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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Thirty-Sixth Ordinary Session

06 - 07 February 2020

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EX.CL/1207(XXXVI)

Original : English

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)**

REPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)

INTRODUCTION

1. Council will recall that in preceding reports we underlined the need for a smooth and timely relocation of the ECOSOCC Secretariat from the African Union Commission to the Republic of Zambia, in line with AU Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.4(XXVI), which endorsed the offer of the Republic of Zambia to host the ECOSOCC Secretariat and directed the African Union Commission to work together with Zambia on its implementation. Accordingly, our main concern for the period under review was to accomplish the administrative and operational processes required to ensure the physical relocation of the Secretariat to Lusaka Zambia, and the successful transition to program operations therefrom. Consequently, a concerted effort was invested in ensuring the readiness of the proposed premises in Lusaka as well as the recruitment and deployment of staff personnel to serve within the Secretariat.

2. In addition, the period under review saw the induction of the 3rd Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC and the election of its various Sectorial Cluster committees; preliminary efforts to develop a harmonized accreditation mechanism for CSOs; the commencement of an in-depth study of ECOSOCC as the basis of the reform of the organ; and an accelerated program for the establishment and operationalization of ECOSOCC national chapters in African Union member states.

3. This report highlights the core activities of ECOSOCC from an operational point of view before proceeding to provide an update on the programmatic accomplishments for the period under consideration.

SECTION I: OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Relocation of ECOSOCC Secretariat to the Republic of Zambia.

4. Following Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.4(XXVI), the African Union Commission, with the support of the Government of Zambia, expedited the process of effecting the relocation of the ECOSOCC Secretariat to Lusaka, Zambia. The relocation process was initiated with the elaboration of the associated financial, structural and legal implications; the amendment of Article 14 of the ECOSOCC Statutes which governs the location of the Secretariat, and, ultimately, the signing of the host agreement between the African Union and the Republic of Zambia on the margins of the African Union Summit in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in July 2018.

5. Following the above processes, recruitment of staff was initiated. The appointments of the Head of Secretariat and Head of Programmes were finalized at the end of third quarter and the beginning of the fourth quarter 2019 respectively. The two recruited employees have been spearheading the relocation process. Recruitment for the rest of the staff is ongoing. Council would recall that an official staffing structure comprising twenty-seven (27) positions was approved by the policy organs of the

Union. At the time of reporting, sixteen (16) positions have been recruited through a competitive process and are at various stages of deployment to Lusaka, Zambia to start the operations of the secretariat.

6. It is to be noted that the Government of Zambia, in line with the provisions of the host agreement, contributed some office furniture and equipment for the Secretariat, which is currently being hosted within the New Government Complex in Lusaka. However, during the final evaluation mission conducted by the AU Commission in November 2019, concerns were raised about the overall suitability of the physical infrastructure in terms of fitness for purpose for an African Union facility. In light of these observations, the evaluation team and the Government of Zambia agreed on a short-term, medium-term and long-term plan for the premises. Specifically, it was agreed that the Secretariat will remain in the currently provided premises as a temporary measure for a 12-month period ending by December 2020, by which time the Government will have identified and secured a standalone facility – one which is more in line with standard specifications for African Union regional facilities – to host the Secretariat pending the actualization of the long-term plan which entails the construction of a permanent facility for the Secretariat.

7. Other areas of concern with regards to the relocation of the Secretariat is the limited budgetary allocation for operational support such as purchasing of vehicles and office equipment to facilitate the smooth functioning of work. The Secretariat is in dire need of support in the above areas through a supplementary budget measure or a reallocation of some approved operational costs within the 2020 budget – or both – in order to help mitigate the tremendous operational challenges with which the new Secretariat is confronted.

8. The full report of the final evaluation mission to Lusaka, including its recommendations and joint implementation plan agreed by the African Union and the Government of Zambia, is enclosed as Annex I.

Election of the 3rd Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC

9. Article 5(5) of the ECOSOCC Statutes stipulates that the members of ECOSOCC shall have a mandate of four (4) years, renewable only once. In line with this provision, the mandate of the preceding 2nd Permanent General Assembly expired in December 2018. Consequently, statutory elections were organized within the period under review for membership of the 3rd Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC, for a new four-year mandate ending in 2022. The new General Assembly subsequently elected the membership of the governing sub-organs of ECOSOCC, including the Standing Committee, the Credentials Committee and the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee.

10. It is to be noted that significant concern has emerged within the organ with regard to the technical capability of some elected members, which in many instances was compromised by the need to satisfy election rules on geographical, gender and other considerations. The General Assembly has consequently recommended the adoption of skill-based eligibility criteria for the election of CSOs into the ECOSOCC General Assembly, in order to provide the platform for electing the most technically competent persons into the organ who are able to execute ECOSOCC's statutory

mandate to provide expert advice and technical input into the programs and policies of the Union.

SECTION II: PROGRAM UPDATES

Operationalization of ECOSOCC Sectorial Cluster Committees

11. One of the key programmatic achievements of ECOSOCC during the period under review is the strengthening of the capacity of the ten sectorial cluster committees. Article 11 of the ECOSOCC Statutes recognizes the sectorial cluster committees as the key operational mechanisms of ECOSOCC that will formulate advice and provide input into the policies and programs of the African Union; and thereby relate the work of the African Union to that of African citizens across all walks of life.

12. Council would recall that despite its seminal importance, neither the Interim ECOSOCC Assembly (2005-2008) nor the 1st Permanent General Assembly (2008-2012) was able to activate or operationalize sectorial clusters. The 2nd Permanent General Assembly was cognizant of this deficit and took the initiative to correct it by establishing a framework for cluster operations within the organ. This work has been expedited and reinforced within the period under review through the joint efforts of the Secretariat and elected leadership of the organ; all of whom have worked to support the establishment and operation of cluster committees as an integral part of the work of the organ.

Development of a Harmonized Mechanism for CSO Accreditation to The AU

13. Within the period under review the Secretariat commenced the implementation of the Executive Council Decision requesting ECOSOCC to develop a harmonized accreditation mechanism for CSOs wishing to interact with the African Union. As the initial step in the implementation process the Secretariat launched a technical consultancy to engage an expert consultant to develop a harmonized accreditation framework setting out the specific modalities that would govern how CSOs would receive accreditation to engage any organ, institution or specialized technical agency of the African Union.

14. However, ECOSOCC regrettably informs Council that the consultant who was awarded the contract, Prof. Pius Adesanmi, a Nigerian academic and director of the Institute of African Studies at Carleton University in Canada, was a victim of the tragic Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302, which was involved in a fatal accident on 3 March 2019. Professor Adesanmi was en route to Nairobi to present his methodology and work plan for the consultancy to stakeholders at the project inception workshop. The entire organ takes this opportunity to reiterate its most profound condolences to the family of Prof. Adesanmi, who was a tremendous Pan-Africanist and an important contributor to the work of ECOSOCC and the African Union as a whole. This tragic incident has left the work of the accreditation framework incomplete; and the organ wishes to request the support of Council and other policy organs of the Union to avail additional resources required to resume implementation considering its strategic importance to the Union.

Mainstreaming Of CSO Participation In AU Programs

15. The fundamental mandate of ECOSOCC as an advisory organ is to provide high level technical input into the programs and policies of the African Union. In the period under review, ECOSOCC has worked to infuse a 'civil society first' tradition into AU proceedings and processes in order to ensure that civil society is afforded the space to contribute to the ongoing development and integration agenda of the Union. ECOSOCC fully recognizes that the integral participation of non-state actors in the affairs of the Union is imperative if the AU is to actualize its founding commitment to be a people-centered and people-driven Union.

16. In this regard ECOSOCC continues to work diligently through its sectorial cluster committees, national chapters, and its mainstream programming to create and expand platforms for CSOs to contribute, advocate, participate and provide input into major continental initiatives. In preparation for the AU Theme of the Year 2020 on Silencing the Guns in Africa, ECOSOCC has been particularly active in the implementation of the Livingstone Formula, which provides recommendations on the role of civil society in achieving peace and security issues on the continent. The organ has also created platforms for CSO technical consultation on emerging issues such as migration, illicit financial flows, climate change and blue economy, the AfCFTA, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) gender financing on the continent and many more.

17. In all these consultations and engagements, ECOSOCC provides a pool of experts who are active within the various thematic areas at the national, regional or continental level to generate evidence-based input based in best practice and lessons learned from the civil society community of practice.

Establishment of ECOSOCC National Chapters

18. National chapters of ECOSOCC constitute a critical structure within the organ given that they are one of the most visible and effective mechanisms to reflect the work of the organ and that of the African Union as a whole at the level of the individual member state. Currently, there are ECOSOCC national chapters active in 21 member states of the Union; and the Secretariat continues to prioritize the expansion of these structures into all 55 member states within the term of the current General Assembly.

19. A major challenge affecting the full operationalization of the national chapters is inadequacy of funds to support activities of national chapters at the country level. To this end, the organ requests the support of the policy organs of the Union to approve dedicated budget lines within the ECOSOCC budget in order to enable the organ to support the critical work of the national chapters at country level. This is especially crucial given that the national chapters constitute the appropriate platform where civil society within the African Union member states can contribute directly and meaningfully to the ongoing development initiatives of the Union, including the flagship programs of Agenda 2063 as well as strategic continental initiatives such as the AfCFTA, the Protocol on Free Movement of People, and other continental policies.

In-Depth Study into The Effectiveness Of ECOSOCC

20. In line with Executive Council Decision **EX.CL/Dec.849 (XXV)**, an in-depth study of ECOSOCC regarding its functioning since its inception was undertaken to interrogate the organ's efficiency and effectiveness. The primary goal of the study was to provide appropriate recommendations in line with the current reforms of the AU, on ways and means to revamp the operations of the organ that would enable it to deliver on its advisory role more effectively and efficiently. The study employed an inclusive and participatory methodology which included consultations with all key stakeholders including the PRC, CSOs in and out of ECOSOCC, other AU organs and AUC line departments.

21. The detailed report of the study is scheduled to be presented to the policy organs of the Union for their consideration at the AU Coordination Meeting in July 2020; following validation by stakeholders. However, the preliminary outcomes point to the need for significant reforms at multiple levels, including a revision of the Statutes, a re-definition of the membership criteria to guarantee the technical capacity of members, increased budgetary support to enable the effective participation of the organ across the full spectrum of African Union programming, and harmonization of the Secretariat staffing structure to make it consistent with other AU organs.

SECTION III: THE ROAD AHEAD

22. With the transition to a standalone Secretariat in Lusaka and the recruitment of a fully dedicated staff, ECOSOCC has the potential to come into its own as a fully operational organ of the African Union with the capacity to fully deliver on its mandate of providing advice into the policies and programs of the African Union. However, a number of significant challenges remain, in the immediate term, which risk offsetting the potential programmatic benefits of the newly relocated Secretariat.

23. The first of these is related to the ongoing staff recruitment. As a consequence of institutional constraints which ultimately delayed the recruitment of about nine (9) staff personnel initially budgeted for deployment in 2019, the organ suffered the loss of the budget originally approved for initial recruitment costs of those staff members. Repeated requests for a rollover of these resources into 2020 have been unsuccessful, thereby compelling the use of the organ's 2020 budget allocation to cover the initial recruitment costs of staff originally planned for recruitment in 2019. The spillover effect is that the organ consequently has no resources to finance its recruitment plan for 2020 and beyond; effectively depriving the Secretariat of new staff even before it has the chance to begin operations.

24. Secondly, the scope of ECOSOCC operations has increased exponentially with the transition to a new Secretariat and the onboarding of new staff. Regrettably, the budget allocation for operations and programs has remained at the same level as it was when the Secretariat was attached to the African Union Commission with no full-time staff of its own. As a result the impact of the new Secretariat stands to be severely compromised given the lack of resources to correspond to its vastly expanded operational and program scope.

25. Finally, there are significant challenges inherent to the physical premises from which the Secretariat is to operate in Lusaka. These difficulties have been addressed in detail in the report of the final evaluation mission of the African Union to Lusaka in November 2019; and which is attached as Annex I to this report.

SECTION IV: RECOMMENDATIONS

26. Relative to the challenges identified above affecting the initial recruitment of staff for 2020 and the operational effectiveness of the Secretariat, it is recommended that the PRC authorize a one-off supplementary budget measure to support the recruitment and deployment costs of staff, and to equip the Secretariat with critical operational resources including vehicles and office equipment.

27. With regard to the overall need to align operational and program resources with the newly expanded scope of the Secretariat, it is recommended that a special dispensation be granted by the policy organs, as a one-off measure, for the ECOSOCC Secretariat to receive a waiver, for its 2021 budget submission, of the 5% limit on increases in budget proposals to enable it present a budget that is realistic of its new circumstances and can better reflect the expanded scope of program responsibilities.

28. Finally, it is proposed that the AU and the Government of Zambia expedite action towards the relocation of the interim Secretariat to a standalone facility, and commit to a precise, time-bound roadmap by which this transition will be achieved before December 2020, in line with the joint transition plan agreed between the two parties. This outcome will provide a solution to a number of the current challenges which are inherent to the location of the interim premises on a shared floor within a multi-tenant building. In addition to enabling the AU to effect the necessary security upgrades required for an African Union office, a standalone facility will provide a more conducive working environment and will be more befitting of an African Union organ; and importantly, be more consistent with the agreement reached between the AU and the Republic of Zambia during the initial evaluation mission upon which the host agreement was signed.

29. The joint transition plan agreed between the African Union and the Government of Zambia at the end of the final evaluation mission to Lusaka in November 2019 is attached as Annex II to this report.

~ End of Report ~

Annexes:

- *Annex I: Report of the Final Evaluation Mission to Lusaka, November 2019*
- *Annex II: Joint Transition Plan of the ECOSOCC Secretariat agreed by the African Union and the Government of Zambia.*

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EX.CL/1207(XXXVI) Annex 1

Original : English

REPORT OF THE FINAL EVALUATION MISSION TO LUSAKA

REPORT OF THE FINAL EVALUATION MISSION TO LUSAKA, NOVEMBER 2019

1. INTRODUCTION:

AU Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.4(XXVI) welcomed and supported the offer of the Republic of Zambia to host the ECOSOCC Secretariat; and directed the African Union Commission to work together with Zambia to define the legal, structural and financial implications of the relocation.

Following the elaboration of the legal, financial and structural implications of the relocation, a multi-departmental team undertook an initial evaluation mission on (dates tbc) to Lusaka, Zambia in accordance with standard institutional practice relative to the establishment of African Union regional offices. The report of the initial evaluation mission fed into the development of a draft host agreement between the African Union and the Republic of Zambia.

On 1 July 2018, on the margins of the African Union Summit held in Nouakchott Mauritania, the host agreement was formally signed by the African Union and the Republic of Zambia, paving the way for the transition of the ECOSOCC Secretariat from the AU Commission to Lusaka, Zambia.

Following the recruitment of the first group of new staff for the Secretariat in the 3rd quarter of 2019, and in preparation for their imminent deployment to new Secretariat in Lusaka, a second interdepartmental team undertook a final evaluation mission from 13-15 November 2019 to establish the readiness of the new Secretariat facility in line with the provisions of the host agreement.

The evaluation mission was followed immediately by an installation mission from 15-30 November 2019 with a mandate to ensure that the new office premises were appropriately furnished and equipped in order to support the operational requirements of the Secretariat.

2. COMPOSITION OF EVALUATION AND INSTALLATION TEAMS:

The evaluation and installation missions were composed by AU Commission specialist staff representing the following Departments and Units:

1. ECOSOCC Secretariat in CIDO
2. AHRM
3. PBFA
4. Procurement Unit
5. MIS
6. SSSD
7. Facilities Management Unit

The Republic of Zambia was represented chiefly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the additional involvement of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Works and Supply.

3. EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AND OBSERVATIONS:

The primary purpose of the final evaluation mission was to examine the facilities and amenities put forward by the Government of Zambia for the new ECOSOCC Secretariat and ensure their adherence to the terms stipulated in the host agreement.

The evaluation mission thus focused on the following major areas:

1. Physical Premises of the ECOSOCC Secretariat
2. Office Furniture
3. Office IT Equipment
4. Diplomatic Privileges and Protocol for Secretariat Staff
5. Security Arrangements for Premises and Staff
6. Office Vehicles

The observations of the evaluation in each area is summarized below:

Physical Premises of the ECOSOCC Secretariat:

The premises evaluated by the final evaluation mission consisted of a suite of offices within the New Government Complex; a large government-owned office compound which hosts multiple ministries of the Government of Zambia. The space allocated for the ECOSOCC Secretariat is composed of eleven (11) offices on the 7th floor of the main office tower. The Secretariat is not the only tenant of the floor, as about half of it is occupied by another organization.

Office Furniture:

The premises inspected were largely unfurnished at the time of the evaluation mission. The Government of Zambia indicated that it planned to procure the appropriate furniture following consultations with the evaluation team in order to specify the specific requirements of the Secretariat.

Office IT equipment:

The premises were not equipped with office IT equipment. As with the office furniture, the Government of Zambia planned to procure the appropriate equipment following consultations with the evaluation mission to agree on the specifications of the equipment to be installed.

Diplomatic Privileges and Protocol for Secretariat Staff:

The specific elements of diplomatic privileges and protocol were discussed by the two parties and agreed as consisting of the following:

- i. Registration (IDs) for ECOSOCC staff and their dependents
- ii. Tax-Exemption for the Secretariat and staff
- iii. Duty-free importation of vehicles and personal effects of ECOSOCC staff
- iv. Facilitation of residence permits for ECOSOCC staff and their dependents
- v. Conversion of drivers licences

Security Arrangements for Premises and Staff:

The evaluation team observed that, in a number of areas, the security provisions at the premises were inconsistent with the standards of African Union facilities. These included a lack of an access control point, the lack of security cameras, and the lack of an armed guard.

Office Vehicles:

The government of Zambia committed to second one vehicle from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ECOSOCC Secretariat on 1 December 2019.

4. REMEDIAL ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

Given that a number of the initial observations highlighted above diverged from the expectations of the set forth within the host agreement, the evaluation mission and the host government agreed on a number of actions to implement in order to bring the facilities into closer alignment with the host agreement. These actions are summarized below:

Physical Premises:

The most significant misalignment of the observed premises and the host agreement consisted of the physical space allocated for the Secretariat. Given that the Secretariat is located within a building occupied by multiple government ministries, and situated on a floor which is shared with another organization, the Secretariat will be able to exercise only limited control of the physical space. Given the constraints this imposes in terms of security, working conditions, and the potential for expansion; the evaluation mission and the Government of Zambia agreed that the present premises would serve only as a short-term home with the primary purpose of enabling the commencement of Secretariat operations from Lusaka.

As a medium-term measure, the two parties committed to identifying a standalone facility before December 2020. This standalone premises would better align with the requirements of the Secretariat and will serve as the interim secretariat until the long-term solution of a permanent building is constructed to host the Secretariat. The joint-transition road-map agreed by the two parties is enclosed as Annex I.

In the meantime the AU team installed a number of partitions to host the IT servers and undertook additional enhancement work on the site to make it more suitable for AU operations.

Office Furniture and Equipment:

In order to expedite the process of furnishing and equipping the Secretariat to support staff as early as December 2019, the African Union team undertook to procure some of the office furniture and equipment using approved funds under the 2019 ECOSOCC budget. Consequently the team procured a number of key items, including the IT network infrastructure, printers and photocopiers and staff workstations. These purchases, combined with the mainline procurement of the Government of Zambia, would ensure that the Secretariat is adequately furnished and equipped to support staff operations before the end of 2019; in line with the commitment made by H.E. the Chairperson of the AU Commission to the Government of Zambia.

Security Arrangements:

While the full list of necessary security controls can only be applied upon relocation to a standalone facility that will be under the unrestricted control of the African Union, a number of security enhancements were nevertheless effected to the current space in order to bring it into closer alignment with AU standards. The AU team installed a security access door to control the ECOSOCC offices from the rest of the floor. The Government of Zambia, for its part, committed to install a security access point as well as CCTV cameras for the ECOSOCC premises. The Government further committed to provide radio frequencies for radio equipment that will be provided by the AU SSSD.

5. RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

The above-described actions position the ECOSOCC Secretariat to commence immediate operations from Lusaka, Zambia. Nonetheless, the Secretariat will be commencing operations from scratch, with only a skeleton staff numbered in the single digits, and can therefore anticipate some initial operational challenges common to such circumstances. Therefore, in order to position the fledgling Secretariat on the best possible footing for successful operations, the following recommendations are proposed for the consideration and approval of the H.E. the Chairperson of the Commission.

- 1. Transition to Standalone Premises:** The AU and the Government of Zambia should expedite action towards the relocation of the interim Secretariat to a standalone facility, and commit to a precise, time-bound roadmap by which this transition will be achieved before December 2019, in line with the joint transition plan agreed between the two parties. This outcome will provide a solution to a number of the current challenges which are inherent to the location of the interim premises on a shared floor within a multi-tenant building. In addition to enabling the AU to effect the necessary security upgrades, a standalone facility will provide a more conducive working environment and will be more befitting of an African Union organ.
- 2. Transportation Solutions:** As an interim stop-gap measure, it is recommended that H.E the Chairperson of the Commission, or his authorized delegate, authorize the COMESA Secretariat in Lusaka to release into the temporary custody of the ECOSOCC Secretariat the AU-owned vehicle previously used by the AU Liaison Officer to COMESA; and which is currently unused since the departure of the Liaison Officer in 2018. The vehicle will provide much-needed support to the transportation operations of the Secretariat, and will be returned to COMESA once a new AU Liaison Officer is appointed. As a medium-term measure, it is recommended that the PRC sub-committee on budget approve a virement request from the ECOSOCC Secretariat to enable it to re-allocate already approved funds, which would otherwise go unused, to purchase vehicles for the permanent use of the Secretariat.

3. **Secondment of a Finance Officer from PBFA:** Given that the first batch of ECOSOCC Secretariat staff will not include a finance officer, it is recommended that authorization be granted by the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission for a finance officer to be seconded to the ECOSOCC Secretariat in Lusaka to support critical finance functions until an incumbent finance officer is recruited and deployed.

JOINT ROADMAP FOR THE TRANSITION OF ECOSOCC TO LUSAKA, ZAMBIA			
Item	Responsibility	Completion Date	Indicator(s) of Completion
Purchase and Installation of Office Furniture and Equipment	Government of Zambia and AU	November 30, 2019	Fully equipped office premises ready to support the operations of the Secretariat
Transport and Office Operations (as per the Host Agreement and AU Evaluation Mission Report)	Government of Zambia	November 30, 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transfer of 2 Office Vehicles (1 4x4 and 1 Saloon car) 2. Designation of Office Drivers 3. Designation of Cleaning/Janitorial staff
Identification of accommodation options for ECOSOCC staff	AU with support from Government of Zambia	November 30, 2019	Accommodation options identified for incoming staff
Finalization of Evaluation Mission report and joint implementation roadmap	Evaluation Mission team and Government of Zambia	Tbd	Evaluation mission report and joint implementation roadmap agreed by both sides.
Deployment of First Group of Staff: - <i>Head of Secretariat</i> - <i>Head of Programs</i>	ECOSOCC Secretariat	November 30, 2019	Arrival for duty of Head of Secretariat and Head of Programs
Banking	ECOSOCC Secretariat (with support from Government of Zambia)	December 7, 2019	ECOSOCC Bank account(s) opened
Deployment of Second Group of Staff: - <i>Head of Finance,</i> - <i>Senior Communication Officer,</i> - <i>Program Officers,</i> - <i>Desk Officers,</i> - <i>Procurement Officer,</i>	ECOSOCC Secretariat	Dec 2019 -Jan 2020	Arrival for duty of 2 nd batch of recruited officers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Administrative Assistant</i> - <i>Procurement Assistant</i> 			
<p>Diplomatic Privileges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ID cards 2. Tax-exempt and duty-free registration 3. Drivers' License conversion 	Government of Zambia	December 31, 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ID cards, tax-exempt and duty-free authorization paperwork issued for staff within a month of deployment to Lusaka. 2. Authorizing documentation issued to support conversion of staff driver's licenses to SADC regime
Deployment of 3 rd Group of Staff	AU	March/April 2019	Arrival for duty of third batch of staff.
Identification of stand-alone interim premises as per agreed medium - term plan	Government of Zambia With support from ECOSOCC Secretariat	Starting January 2020	Identification and selection of suitable stand-alone premises
Relocation to stand-alone premises	ECOSOCC Secretariat With support from the government of Zambia	Before December 2020	ECOSOCC Secretariat relocated and operating from stand-alone interim premises

DRAFT**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)
Doc. EX.CL/1207 (XXXVI)**

The Executive Council,

1. TAKES NOTE OF:

- i. the various submissions on ECOSOCC and the recommendations contained therein;
- ii. The expanded operational capacity of the ECOSOCC Secretariat and the potential this offers to extend the scope and impact of its programs into all member states of the Union;

2. COMMENDS:

- i. The Republic of Zambia for its collaboration with the Commission in ensuring the successful relocation of the ECOSOCC Secretariat.
- ii. The Commission for its diligent efforts to ensure the implementation of the Decision on the relocation of the ECOSOCC Secretariat in addition to previous Decisions of the policy organs on ECOSOCC;

3. REQUESTS:

- i. The Commission to work together with the ECOSOCC Secretariat to determine appropriate budgetary measures to support the recruitment of staff and the initial capital expenditures of the relocated Secretariat;
- ii. The Government of Zambia and the Commission to work together to identify and secure a standalone facility for the ECOSOCC Secretariat in line with the joint transition plan agreed between the two parties at the end of the final evaluation mission to Lusaka;
- iii. The Commission and Member States to facilitate and support a rationalized budget proposal commensurate with ECOSOCC's newly-expanded operational and program capacity.

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