperation for the successful implementation of both Agendas, highlighting the good examples of platforms such as the African Economic Platform, the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the African Union Commission/Economic Commission for Africa Joint Annual Meetings.

15. In his opening statement H.E. Mr Matata Ponyo, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, expressed his profound gratitude to the government and people of Ethiopia for the hospitality and commended the African Union Commission and the ECA leadership for the successful organization the 9th Joint Annual Conference of Ministers. He noted that the Conference is being held at a time when Africa is facing challenges with regards to the decline of commodity prices that constitute the backbone of Africa's growth. He further noted the importance of the theme of the Conference of Ministers in the perspective of helping the continent shift from an economy based on natural resources to a productive economy, based on industrialization. He expressed the need for Africa to build a development pathway through an economy of production that harnesses the huge potential of the continent. That structural

transformation process, underpinned by industrialization is critical to reinforce the continental resilience to external asymmetric shocks to ensure inclusive and sustainable development. In this regard, he noted that 2015 has been a critical year for the advancement of the continental and global development agenda with the adoption of Agenda 2063, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Agenda 2030 and the Paris agreement on climate change.

16. For the successful implementation of both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, he underscored the need for a coherent and harmonized framework for their smooth integration into national development plans of member countries. In that perspective, he voiced the need for the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank work closely for the harmonization of the continental and global Agenda. With regard to the continental integration agenda, he underscored the experience of the Democratic Republic of Congo in support to Africa's integration to foster economic and social transformation.

17. In concluding his statement, H.E. Mr Matata Ponyo lauded the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa's commitment in support of Africa's development and pledge for a unified approach for the implementation of both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2063. He also noted that African Integration cannot be achieved without good governance and sound leadership, which will guide Africa on its journey to prosperity.

18. In his special address, Dr Nickey Iyambo, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia, noted the importance of the theme of the Conference in the perspective of designing a coherent approach for the wellbeing of all the segments of the African population. He commended the transformative contribution of Africa's first generation of leaders and said that there was need to build a united front against hunger, poverty, unemployment, climate change and disease and other threats to catalyze Africa's transformation. He noted the considerable financial needs for the achievement of the SDGs in Africa and underlined that reversing Illicit Financial Flows can help the continent in channelling those resources to development outcomes. He further commended the government of Ethiopia for its visionary leadership that has helped achieve remarkable progress in the area of development. On that note, he underlined the development approach of the Namibian authorities for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 namely the Harambe Prosperity Plan (HPP). He underlined that the areas of focus of the Harambe Prosperity Plan include: poverty eradication, social welfare improvement, industrialization and public service capacitation. To achieve positive results, he noted the importance of strong political, legal and macroeconomic architectures, effective governance, transparency and fight against corruption. He concluded his statement by stating his hope that the Namibian experience towards inclusive and sustainable development could be of relevance for other African countries.

19. Delivering his keynote address, H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, welcomed all ministers and experts to Addis Ababa for the 9<sup>th</sup> joint annual conference and appreciated the Conference as an important platform for discussion of Africa's development priorities and key goals. He noted that Africa is currently facing great challenges related to global events such as the decline of commodity prices that can negatively impact the strong growth recorded by many African countries. He underscored that the lack of economic diversification and the high dependency on commodity exports exposes African countries to adverse shocks, and voiced the need for industrialization and structural transformation. He further noted that the collective focus of both agendas accounts for sustainable development if all parties fulfil their commitments. Having considered past events, he stated that Africa's development priorities are not only globally, but have regional and national dimensions.



20. Taking into consideration the recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the global level, he further noted that Agenda 2063 and its Ten Year Implementation Plan goes beyond by enforcing the region-specific and trans-boundary initiatives. He underlined the importance of a coherent approach of integration Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 in National Development Plans to ensure their successful implementation for the benefit of the African population. Additionally, he outlined the importance of engagement and dialogue to overcome the challenges and gaps in the implementation of the two agendas. He underlined the Ethiopian experience through its second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) with a view to achieve the two agendas. In that perspective, he noted that Ethiopia has crafted numerous programs in poverty reduction and sustainable development, in the past and has recently adopted a new framework, Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) into the GTP II. He concluded by emphasizing, that implementation of the two agendas requires political commitment, strong institutional foundation and improved implementation and follow-up mechanisms.

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

21. The following countries were unanimously elected by the Committees to form the new Bureau:

Chair: Southern Africa – South Africa;

First Vice-Chair: Central Africa – Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Second Vice-Chair: North Africa – Algeria;

Third Vice-Chair: West Africa – Côte d’Ivoire;

Rapporteur: East Africa – Uganda.

22. The Joint Conference of Ministers adopted the following agenda, based on the provisional agenda that had been circulated without amendment:

1. Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting.
2. Agenda item 2: Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Statement by Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Chair of the Board of the GAVI Alliance.
4. Agenda item 3: High-level Ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the ninth Joint Annual Meetings: “Towards a coherent approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals”.
5. Agenda item 4: High-level round table discussions.
6. Round table 1: Harmonization, synergies and sensitization: the need for a coherent approach.
7. Round table 2: Integration of the results framework, monitoring and evaluation
8. Round table 3: Financing.
9. Agenda item 5: Consideration of the draft report and major recommendations of the meeting of the Joint Committee of Experts and consideration and adoption of the draft resolutions.
10. Agenda item 6: Consideration and adoption of the draft ministerial statement.

11. Agenda item 7: Other business.
12. Agenda item 8: Closing of the meeting.

**Statement by Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Chair of the Board of the GAVI Alliance**

23. In her statement, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Chair of the Board of the GAVI Alliance, informed Ministers that more than 60 percent of GAVI Alliance investment is spent in 40 countries in Africa. She highlighted the important role that vaccines and immunisation can play in social development. She cited the high rate of return of immunisation, stating that it is the most efficient way of spending health dollars. She emphasized the role of ministers of finance and of health in the promotion of immunization at country level by notably pushing for adequate resources to be allocated to it in national budgets. In conclusion, she commended those countries that were doing well in immunisation and encouraged others to follow. She invited the CEO of GAVI Alliance to make a presentation to demonstrate the effectiveness of vaccination and immunisation.

***Presentation by Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of GAVI Alliance on Immunisation: The Gateway to Health and Economic Development***

24. The presentation by Dr Berkley highlighted the important role that vaccination and immunisation plays in increasing GNI in an economy. Immunisation leads to reduced sickness, reduced caretaker burden, improved learning and increased productivity. He emphasised that there is up to a 44 times return on investment as a result of immunisation. He, however, noted that children continued to die from lack of immunisation due to remote locations, lack of political will, inadequate monitoring, and competing health priorities, among other reasons.

25. He informed Ministers that the GAVI intervention has managed to reduce the vaccine cost for the collection of current vaccines from about US \$950 to just US\$35, which is still considered to be high. He outlined the cost sharing between GAVI and member countries which is dependent on wealth of country. He warned that the cost of inaction was high, with substantial amounts of funding required in the event of outbreaks. He concluded his presentation with a call for action to Ministers, recommending that countries should: prioritise investment in immunization; ensure vaccine line item in health budgets; focus on equity by investing in health to fully immunize every child; act now to achieve the 2030 SDGs and be on track with agenda 2063; and become an immunization champion.

**Part Two**

## Account of proceedings

### **III. High-level Ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the ninth Joint Annual Meetings: Towards an integrated and coherent approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals [agenda item 3]**

#### **A. Presentation**

26. The session on the High-level ministerial policy dialogue was chaired by Mr Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the ECA. The panel consisted of 3 panellists: H.E. Zaineb Shasuna-Ahmed, Minister of State for Budget and National Planning of Nigeria; Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, UN Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Africa; and Dr Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs at the AU.

27. Mr Lopes introduced the session by indicating that the panellists would discuss the theme of conference through three angles including country perspective vis a vis implementation of various agendas by H. E. Shasuna-Ahmed; UN perspectives on how the 2030 would be unfolding by USG Abdelaziz and, Africa's perspectives on the domestication of Agenda 2063 and how Africa is looking at these various agendas and how alignment can be made among the various agendas by Commissioner Maruping.

28. In her intervention, Her Excellency Minister Ahmed shared the Nigerian experience and noted the high levels of poverty and inequality in the country. She said that in addressing agenda 2063 and the SDGs, they would improve livelihoods and diversify the economy. She noted domestic resource mobilization is a priority for Nigeria and as such, they were looking to formalize the informal sector in an effort to increase the tax base. She informed participants that the development plan they are working on is looking at prioritizing the national perspective and that they were looking to domesticate Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 and mainstream them into their national development plan. In this regard, a national M&E framework that incorporates the two agendas was being developed that would prepare for integrated reporting. In conclusion, she called on AU and ECA to support Africa in harmonizing the selection of priorities, goals and indicators and to develop a harmonised M&E framework for a coherent approach in implementing the two agendas.

29. H.E. Maged Abdelaziz, United Nations Under Secretary General and Special Adviser on Africa, for his part, said the post-2015 development agenda should be viewed holistically to include the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. He commended the efforts of various stakeholders, which led to the post-2015 development agenda being a success for Africa. He said that in order to achieve synergy between the SDGs and Agenda 2063, there was need to undertake the people centred approach of the two. He noted that many of the continent's priorities are included in the SDGs through the Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 development agenda, though each is unique in the length of time and ambitions. He informed the meeting that OSAA could play a role in bridging the reporting gap among the global, continental and national agendas. Mr Abdelaziz noted that Agenda 2063 could spur regional integration through implementation of its flagship programmes. He highlighted the important role the UN system can play in supporting Africa to implement Agenda 2063 through the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM). In this regard, he said it was necessary for the UN

to allocate financial resources and to issue a General Assembly resolution in support of Agenda 2063 as the new development Agenda for Africa.

30. Dr Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, in his intervention, focused on how Africa is approaching the implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 in an integrated manner. He emphasized that the 17 goals of Agenda 2030 emanated from Africa through the Common African Position on the Post 2015 Development Agenda (CAP). The two agendas are already in harmony because the same African stakeholders were consulted in the formulation process. He noted that Agenda 2063 is broader than Agenda 2030 since it encompasses political and cultural aspects of development in addition to economic, social and environmental aspects of Agenda 2030. Therefore, by implementing Agenda 2063 Africa will be implementing SDGs. He informed the delegates that a lot has been done in the area of integrating the two agendas into one, including mapping of goals, targets and indicators to identify areas of convergence and divergence. A technical team composed of AUC, ECA, AfDB, NEPAD and ACBF is working on a monitoring and evaluation framework that will cater for both agendas. A single unified report will be prepared to track progress in the implementation of the integrated agenda. He concluded his intervention by stressing that Agenda 2063 is very ambitious but it is doable since it has been inclusive in the formulation process and means of implementation identified. **Discussion**

31. In the ensuing discussion, the meeting underscored the importance of strengthening national capacities in statistics for sound monitoring and evaluation of both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. In that regard, the Conference emphasised the need for a global partnership for data as indicated in the UN Secretary General’s Communication “Road to dignity”. The Conference therefore called for a data revolution in Africa and stressed the importance of technology as a means towards achieving it.

32. The Conference stressed the importance of experience sharing as a concrete action to advance development and achieve the two Agendas. The Conference took note of the experience of countries such as Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau in the process of integrating Agenda 2063 into their National Development Plans.

33. Based on the mitigated results achieved in the implementation of the MDGs, the meeting called for the need to improve tracking of progress in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs and for experience sharing among countries. In that regard, participants suggested that AUC, supported by ECA and other partners should joint efforts for the development of a composite of indicators that would track progress in implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs and also allow ranking countries for emulation and learning purposes.

34. Participants noted the difference in context and technical capacities of countries for the integration of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda at the national level. In this regard, they highlighted the need for clear guidance from AUC and ECA, combined with information sharing from countries that have already conducted the domestication exercise, on how to concretely proceed for reflecting the two agendas into national plans and frameworks. They notably put an emphasis on the challenges that post-conflict countries may face in such exercise. In this respect, they recommended that AUC and ECA stand ready to provide technical assistance and capacity building initiatives to countries in order to facilitate the integration process of the two agendas at the national level, particularly for post-conflict countries.

35. The Conference further noted that instability and conflicts are important challenges for Africa’s ability to achieve Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.

36. Employment creation was highlighted as a core priority for Africa's transformation agenda and new approaches were needed to address that challenge. In that regard, participants stressed that technology transfer was essential for the development of innovative enterprises for employment creation, especially in sustainable development. The Conference also noted the need for African countries to shift from single economic growth to diversified economic growth through industrialization. In that perspective, the Conference stressed that the continent should follow an industrial pathway which is carbon resilient. To this end, skills development and investment in research and development were necessary to support commodity-based industrialization, value addition and the realization of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the urgent need to shift from informal to formal economic activities and employment by leveraging existing opportunities in the informal sector was emphasized.

37. Although experts acknowledged the progress made in advancing the continent's development agenda, they noted the need for domestic structural reforms to optimize development outcomes in the light of declining commodity prices and limited fiscal space. The commodities sector was also identified as an important sector for financing other industries and creating jobs.

## **B. Recommendations**

38. In the light of the discussions, the Conference made the following recommendations:

- (a) There is need for a coherent and unified approach for the integration of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 into National Development Plans and Frameworks.
- (b) Given the economic slowdown and Africa's dependence on commodities, the region needs to diversify its economic sectors;
- (c) As intra-African trade is more conducive to industrialization, Africa needs to produce more consumer goods and services for national and regional markets to reduce import reliance;
- (d) There is an urgent need to shift from informal to formal economic activities and employment by leveraging existing opportunities in the informal sector through appropriate policies, structural reforms, and skills development;
- (e) The African Union Commission supported by ECA and other partners should streamline the reporting process to ensure coherence, tracking and monitoring and evaluation;
- (f) The UNSG should give priority to setting up a Global Partnership for Data;
- (g) The AU, with the support of the UN and other partners should provide technical and financial assistance to countries in conflict and post conflict to implement Agenda 2063 and the SDGs;
- (h) The UN General Assembly should issue a resolution and allocate financial resources to the RCM in support of Agenda 2063 as the new development Agenda for Africa.

## **IV. High-level Round Table Discussions**

### **Round Table 1: Harmonization, synergies and sensitization: the need for a coherent development approach** [agenda item 4]

#### **Presentation**

39. Chaired by H.E. Dr Dlamini Nkosazana Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the panel of this round table was composed of: Dr Frannie Lautier, Incoming Senior Vice President of the African Development Bank (AfDB); Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General of the United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and H.E. Mr. Abdou Kolley, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, The Gambia.

40. Introducing the Round table, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission emphasized the need for synergies and harmonization between the continental long-term development framework, Agenda 2063, and the global framework, Agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development Goals. She recommended cross collaboration between the government policy makers and the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. In addition, she stressed the need to communicate both agendas to the citizens with a view to harnessing national ownership, essential for their effective implementation.

41. In his remarks, Mr Kituyi stressed that there is a general consensus among stakeholders on the need to enhance the harmonization and synergies between Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 in order for the continent to achieve the expected results. He underlined the importance of international solidarity in the context of declining Official Development Assistance and noted the importance of Public-Private Partnerships for financing Africa's infrastructure needs. He underscored the importance of Domestic Resource Mobilization in that context and called for the optimal the use of these resources for the continent's economic and social transformation under the global framework of the two Agendas. He finally stressed the importance of building synergies between the two Agendas and noted the need for domestication of their indicators into National Development Plans.

42. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of such agendas have two important purposes namely accountability and learning. The Conference of Ministers on Finance and Economic Planning is viewed as one important platform to share best practices and learn from one another regarding the implementation of these development agendas. It was also highlighted that some of the initiatives currently been implemented by some of key pan -African institutions are also encompassed in the agenda 2063. For instance, four out of the five priority areas of the AfDB namely, feed Africa, power Africa, integrate Africa and industrialize Africa are already integrated into Africa Agenda 2063 which is seen as plus when it comes to the implementation of Agenda 2063 in the continent. The continent should take advantage of the on-going programmes of the flagship projects and group of fast track initiatives of the African union such as Africa commodity strategy, continental financial institutions, and pan -African e network to use them as an instrument to fast track implementation.

43. All the panellists underscored the need for member States to focus implementation and effective communication at all levels, national, regional level and continental. Prioritizing the implementation of agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals should be key to all government policy makers. Pan-African institutions such as the ECA, AUC and the AfDB, in close collaboration with other stakeholders including universities should provide the needed support to member states in designing sound strategies aimed at promoting effective implementation of the two agendas.

44. All panellists observed that fact that African countries had a clear idea on their priorities with regards to the Sustainable development Goals as suggested by the African Common Position on the Post 2015. Implementation of the two agendas in parallel could be a very complex and huge task and developing a coherent framework that integrates both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 is crucial. There is no doubt that implementation of these development agendas is facing some challenges, including the sharp decrease of commodity prices especially those of energy (oil) and metals, with negative implications on the gross domestic product (GDP) and fiscal space of commodity-exporting countries. In

addition, the substantial decrease in Official development Assistance (ODA) is also having a negative impact on the flows to many developing countries including those in Africa. The current drop in ODA flows to Africa has been triggered by the massive flows of migrants in developed countries especially Europe as a number of international partners have switched their support from ODA to support the uncontrolled situation of migrants in Europe.

45. Despite having some divergences, the panellists noted that both Agendas 2030 and agenda 2063 are not different---they both aim to achieve similar objectives. Agenda 2063 which is Africa's continental development framework was developed earlier than the global Sustainable Development Goals (agenda 2030). Given that Africa is part of the global community, there is a need to harmonize the two agendas, in coherence with our national development strategies and plans for effective implementation. This will indeed play a significant role in cutting cost of implementation, evaluation and reporting the achievements of these development agendas both at national and international levels. Two main challenges were then highlighted. The first challenge is the difference in timeframe set for both continental (agenda 2030) and national level (agenda 2063). There is a need to think on how a 10 years continental plan can be reflected in a 4 or 5 years national plan. A second important challenge is the financial resources needed. In addition to Official Development Assistance, mobilizing domestic resources is critical for member States in the effective implementation of these agendas.

## **A. Discussion**

46. In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the pace of integration in Africa was relatively slow and that increased momentum was needed to meet the milestones established in the Abuja Treaty. Participants observed that strong continental institutions were needed to enable Africa to roll out its development agenda.

47. An assessment of previous development agendas in terms of implementation and lessons learned could be critical to success in implementing the two agendas. Ministers noted the need to implement the Agendas within national contexts, and that countries needed to adopt specific tools and mechanisms to successfully integrate the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 into their national development plans. It was recommended that a road map be developed to facilitate the integration of the two agendas into national contexts.

48. Regarding the financing of Agenda 2063, it was noted that the dependency on partner funding represented a major impediment to the implementation of Africa's development plans, as witnessed in past experiences. Although many initiatives and solutions had been proposed, the lack of implementation represented a major challenge. It was therefore necessary for countries to mobilize internally the required financing.

## **B. Recommendations**

49. In the light of the discussion, the Conference of Ministers made the following recommendations:

- (a) Member States should step up the operationalization of the three pan-African financial institutions, namely, the African central bank, the African monetary fund and the African investment bank, by signing and ratifying the respective founding statutes;

- (b) The African member States should take ownership of their continental development agendas by, among other strategies, implementing alternative and innovative financing mechanisms, including domestic resource mobilization;
- (c) The African Union Commission and ECA should be requested to assist member States in designing a road map for the implementation of both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level, and to put in place a common comprehensive and harmonized monitoring and evaluation framework for the two agendas.

## **V. Round table 2: Integration of the results framework, monitoring and evaluation** [agenda item 4]

### **A. Presentation**

50. The panellists that took part in the session included Mr. Bahari Lukwebo, Minister of Planning of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Ms. Edith Clemence Yaka, Minister Delegate in Charge of the Budget of Burkina Faso; Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and Professor Emmanuel Nnadozie, Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation. The session was moderated by Mr. Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Finance of Namibia. Each panellist made a short presentation and a general discussion ensued thereafter.

51. In sharing his country's experience, Mr. Lukwebo explained that the Democratic Republic of Congo has integrated the SDGs in their national plan. In recognition of the convergence between Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, he noted that the monitoring and evaluation framework of national plans should be designed as envisioned in the two agendas.

52. Ms. Yaka recounted that Burkina Faso is on track in defining the national development plan which is known as the national social and economic development programme. She informed Ministers that this was being done through a national institutional mechanism comprised of a strategic guidance committee, a technical committee and a drafting committee. She said that a round table would be organized within the first half of the year that would bring together both technical and financial partners to internalize international and regional commitments including Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 into national plans.

53. In his presentation, Mr. Acharya reiterated the high convergence and synergies between Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 that required a common, integrated framework for results, monitoring and evaluation. He stressed that the integrated framework would facilitate early achievement of results and keep the momentum alive towards greater impact. To this end, he recommended that innovative technologies must be utilized to facilitate production and utilization of new analytical insights emanating from disaggregated data. He noted that the significance of an integrated approach has become critical especially in the context of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island developing states with limited existing national capacities.

54. In his intervention, Professor Nnadozie noted that integration is possible since on a closer look, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are embedded in Agenda 2063 and hence the latter could serve as a vessel to deliver the SDGs. He noted that the SDGs deal with economic, social and sustainability issues, whilst Agenda 2063 addresses the same issues in addition to political and cultural issues as well as other continent specific issues such as regional integration. He was pleased to note that



under the leadership of the African Union, Africa had already adopted a credible integration approach for the results framework that would further lead to domestication of the harmonized agendas at regional and national levels, establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework that would cater for both agendas, compilation and issuance of a single periodic performance report, and finally the establishment of an accountability channel. He highlighted the 12 flagship projects resulting out of Agenda 2063 that are already under implementation as a sign of progress already being made by Africa. He further acknowledged the critical role to be played by data and statistics during implementation thereby calling on support for statisticians on the continent.

55. Recognizing the role that the AU is already playing, Mr. Nnadozie singled out financing, capacity and coordination as the key requirements that Africa must pay attention to. He concluded by pledging the continued support of the ACBF to Member States in addressing capacity and financial challenges.

## **B. Discussion**

56. In the ensuing discussion, Ministers recognized the need to harmonize Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and to ensure their effective implementation by incorporating them in national frameworks. Harmonizing the agendas would avoid placing an excessive burden on the human and financial resources of member States. At the same time, account should be taken of the specificities of the continent and of the differences in the context, resource endowment and development priorities of each individual country. Member States also requested technical support from the African Union and ECA to offset their inadequate capacity for implementation.

57. Ministers stressed the need to harmonize the terminology of the two agendas and to align their goals, priority areas, targets and indicators at the regional level. They underscored the importance of clear monitoring and evaluation and reporting mechanisms, which would bring together the two agendas and national priorities, as articulated in national development frameworks and medium-to-long term visions. In that context, they noted that the current mapping exercise conducted between Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda should be extended to align the harmonized framework with national development priorities. A clear reporting mechanism was recognized as being important for countries to assess progress, share experiences, learn from one another and improve implementation. They recognized that sound coordination between the different national sectors was essential to ensuring that the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the two agendas were effected in an integrated manner.

58. Acknowledging the work already done on the results framework, it was agreed that gradual monitoring should be followed to ensure that the indices and indicators developed, capture the process within the Member States

59. In this regard, it was agreed that a common framework is necessary to enable standardised data collection. There is need for harmonisation including ex ante or prior harmonisation of the indicators as this will provide the necessary metadata in which the progress is measured against. This will require defining a systematic pyramid and hierarchy of indicators.

60. The need for skills development and capacity building was emphasised as pertinent to ensure proper monitoring, evaluation and reporting as this is relevant to achieving the development agendas. High-level well-trained individuals including statisticians are needed to ensure each sector is well taken care of hence ensuring the needed synergy.

61. Financing was also identified by Member States as critical to the success of the implementation of the Agendas especially as far as monitoring, evaluation and reporting is concerned.

### **C. Recommendations**

62. In the light of the discussion, the Conference of Ministers made the following recommendations:

- (a) Countries should take steps to incorporate the harmonized framework in their own development planning systems and to adapt it to the specific contexts of their countries;
- (b) The African Union Commission, supported by ECA, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Agency, the African Capacity Building Foundation, the regional economic communities and other partners, should harmonize the terminology relating to priority areas, goals, indicators and targets in the two agendas through the mapping exercise;
- (c) At the continental level, the African Union Commission, supported by ECA, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Agency, the regional economic communities and African statisticians, should establish a harmonized monitoring and evaluation and reporting framework for the agendas, while, at the national level, countries should coordinate their process of integrated reporting;
- (d) The African Union Commission, supported by ECA and the African Development Bank and the NEPAD Agency, should continue to assist member States and regional economic communities in:
  - (i) Incorporating Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans and the strategic plans of regional economic communities;
  - (ii) Adopting an integrated and coherent approach to implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - (iii) Completing the design of a monitoring and evaluation framework that caters for both Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (e) Measures to curb illicit financial flows should be intensified, including investment in a financial intelligence system in Africa; enhancing political commitment to fighting the problem of illicit financial flows; deepening engagement with receiving countries to tackle the unfavourable practices of multinationals by implementing the recommendations set out in the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa;
- (f) The capacities of national institutions involved in revenue collection, including customs and revenue authorities, should be strengthened to improve domestic resource mobilization;
- (g) Efforts should be made to rationalize national expenditures and the resulting savings should be redirected towards building and maintaining the good-quality infrastructure needed to enhance productive capacities on the continent;
- (h) The capacity of national statistics systems should be strengthened to support effective implementation, monitoring and assessment of the two agendas.

## **VI. Round table 3: Financing** [agenda item 4]

### **A. Presentation**

63. The Session was chaired by H.E. Mrs. Malado Kaba, Minister of Economy and Finance of Guinea and the panellists for the session included: H.E. Mrs Mona Quartey, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Planning for Ghana; H.E. Hon. Fred Omach, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda; and H.E. Dr Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

64. In her introductory remarks H.E. Mrs Quartey gave a short overview of “Better Ghana” the national strategic framework towards shared prosperity through which the efforts of the Government are centred on four key issues of great importance. She underlined that Ghana had also designed a long-term strategic approach to development, having developed a 40-year National Development Plan (2018-2057) in which Agenda 2063 had been fully reflected. She then highlighted the various approaches Ghana had taken to financing its National Development Plan (NDP). She noted that although Ghana’s Official Development Assistance dwindled after it achieved lower-middle income status, the boost in investor confidence that it received as a result of joining the IMF’s extended credit facility programme had enabled it to utilize alternative sources of financing. She stressed however, that Ghana’s engagement with the IMF had been successful because it approached the organization with a well-developed, home-grown plan with which it could negotiate for appropriate terms and conditions. She also noted Ghana’s success in issuing Eurobonds and attributed it to having a well-formulated communication plan, further stating that Ghana was currently conducting road shows in the US and Europe, whose focus was to showcase Ghana’s progress and macroeconomic stability. H.E. Mrs. Quartey also highlighted domestic efforts to raise funds that Ghana had pursued including: the issuance of diaspora bonds, and municipal and district assembly bonds for specific markets; approaching equity firms and setting up a sovereign wealth fund and investment infrastructure funds using petroleum revenues. She further noted that Ghana had recently discovered that pension funds and insurance companies represented a large reserve for potential funding. On the other hand, she highlighted the importance of rationalising expenditure noting that Ghana had reduced its public sector wage bill from 70% of government revenue to just 35%. She attributed this to the implementation of Integrated Financial Information Management Systems (IFMIS).

65. H.E. Hon. Fred Omach expressed his support for Agenda 2063 as Africa’s vision. He informed delegates that in 2010, Uganda created their Vision 2040 which is to be implemented through 6 five-year National Development Plans, the second of which was being implemented. He noted that Vision 2040 had identified and was addressing 9 bottle-necks that were hindering Uganda’s strategic growth and socioeconomic development. He discussed unconventional approaches to financing and implementations that Africans should consider. He noted that, while the African Development Bank (AfDB) enjoys AAA rating, African Central Banks keep their reserves, totalling over \$600 billion in European and American Banks; he called for a declaration similar to the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture, requesting banks to store their reserves with the AfDB. He also noted the importance of Diaspora Bonds, through which Uganda raises over \$1 billion. He called for African countries to take a collective approach to peace-keeping as the negative effects wars and internal strife in African countries often spill over to their neighbours, particularly in the vital tourism sector. Noting the urgent need for value addition and industrialisation in Africa, he called for Africans to aim for 100, 000 megawatts of hydro-electric power and not simply settle for 40,000 megawatts from the Inga Dam. He also called on

African countries to reassess their approach to borrowing noting that most countries have an absorption rate of less than 50% of what they borrow.

66. H.E. Dr Erastus Mwencha reiterated Africa's commitment to implementing Agenda 2063 as a strategy for economic transformation and inclusive growth. He then stated that this translates to industrialising and changing the structure of African economies. He noted that to achieve its goal, Africa needs an investment rate of more than 20%, a figure which many countries are currently unable to attain. However, he noted that Africa had the means of doing so but it needed to take a different development path that prioritised the mobilisation of resources. He noted the well-known international efforts, namely the Monterrey Consensus and the Addis Ababa Action Accord (AAAA) but stated that work was being done to implement the recommendations of the Abuja Meetings on Financing. He highlighted the initiative to use domestic resources to fund 75% of Agenda 2063's First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) and 25% of African Peacekeeping efforts. He also informed participants that before the 27th AU Summit, a Retreat on financing would be organised to allow Ministers of Finance and Heads of State and Government to tackle the issue of financing. He also highlighted the need to prioritise the flow of financing, especially to industry.

## **B. Discussion**

67. In the ensuing discussion, participants highlighted the need for a change in mind sets towards a commitment to implement and to make the necessary investments in African institutions such as the African Development Bank.

68. Private financial flows such as remittances were also discussed with regards to their increasing contribution to Africa's development finance landscape.

69. Cross-border financing for development programmes, supported by the African Union's and Regional Economic Communities were also discussed in the context of high quality data, especially on the tax potential of countries, and markets of consumption and production.

70. It was highlighted that financial inclusion reforms and interventions, especially those that target smallholder farmers and leverage value chain systems, would boost domestic resource mobilisation, as would institutional strengthening and joint-programming particularly between Central Banks, the Tax Revenue Authorities and National Statistics Offices.

71. Risk-sharing and mitigation measures were also been discussed relieve national balance sheets of debt-related risk. In addition, participants highlighted the need to educate citizens and engage them through measures such as a simplified 'citizen's budget' that will allow them to understand what their government is doing.

## **C. Recommendations**

72. In the light of the discussion, the Conference of Ministers made the following recommendations:

- (a) Member States should sharpen their focus on inequality and exclusion as sources of poverty in the context of social development policies;
- (b) Member States should strengthen the productivity and capacities of the poor through adequate social protection measures, financial inclusion and the provision of decent jobs;

- (c) Member States should enhance the role of technical and vocational education and training in the priority areas of the five-year priority programme in order to harness the demographic dividend and ensure an alignment of skills with the needs of the economies;
- (d) Despite the challenges of data availability, member States should endeavour to integrate the informal sector into national development planning;
- (e) The regional economic communities and the African Union Commission should agree on a road map for the incorporation of the five-year priority programme into regional and national planning by 2017, in line with the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (f) Member States should develop and implement national comprehensive employment policies backed by effective labour market information systems, inclusive labour market institutions and strong political will, with appropriate funding.

## **VII. Consideration of the report of the Committee of Experts and adoption of the draft resolutions [agenda item 5]**

73. Ministers considered and adopted the Report of the Meeting of the Committee of Experts and one joint resolution of the AU and ECA, six resolutions of the ECA and ten resolutions of the AU annexed to it. The Report of the Meeting of the Committee of Experts and the Resolutions are annexed to this report.

## **VIII. Consideration and adoption of the draft ministerial statement and draft resolutions [agenda item 6]**

### **A. Presentation**

74. Under the agenda item, participants considered a draft version of the ministerial statement of the meeting, made general comments and observations on various sections of the draft statement and proposed minor amendments.

75. Following those observations, the draft ministerial statement was unanimously adopted, as amended. The Ministerial Statement is appended to the present report as annex I.

## **IX. Other Business [agenda item 7]**

76. On this Agenda item, no issue was raised.

## **X. Closing of the meeting [agenda item 7]**

77. In her closing remarks, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma underlined the importance of the Joint Conference of Ministers as a useful policy dialogue platform for knowledge and experience sharing towards designing optimal solutions for the achievement of economic and social transformation in Africa during the next decade and beyond under the overall framework of Agenda 2063 and Agenda

2030. In that regard, she noted that the meeting had been critical in identifying policy options towards an integrated approach for the implementation of the two Agendas. She laid emphasis on key issues that are of great relevance for the achievement of both Agendas. These include: (i) domestication of Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan at national and regional levels; (ii) alignment of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs with a single monitoring, evaluation and reporting process; (iii) empowerment of women and youth; (iv) change of mid-set; (v) development of statistics; (vi) communication and (vii) African solidarity and Pan Africanism. She concluded by thanking Experts and Ministers for their active participation during the Conference and ECA for the successful organization of the meeting.

78. In his closing remarks, Mr Carlos Lopes, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ECA noted the importance of a coherent approach for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. He underscored that the meeting had provided a unique opportunity to identify the actions that would catalyze Africa's transformation. In conclusion, he thanked all participants for their fruitful and lively contributions to the debates.

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