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**REPORT OF THE FIRST JOINT SESSION OF THE AU SPECIALIZED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MONETARY AFFAIRS,
ECONOMIC PLANNING AND INTEGRATION AND ECA
CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF
FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 25-31 MARCH 2015**

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I. Introduction

1. The eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Addis Ababa from 30 to 31 March 2015. The meeting was preceded by the meeting of the Committee of Experts held from 25 to 28 March 2015. The delegations attending the meeting are listed in annexes II and III.

II. Bureau

2. The following countries were unanimously elected to form the new Bureau:

Chair:	United Republic of Tanzania
First Vice-Chair:	Egypt
Second Vice-Chair:	Gabon
Third Vice-Chair:	South Africa
Rapporteur:	Guinea

III. Theme and outcome documents of the meetings

3. The meetings were held under the theme: Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development. Ministers discussed broadly the theme of the Conference as well as the following Sub-theme:

- a) Domestication of Agenda 2063: regional and national dimensions of the first 10-year plan; and
- b) Financing Agenda 2063: strategies for domestic resource mobilization and partnerships;
- c) Financing for Development: Africa's perspectives

4. Ministers adopted a ministerial adopted nine resolutions a ministerial statement and the document untitled "Financing for Development: Africa's perspectives".



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

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

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

Ministerial statement

We, African ministers of finance, planning, economic development and integration, meeting in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 March 2015 for the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,

Welcoming the presence of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, the President of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame, former Heads of State and Government, the governors of our national and regional central banks, and other high-level dignitaries and special guests,

Having deliberated on the theme “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development” and having saluted the fact that Agenda 2063 emerged from consultative processes and will help African economies to overcome their continued vulnerabilities, including their dependence on the extraction and export of raw materials,

Therefore declare:

1. Agenda 2063, the long-term vision for the continent, encapsulates the hopes, aspirations and expectations of Africans for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena. Agenda 2063 should serve as the vision for the structural transformation of the continent.

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

2. The foundation for Agenda 2063 lies in present conditions. We note that economic growth in Africa rose from 3.7 per cent in 2013 to 3.9 per cent in 2014, which is relatively good in global terms, albeit still far below the double-digit growth needed for structural transformation. Although the medium-term economic outlook for the continent remains favourable, there are downside risks that could adversely affect its growth prospects, such as the fall in the price of oil and other commodities, the slow economic recovery in developed countries, tighter global monetary policies, weather-related shocks, and political instability in some of our countries.

3. While our countries have made appreciable efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals, much remains to be done to achieve inclusive and equitable development in Africa. We remain committed to tackling poverty and inequality, providing productive employment and decent jobs for young Africans, empowering our women, and prioritizing the welfare of African children to ensure a robust and vibrant 2063 generation. These noble objectives require us to implement policies to stimulate productive activities for men and women so as to enable Africa to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend, including scaling up investments in the areas of education and health. We also commit ourselves to prioritizing investments in the well-being of young people through access to high-quality education. We therefore reiterate our full support for a post-2015 development agenda that should take into account the key goals set out in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063.

4. The fragile foundations of social services in several of our countries were revealed during the Ebola outbreak, which had a devastating impact on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. We note with appreciation the material and financial support provided to those countries by other African countries and the African private sector. We renew our unequivocal support for the Governments and peoples of the three countries and welcome the pledges made thus far by the international community to support them. We appeal for immediate steps to be taken to restore growth and enable recovery in those countries, including debt cancellation.

5. The successful implementation of Agenda 2063 will depend to a great extent on strong linkages between the planning, mobilizing and financing of the processes of structural transformation. We welcome the intention to split Agenda 2063 into separate ten-year development plans to facilitate its implementation. We are aware that African countries have had varying experiences with development planning, but successes in other regions show that inclusive, well-articulated and well-resourced development plans play a critical role in spurring structural transformation. We therefore commit ourselves to improving planning processes in our countries by strengthening institutional and human capacities at various levels.

6. High-quality statistical information and data are essential for the proper planning and measurement of development outcomes. Africa should generate its own data to enable it to better monitor and track economic and social targets, including the goals and objectives of Agenda 2063. A data revolution in Africa would afford our continent the opportunity to interact with diverse data communities and to embrace a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies, which would enable the continent to produce disaggregated data, including gender-disaggregated data, for decision-making, service delivery and citizen engagement. An African data revolution should be built on the principles of openness across the data value chain and a vibrant data ecosystem driven by national priorities and inclusive

national statistical systems. In this regard, we underscore the importance of strengthening existing pan-African statistical institutions, as well as other similar institutions agreed to by Heads of State and Government, to support the implementation of the first ten-year plan of Agenda 2063.

7. It is important to harmonize national, subregional and continental development plans in the context of Agenda 2063. We take note of the commonalities existing between certain national plans and Agenda 2063. It will also be important to leverage continental frameworks articulated under the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa action plan, the Africa Mining Vision, the Boosting Intra-African Trade initiative, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Social Policy Framework for Africa. The coordinated implementation of these frameworks will be instrumental in achieving Africa's structural transformation objectives.

8. African people must be mobilized in support of Agenda 2063, as their participation is essential for its successful implementation. This requires the building of political coalitions in support of structural transformation, with the public and private sectors, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, the media, the academic sector and others all taking ownership of the process. We also call upon our countries and pan-African institutions to popularize Agenda 2063, especially among young Africans, through advocacy, education and communication strategies, and the provision of appropriate skills to underpin structural transformation.

9. Adequate and predictable financing is indispensable for the successful implementation of development plans and strategies. While official development assistance has been helpful, it is a fragile platform on which to base a structural transformation agenda. Agenda 2063 needs to be anchored on domestic resource mobilization, through effective tax policies, savings mobilization, and the use of other financing mechanisms such as pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, diaspora bonds and remittances. We urge African central banks and pan-African institutions to increase their support for efforts to boost the continent's socioeconomic transformation and its financing.

10. We are gratified that the final report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, the establishment of which we had advocated, was the subject of a special declaration by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. Apart from reducing the resources available on the continent for development, illicit financial flows have a negative impact on governance and undermine efforts to add value to Africa's natural resources before they are exported. We endorse the recommendations set out in the report and call upon the international community to complement Africa's efforts to track, stop and repatriate illicit financial flows.

11. Financing is also vital for the implementation of global agreements relating to sustainable development, such as the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. Accordingly, we endorse the draft document entitled "Financing for development: Africa's perspectives" as a living document that takes into account the outcomes of the regional consultations held in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is to take place in Addis Ababa in July 2015. We urge Africa to continue to speak with one voice throughout the International Conference on Financing for Development process. We also urge African negotiators to do

their utmost to ensure that Africa's interests and concerns are reflected in the final outcome document, including in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, international resources for development, international financial and technical cooperation, external debt, the international monetary and trading system, international trade, technology innovation, capacity-building and strong follow-up mechanisms.

12. We acknowledge that in addition to planning, mobilization and financing, other key issues will affect the implementation of Agenda 2063. African countries will need to articulate credible macroeconomic frameworks that can underpin the planning process. Infrastructure development initiatives can help to boost production capacity, reduce transaction costs and promote structural transformation. We identify with the priority infrastructure projects contained in Agenda 2063, as well as those being overseen directly through the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative. We call for policies to be drawn up for the harmonization of laws, rules and regulations at the national, subregional and continental levels.

13. We remain cognizant of the key role of industrialization in the process of structural transformation. It is important to scale up ongoing efforts made in this regard by African countries, such as improving the policy environment in order to promote investment in manufacturing, taking steps to increase the domestic processing of commodities and raw materials, promoting backward and forward linkages, fostering national and regional value chains and improving the competitiveness of national economies. These efforts must, however, be complemented by actions to enhance the role and use of science, technology and innovation, as well as the mobilization of aid for trade at the international level. We also recognize the critical role of the private sector in industrialization and urge African countries to ensure that the concerns of domestic entrepreneurs are integrated into industrialization and trade policies.

14. We recognize that the export of primary products has contributed to growth in Africa. We are also aware, however, that the continent's continued dependence on exports of raw commodities deepens the fragility of its economies. We are of the view that Africa can change this trajectory through a process of commodity-based industrialization that makes systemic use of regional integration, especially intra-African trade. Particularly important in this regard are regional value chains, better negotiation of international trade agreements and trade finance. We believe that Africa should invest more resources into the production of higher-value-added goods, which are globally more competitive and also capable of boosting the volumes of intra-African trade.

15. We are witness to a growing segmentation and decentralization of global processes of production. The increasing cost of labour in Asia and improvements in the business environment in African countries are factors that make Africa attractive for the relocation of manufacturing activities. Africa needs to develop industrialization and trade policies that leverage these trends, and we need to allow our countries to tap into evolving global and regional value chains as part of a strategic entry into industrial development and technological upgrading. Accordingly, we reaffirm that there is a strategic link between industrialization and trade, and that, under the right conditions, they can reinforce each other and place Africa on the path to structural transformation. Properly utilized, this link can help to solve the paradox of high unemployment and extreme poverty coexisting with robust growth.

16. We recognize the need for the appropriate sequencing of trade policy at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, in line with industrial policy needs and development objectives. We urge African countries, when negotiating trade and investment agreements, to assess the impact of those agreements on industrialization and economic transformation. Given that regional integration is Africa's priority, emphasis should be placed on plans and policies that promote that objective. We recognize the imperative of fast-tracking the establishment of the continental free trade area, in view of its potential impact on industrial development.

17. We are aware of the potential of the continental free trade area to bring about an enlarged market that facilitates economies of scale and promotes harmonization and coordination of trade instruments. The continental free trade area will also help to resolve the challenge of multiple and overlapping memberships of regional economic communities and to improve regional infrastructure and interconnectivity. Accordingly, we agree to support the negotiations for the establishment of a continental free trade area, which will cover trade in goods and services. We urge the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa to accelerate the development of the planned Africa Regional Integration Index, which can be used as a tool to assist in the continental free trade area negotiations.

18. We are aware that Africa is the region in the world most affected by greenhouse gas emissions, even though it generates the fewest of such emissions and has the weakest capacity to adapt to their effects. Africa should adopt a progressive and ambitious stance in the climate change negotiations to be held in Paris in 2015, with a view to securing a binding agreement. We insist that an agreement in Paris must fulfil the recommendations contained in the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and address the key pillars of the Regional Cooperation Framework of the Bali Process, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We urge the adoption of science-informed and evidence-based policy, planning and practices to make African development sustainable, more resilient and less vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate variability and change. Low-carbon development pathways to a green economy or a blue economy can also unlock new economic opportunities.

19. We recognize the importance of partnerships to support the implementation of Africa's development vision. We are also aware of the need for Africa to enter into new forms of partnership that are anchored on greater equality and mutual respect and that are truly beneficial for the continent, especially for its transformative agenda. In this regard, we strongly encourage our countries to explore South-South and triangular cooperation in order to leverage the opportunities offered by emerging economic powers. We urge our traditional partners, however, to continue to support our development efforts.

20. We endorse the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and call for its full and effective implementation. In this connection, we urge African landlocked countries to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies, in order to ensure its effective implementation. We also call upon the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and all other regional and subregional organizations to provide the necessary support to African landlocked countries through their respective work programmes and in accordance with their respective mandates.

21. We note that the progress made by African least developed countries towards achieving the goals and targets of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) has been uneven, and call upon development partners to provide enhanced and preferential official development assistance to African least developed countries. We reiterate the need to institutionalize the review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to ensure that African least developed countries are adequately represented in that review. We welcome the offer of the Government of Italy to host a ministerial meeting on structural transformation and graduation for African least developed countries, in June 2015. We request the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and other partners, to organize an African regional meeting in preparation for the proposed ministerial meeting in Italy.

22. We welcome the continued strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa as a means of ensuring coherence in the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. We therefore appreciate the decision to convene a session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa during our meeting. We note that the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union will expire in 2016 and we salute the initiative taken by the United Nations and the African Union Commission to formulate a new framework as a successor to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, for a renewed United Nations–African Union partnership on Africa’s integration and development agenda.

23. We thank the Government and people of Ethiopia for their continued hospitality to the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa and for the courtesies afforded to us to ensure the success of our meetings.

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**FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT:
AFRICA'S PERSPECTIVES**

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT: AFRICA'S PERSPECTIVES

I. Introduction

- 1.** Africa emphasizes the importance of achieving an ambitious outcome document in Addis Ababa, given the need to review the progress in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, identify obstacles encountered for the achievements of the goals therein and actions to overcome these constraints, as well as support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.
- 2.** We adhere to the Monterrey structure with two addition pillars; on technology, innovation and capacity building and; on monitoring, data and follow-up.
- 3.** We stress that the FFD outcome should take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the right to development.
- 4.** We stress also the importance to fully respect the development policy space of developing countries to make use of policy tools and measures that are required to implement their policies for poverty eradication and other developmental plans and programs.
- 5.** The Addis Ababa outcome document shall include significant financial and non-financial commitments from variety of sources addressing, among others, the issues of infrastructure, industrial diversification, trade, economic transformation, rural development and agriculture, education, health, women and youth, children, debt cancellation and alleviation, technology facilitation mechanism, capacity building, repatriation of illicit financial flows, reform of the institutions of global governance on economic and finance, strengthening cooperation in the fields of taxation, commodity price volatility, exchange rate, and data revolution, in order to support the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development goals.
- 6.** We emphasize on the need to analyse the financial gap for the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda, and significantly mobilize resources from a variety of sources and also stress that greater coherence and coordination among the various funding mechanisms and initiatives are crucial.
- 7.** We call upon developed countries to agree and commit to a new phase of international cooperation through a strengthened and scaled-up global partnership for development, which should be the centrepiece and anchor for both completing the unfinished business of the MDGs and implementing the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account the lessons learnt from the gaps in the implementation of MDG8.

8. We highlight the importance to take into account the specificity of Africa efforts at regional and sub-regional level namely through Agenda 2063, the new shared continental socio-economic transformation framework and its continental programmes embedded in NEPAD.

9. We highlight that peace and development are mutually reinforcing, therefore, we should pursue our shared vision for a better future, by eradicating poverty, reducing inequality among and within countries, and address the root causes of conflicts.

II. Domestic public financing

10. Africa is committed to act on financing for sustainable development through the Common African Position, including on domestic resource mobilization, addressing corruption, illicit financial flows, governance, and reiterates each country's responsibility for decision-making on the domestic environment.

11. We reaffirm the principles of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development highlighting key actions to be taken to improve the mobilization of domestic resources for development; including emphasizing principles of national ownership in raising domestic resources and creating national wealth through productive enterprises such as agriculture and mining and by undertaking tax reforms that are fair, efficient and transparent, and that broaden the tax base based on equitable outcomes.

12. We highlight that the excessive granting of tax exemptions, particularly to Multinational corporations engaged in extractive activities, must be revised both to increase available tax revenues and to improve transparency of tax systems.

13. We call also for the support to strengthen institutional capacities to deal decisively and effectively with private sector practices aimed at tax evasion, in particular transfer pricing and trade mispricing, including by reinforcing the capacities of customs authorities, national judicial systems and law enforcement agencies to pursue and punish transgressors.

14. We see the merit for developing instruments to better manage revenue volatility, strategies to reduce dependence on commodities and diversify the economies, and develop intra-African trade.

15. We are of the view that beneficiation, valorisation and value addition of African natural resources will translate into substantially improved fiscal positions for governments. In this regards, we call for the International community to support African countries efforts to Develop human resource capacities for better contract negotiation, elaborate standard contract arrangements, and facilitate increased

participation by local communities, as well as new revenue (derived from royalties, income tax, land tax and lease rents, etc.) distribution mechanisms for sharing and retention within local communities, portions of centrally collected rents.

16. We support measures to enhance corporate transparency and accountability of all companies, taking into account the fundamental principles of domestic law. In particular, International companies should report to tax authorities where they make their profits and pay their tax, base erosion and profit shifting. We call also for countries to join on voluntary basis, initiatives, including, inter alia, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

III. International public finance

17. We believe that the International public finance should complement and facilitate national efforts. Long term investments, including FDI are needed in critical sectors, especially in sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, information and communications technologies as well as the diversification of the African economies.

18. 18. For many countries in Africa, Least Developed Countries; Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries, ODA is still the largest source of external financing and is critical for the eradication of poverty. ODA flows have not reached the expected levels in recent years. More must be done to honor by 2018 the existing ODA commitments of 0.7 to developing countries, with 0.15-0.20 of GNI to LDCs.

19. We emphasize that the proposal of redefining the parameters and objectives of ODA and its criteria of allocation should be discussed openly and transparently and agreed upon by all member States under the auspices of the UN.

20. We urge developed countries to substantially increase their ODA with a view to implementing by 2020 their commitment to allocate 1 per cent of GNI as ODA to developing countries. We urge developed countries to allocate 50 per cent of the ODA to the least developed countries with a focus on agriculture and rural development as this presents the aspects that will deliver impact onto major part of the most vulnerable and poor populations. To do so, we need to develop statistical indicators to closely follow the disbursement of ODA coming in through both government-to-government bilateral agreements and through the NGOs and CSOs.

21. We shall pursue these efforts in the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and in other relevant fora, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, in a complementary manner. In this regards, we underline continuous efforts to be made to improve quality of ODA by reducing fragmentation, avoid conditionality and ensuring predictability.

- 22.** We underline the importance of regional integration as a fundamental tool for realizing development effectiveness for inclusive growth and development in Africa. Development cooperation should therefore fully recognize the role of regional integration for national development. This should also take into account investment financing needs for trans-boundary and multi-national infrastructural systems.
- 23.** We underline that regional investments in key priority sectors require the expansion of innovative financing mechanisms, and the possibility for multilateral institutions to directly support regional organizations particularly the RECs.
- 24.** We call upon Africa's development partners to align their support to the Continent's priorities as articulated in Agenda 2063, and call on regional and multilateral development banks, to address gaps in trade and transport related regional infrastructure.
- 25.** We note with concern that the lack of early stage project preparation support, alongside the capacity constraints to render such support, is key obstacle for the implementation of infrastructure development. We call for the increased support project preparation facilities (PPFs), such as the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (IPPF).
- 26.** We recognize the central role of SMEs for jobs creation, industrial transformation and sustainable development for Africa. As such, we call upon the international community to support entrepreneurship and SME development, namely through finance funds (both debt and equity), guarantee and risk-sharing and technical assistance funds.
- 27.** We welcome the AfDB's initiative to establish Africa50 as an infrastructure investment platform designed to significantly narrow the infrastructure gap for project finance.
- 28.** We recognize that South-South Cooperation is an essential component of international cooperation as it offers viable opportunities for countries of the global South to explore new avenues for technical collaboration as a part of North-South and triangular engagement. However, we maintain that South-South cooperation is only a complement, not a substitute to North-South cooperation.
- 29.** We acknowledge the importance of climate change in the context of FFD and recognize the UNFCCC as the main multilateral platform for discussions on climate finance and looks forward for a new universal binding agreement on climate change at the Conference of Parties in 2015. Nevertheless the FfD process must acknowledge the urgency of expediting the process of operationalizing the Green Climate Finance Fund under UNFCCC and for its early capitalization, and must call upon developed countries to meet the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion each year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

30. We underline that Climate finance must not be double counted as ODA and therefore must be considered as separate from and additional to ODA.

31. We call for the need to critically address the difficulty for African countries to get access to Global Funds.

IV. Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows.

32. We underscore the need to sustain sufficient and stable private financial flows to developing countries, in particular African countries. It is important to promote measures in source and destination countries to improve transparency and the information about financial flows. Measures that mitigate the impact of excessive volatility of short-term capital flows are important and must be considered.

33. We call on Private investors to ensure that their investment decision making is not based on profit only, but must take into account the developmental, social, gender and environmental implications of their investments, while protecting labor rights.

34. We encourage IFIs and development banks to promote SME finance through investments and technical assistance, and will make use of regional and international fora to review progress and share lessons learned.

35. We invite Development banks to channel the resources of long-term institutional investors towards sustainable development sectors.

36. We recognize that Public-private partnerships can play a catalytic role in mobilizing private flows in complex and large-scale infrastructure projects.

37. Regional development banks should in particular upscale their operation, including concessional loans and technical support for projects in infrastructure areas where private sector investment has in the past been limited.

38. We underline that there could be a significant boost in mobilizing domestic resources if illicit financial flows and tax evasion could be curtailed. A report published by the AU High-level Panel led by former President Thabo Mbeki estimates that Africa loses US\$50 billion year in illicit financial flows to developed countries, resulting in drainage of foreign reserves, reduced tax collection, cancellation of investment inflows and increased poverty. This represents a significant threat to governance and economic development in Africa. Therefore, we call for strong actions and commitments by the international community to curtail, reverse and facilitate asset recovery and repatriation of funds to countries of origin.

39. We call for the reduction to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent, bearing in mind that remittances cannot be considered a substitute for international public and private finance.

V. Trade

40. Trade is an important engine of economic growth and development, and creates employment, decent work, combat inequality, and is particularly important in agriculture and the global food system and the diversification of rural and national economies.

41. We acknowledge that an improvement in trade related issues requires an international and domestic policy environment that effectively enables private investment, with appropriate infrastructure for trade and an adequately trained workforce.

42. We call for the need to address issues of particular concern to African countries in international trade to enhance their capacity and finance their development, including trade barriers, trade-distorting subsidies and other trade-distorting measures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures; the lack of recognition of intellectual property rights for the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore; the transfer of knowledge and technology.

43. We underline the imperative for a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that can serve as an engine of economic growth and promote sustainable development. Therefore we call for the conclusion of the Doha Development Round of Negotiations, and emphasize on the need to take into account the implementation of the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular LDC, LLDCs and SIDs.

44. We call for the commitment of developed countries to support the increase of exports of developing countries, in particular to double the least developed countries share of global exports by 2020.

45. We call for the reform of the international financial and monetary system and highlight the need to address the exchange rate issue and develop a new mechanism for loans in domestic currencies.

46. We insist on the need to improve global market by promoting appropriate policies, in particular developing risk management mechanism that will help to minimize the adverse effects of the increase in prices and price volatility, as well as to avoid exacerbating the crisis and reinforce market integration in Africa, at the domestic and regional levels.

47. We call for additional aid for trade to African countries, in particular to the LDCs, LLDCs and align it with national and regional integration strategies, including by increasing support to the Enhanced Integrated Framework, and support to the CAADP target to increase public budget allocation to agriculture as well as to increase the grant component of Aid for Trade.

48. We call for the International financial institutions, and the regional development banks, to actively support projects that accelerate sub-regional and regional integration in Africa, including by supporting intra-African trade and enhancing Africa's participation in the Global Supply Chain system.

49. We highlight the need to invest in productive capacity and institutional building. Donors to support greater action on infrastructure related support and trade related assistance. A greater proportion of ODA should focus on industrialization, economic infrastructure and technology.

VI. External Debt

50. We underline the need to seriously tackle the recurrence of unsustainable levels of debt and take necessary actions.

51. In this regards, we should put in place mechanisms to resolve the current debt problems of developing countries, particularly for Africa countries, the least developed countries, SIDs, including through cancellation of bilateral and multilateral debt in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 68/224.

52. We demand flexibility with regards to the eligibility criteria of debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).

53. We call upon bilateral donors and multilateral financial institutions to provide, particularly to least developed countries, low-income and middle countries, grants and concessional loans as the preferred modalities of their financial support instruments to ensure debt sustainability.

54. We also stress that the resources provided by developed countries for debt relief should not be detracted from ODA.

55. We stress that the resolution of sovereign debt crisis is currently governed by a loose set of mechanisms. In this regard, we welcome the fact that the Ad Hoc Committee on Debt Restructuring Mechanism started its work on establishing a multilateral legal framework.

VII. Systemic Issues

56. We underline the importance of complementing national development efforts by improving the global economic governance and enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

57. We call for a coherent policy and program coordination of international institutions at the operational and international levels to meet the Sustainable development goals, and underline the need to strengthen the United Nations leadership role in promoting development.

58. We stress the need for multilateral financial institutions, in providing policy advice and financial support, to work on the basis of sound, nationally owned paths of reform, and to pay due regard to the special needs and implementing capacities of African countries.

59. We call upon the international financial and monetary system to decisively counter the trends of increased levels of exchange rate volatility that have a strong impact on trade performance by constricting levels of domestic investment, destabilizing relative prices of export products, increasing the cost of access to finance for production and shifting the value of market access concessions. In this regards, we underline the need develop a new mechanism for loans in domestic currencies.

60. We call for a Strengthened role of the UN in promoting international cooperation on tax matters, including setting up an intergovernmental tax body, and for international tax treaties to be revised to give preference to paying taxes in source countries.

61. We stress the need to address the proliferation of tax havens, secrecy jurisdictions, and offshore financial centers by enhancing international cooperation in order to tackle the trend of private company avoidance of tax payments.

62. We call for greater and equitable representation of African Countries and LDCs on IMF and World Bank Global standards and monitoring bodies. In particular we highlight the need to:

- Make the double majority voting process at the IMF – which requires relevant majorities of both votes and countries for all decisions – should be the standard to ensure that developing countries have a fair voice;
- The World Bank should implement equality in voting shares between borrowing and non-borrowing countries, as a first step towards more significant reform;

- All international financial institutions should abide by basic transparency standards, as set out in the Transparency Charter for International Financial Institutions.

63. We call for the establishment of measures to avoid the spillover effects of global financial crises to developing countries.

VIII. Science, Technology, Innovation and Capacity-building

64. Science, Technology and Innovation are a multifunctional tools and enablers for achieving development goals. In Africa, particularly, achieving sustained growth, competitiveness and economic transformation will require investments in and access to technologies and innovations in areas such as industrialization, agriculture, infrastructure, clean energy, education, health, water among others.

65. We highlight the need to foster linkages between multinational companies and the domestic private sector, specifically facilitating the transfer of knowledge and skills to the region.

66. We call also for investors to integrate local businesses into their value chains, and-provide educational, training and employment opportunities.

67. We underline he need for the enhancement, development, transfer and diffusion of technology and innovation in line with each country's development needs;; for strengthening the science and technology component of education curricula; and call for the Establishment of an innovation funds to support innovative enterprises in the early stages and during commercialization stage of the technology.

68. We underline the need to establish a coordinated approach to create the necessary critical mass of scientists, and computer engineers. The focus on human capacity development will be at both secondary and higher education levels (including TVETs) with the aim of popularizing science, technology, innovation and ICT research as potential career paths.

69. We underline the critical importance for the establishment of a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms.

70. We call for the establishment of an online platform to map existing technology facilitation initiatives, enhance international cooperation and promote networking and information sharing, knowledge transfer and technical assistance.

71. Recalling the Istanbul Program of Action, on an international level, we call for the expeditious and full operationalization of the technology bank and the science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to LDCs by 2017.

72. We call also for the commitment of the international community to promote the ICT infrastructure development and capacity building in LLDCs, in particular a universal broadband policy, as agreed in the Vienna Program of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries.

73. We call for a flexible intellectual property rights (IPR) regimes to facilitate the dissemination and transfer of technology to African countries.

74. We call for the transfer of appropriate technologies to African countries in order to build new industries at the national and regional level, such as the solar PV, wind turbines and others.

75. We encourage north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation in sharing knowledge, skills, and expertise.

76. We encourage United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programs with technology based mandates to further promote the development and diffusion of relevant technologies through their respective work program.

77. Capacity Development is the core vehicle to actualize the Continent's exit strategy from Aid and take full control of its development. Africa has recognized Capacity Development as an agenda in its own right and has set its own priorities with the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) adopted by the 14th African Union Summit of February 2010, as Africa's common reference and policy guide on building, harnessing, nurturing, utilizing, adding value and retaining capacity.

78. We underline the critical need to reinforce national efforts in developing countries in areas such as institutional infrastructure, human resource development, public finance, mortgage finance, financial regulation and supervision, agriculture productivity, SMEs, basic education in particular, public administration, social and gender budget policies, early warning and crisis prevention, and debt management. In that regard, particular attention is required to address the special needs of Africa, the least developed countries, Small Island developing states, landlocked developing countries, countries in conflict, post-conflict countries.

79. We emphasize the need for enhanced capacity building for sustainable development and, in this regard, we call for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

80. We also underline the need to critically support human and institutional capacity building initiatives towards better access and absorption of climate finance at national and regional levels.

IX. Monitoring, Data and follow-up

81. We need to strengthen the Statistical Commission of the United Nations and open it for the participation of all member states.

82. We need to establish under the auspices of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, a comprehensive program of action on data, building of a global consensus, applicable principles and standards for data.

83. We call for increased financing support to enhance and expend statistical capacities in African countries including critical needs for capacities to produce, collect, disaggregate, analyse and share the data crucial to the new agenda.

84. We must, in close cooperation with country experts, do an in-depth analysis of the existing data and information gaps, including on consumption, and thus determine the scale of the investments needed to establish a modern monitoring system for the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

85. We support creating adequate follow-up mechanisms for monitoring progress and holding stakeholders accountable in the implementation of commitments including the private sector.

86. We suggest that the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) should be considered among the options for monitoring FfD commitments, and the complementarity and integration of the FfD follow up mechanisms with other related processes, such as the Post 2015 development agenda.

87. We also highlight the need to strengthen the regional components of the follow-up process, through continental organizations.

EX.CL/ 909(XXVII)
Annex 2

RESOLUTIONS AND ANNEXES

Resolution L1

Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development

The Conference of Ministers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Urges* the African Union Commission, in the finalization of the first ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063:
 - (a) To further improve on the milestones, targets and strategies contained in the plan;

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

- (b) To explore synergies and opportunities for the harmonization of the objectives, targets and indicators of Agenda 2063 and those of the post-2015 development agenda;
 - (c) To establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks;
 - (d) To clarify roles and responsibilities and strengthen coordination mechanisms with relevant partners and stakeholders;
 - (e) To remove and avoid imposing specific targets on public expenditure and to maintain flexibility in fiscal policy and budget allocations in accordance with countries' priorities, specific characteristics and levels of development;
2. *Requests* member States to review the draft ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and *provide* comments thereon to the African Union Commission by 30 June 2015;
3. *Calls for* the holding of expert meetings and ministerial committee meetings to review the *implementation* and financing plans of the flagship projects prior to their submission to the Assembly of the African Union;
4. *Urges* member States to take all necessary measures to popularize Agenda 2063 at all levels and to incorporate it into their national plans;
5. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities and other *stakeholders* to support member States in incorporating Agenda 2063 into their national plans;
6. *Urges* member States, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and all *regional* and external stakeholders:
 - (a) To consider the financing of Agenda 2063 in a manner that takes into account, first, domestic resource mobilization; second, the leveraging of existing and new financial intermediation vehicles to be created; and, third, access to finance facilitation resources such as project development funds and guarantee and risk-sharing facilities;
 - (b) To address the issues of illicit financial flows, natural resource rent maximization and regional capital market development;
 - (c) To deepen the examination of the strategy for the domestic and external financing of Agenda 2063.
7. *Undertakes* to involve civil society and the private sector in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;

8. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to organize a multi-stakeholder consultation on the first ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 by 30 September 2015;
9. *Also calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to employ South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063;
10. *Requests* the African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa to establish *an* economic development observatory by 31 March 2016, mandated with setting in place an early warning system for risks to African economies and proposing measures to mitigate their possible consequences.

Resolution L2

Third International Conference on Financing for Development

The Conference of Ministers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Emphasizing the importance of producing an ambitious outcome document in Addis Ababa, particularly in order to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda,

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

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

1. *Endorses* the draft document entitled "Financing for development: Africa's perspectives" as a living document, taking into account inputs from the Chair's summary of the proceedings of the regional consultations held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015;
2. *Requests* the African groups of negotiators in New York to use the draft document entitled "*Financing* for development: Africa's perspectives", as an input in negotiating the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development and urges Africa to speak with one voice throughout the International Conference on Financing for Development process.

Resolution L3

African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The Conference of Ministers,

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to take all necessary steps to convene on a biennial basis the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;
2. *Undertakes* to work in close collaboration with national Governments to support the convening of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

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

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

Resolution L4

Data revolution and statistical development

The Conference of Ministers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noting the progress made by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank in developing and implementing continental frameworks, strategies and initiatives such as the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics, and the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme,

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

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

1. *Endorses* the report of the High-level Conference on the Data Revolution, adopts its recommendations and calls upon member States, the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other development partners to implement it;
2. *Resolves* to lead the African data revolution, bringing together diverse data communities and using a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies, with a view to providing timely and disaggregated data for

decision-making, service delivery, citizen engagement and information to drive Africa's social, economic and structural transformation;

3. *Undertakes* to ensure that the African data revolution is built on the principle of openness across the data value chain and on vibrant data ecosystems driven by national priorities and anchored in national statistics systems that are inclusive of all data communities and stakeholders;
4. *Commits itself* to providing adequate funds for the data revolution and data communities to ensure their sustainability;
5. *Commends* member States that have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics and calls upon those that have not done so to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;
6. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the relevant agencies of the United Nations to create a working group for the development of indicators for the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 (2014–2023);
7. *Calls upon* member States to participate actively in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses;
8. *Requests* member States to implement the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics and the African Union Commission to ensure that the programme is integrated into the Africa Peer Review Mechanism;
9. *Requests* the African Union Commission and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia to accelerate the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics, to be based in Tunis, and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, to be based in Yamoussoukro, to ensure better coordination and harmonization of statistics in Africa;
10. *Calls upon* development partners to strengthen the capacity of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa working group on the labour market and the informal economy, in order to produce better statistics and implement the framework for work statistics put forward at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in 2013;
11. *Calls upon* member States to conduct labour force surveys on a regular basis in order to obtain data on the status of employment in their countries, and requests the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration, with the support of development partners such as the African Development Bank, the European Union and the World Bank, to strengthen the production of migration statistics in Africa with a view to improving the monitoring of the Joint Labour Migration Programme;

12. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to fast-track the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;
13. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to develop an index measuring the emerging-economy status of African countries, in line, among other things, with the guidance in Agenda 2063 and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda.

Resolution L5

African Social Development Index

The Conference of Ministers,

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

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

Noting that this transformation process requires people-centred policies,

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa in developing the African Social Development Index as a policy tool to support member States in their efforts to promote inclusive development and develop social and economic policies with a view to reducing human exclusion on the continent;
2. *Encourages* all member States to adopt the African Social Development Index and mainstream it into their national development plans, and to acknowledge the need to address human exclusion as a condition for progress towards inclusive development;
3. *Recommends* that the African Social Development Index become a standard reference point for assessing progress in social development on the continent;
4. *Urges* all stakeholders, including development partners, academic institutions and civil society organizations to support African Governments in rolling out the African Social Development Index and in building national capacities to use the tool as a monitoring and policy instrument throughout the continent;

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

Resolution L6

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

The Conference of Ministers,

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

Recalling also the Declaration signed by the United Nations Secretary-General and the African Union Chairperson on 16 November 2006 entitled “Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the 10-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union”,

Aware that the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union has since entered in effect and has provided an important vehicle for focused United Nations support for the capacity-building efforts of the African Union,

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

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

1. *Commends* all the stakeholders in the partnership – the United Nations entities and the African Union, including the regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development – on the efforts deployed to implement the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union;
2. *Also commends* the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, its clusters, subclusters and subregional coordination mechanisms for delivering invaluable support to the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
3. *Welcomes* the initiative to formulate the framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027;
4. *Endorses* the framework as the successor to the 10-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union;

5. *Requests* the African Union Commission to submit the framework to the Assembly of the African Union for consideration and adoption at its twenty-fifth ordinary session in South Africa in June 2015, and for its subsequent transmittal to the General Assembly at its seventieth session in September 2015 for consideration and adoption as the new United Nations programme of support for the African Union;
6. *Calls upon* the General Assembly, bilateral and multilateral partners and the international community at large to lend their full support to the implementation of the framework in tangible and enabling ways.

Resolution L7

Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

The Conference of Ministers,

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

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

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

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

1. *Endorses* the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;
2. *Invites* African landlocked and transit developing countries, regional and subregional organizations and all other stakeholders to implement the Vienna Programme of Action in its priority areas of fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;
3. *Urges* concerned member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into the programme of work of the Commission, as appropriate and within its mandate, and to submit analytical reports on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, as called for in paragraph 75 of the Programme of Action;
5. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and all other relevant regional and subregional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programme of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner in line with Agenda 2063 and its first ten-year implementation plan;

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

Resolution L8

Least developed countries in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

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

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

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

Taking note of the report on progress in the implementation of the priority areas of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Calls for* the adoption and full operationalization of specific least-developed-country deliverables, namely the technology bank and investment promotion regimes dedicated to the least developed countries;
2. *Encourages* African least developed countries to intensify their efforts to fulfil the *commitments* and recommendations of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 with the objective of graduating from the status of least developed countries;
3. *Calls upon* development partners to provide African least developed countries with additional, enhanced, preferential, concessional and most favourable treatment in the areas of finance, technologies, know-how and other resources, and to accord them differential and flexible treatment in respect of international commitments and obligations that are not commensurate with their capacity, needs and stage of development;
4. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked *Developing* Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the African Union Commission and other partner institutions on their commitment and technical expertise in taking forward the concerns and requests from African least developed countries;
5. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the African Union Commission and other partner institutions to continue to address the concerns and requests from African least developed countries, with a view to ensuring that those countries are able to satisfy the necessary graduation criteria;
6. *Also requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to hold the next biennial regional review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 during the tenth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Resolution L9

Progress and further development of the African Risk Capacity Agency

The Conference of Ministers,

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

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

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

1. *Welcomes* the progress report of the African Risk Capacity Agency on the establishment of its financial affiliate and on the drought insurance payments of \$25 million which it has triggered and transferred to States members of the African Union in the Sahel region ahead of other aid;
2. *Requests* the secretariat of the Agency, under the mandate set out in article 2 of the Agreement for the Establishment of the African Risk Capacity Agency, to help States members of the African Union improve their capacities to plan and prepare for and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters, and to develop an outbreak and epidemic insurance product to complement the efforts of the African Centre for Disease Control;
3. *Requests* the African Union Commission, with the support of the secretariat of the Agency, to explore how the institutional and financial structure of the Agency could be replicated to attract private capital for the achievement of the goals outlined in Agenda 2063, particularly those pertaining to agricultural, infrastructure or other large-scale projects, while maintaining continental standards for socially responsible investment;
4. *Requests* development finance institutions and partners to channel their support for risk management in Africa through existing African-led institutions;
5. *Urges* all States members of the African Union to sign the Agreement for the Establishment of the African Risk Capacity Agency, in order to benefit from the Agency's risk management advisory services, tools and expertise;

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

Annex II

Attendance at the first meeting of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration

A. Member States of the African Union

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, 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, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

B. Regional economic communities

Central African Economic and Monetary Community (*CEMAC*), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (*CEPGL*), Economic Community of Central African States (*ECCAS*), Economic Community of West African States (*ECOWAS*), East African Community (*EAC*), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (*COMESA*), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (*IGAD*), and Southern African Development Community (*SADC*).

C. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

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

D. States Members of the United Nations

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Korea, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

E. Intergovernmental organizations

African Development Bank, the Central Bank of West African States, the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA), the NEPAD Business Foundation, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, and Pan African Postal Union.

F. Other organizations and bodies attending as observers

Action Aid International, Action Aid, Action Jeunesse pour le Développement, African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), African Leadership Forum (ALF), African Monitor, Association of African Universities, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Capacity and Development Services, Center for Democratic Development, Indian Ocean Commission, Community Emergency Response Initiative (CRI), Development Initiatives-Africa Hub, Development Research and Training, European Union, Fikir Leselam Development Organization, Freann Financial Services Limited, Geological Society of Africa, GK Kanki Foundation, Global Education, African Capacity Building Foundation, Global Fund, Information Network Security Agency, Institute for Conscious Global Change, Institute of Development Studies, Integrated Seed Sector Development, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Trade Union Confederation, League of Arab States, MED Confederation, Mzalendo Trust, Nurses Across the Borders Africa and Asia, Ohaha Family Foundation, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, International Organization of La Francophonie, Overseas Development Institute, Oxfam International, RMA Capital, One Campaign, Plan International, Save the Children, Statistics South Africa, National Bureau of Statistics, Third World Network (TWN), Transparency International Cameroon, Uganda Women Network (UWONET), African Monitor, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), University of Cape Town, University of Muenster, University of Oxford, University of Waterloo, West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, World Vision International, World Wide Fund for Nature, and World Wide Web Foundation.

Annex III

Attendance at the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

A. Member States of the Economic Commission for Africa

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

B. Regional economic communities

Central African Economic and Monetary Community (*CEMAC*), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (*CEPGL*), Economic Community of Central African States (*ECCAS*), Economic Community of West African States (*ECOWAS*), East African Community (*EAC*), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (*COMESA*), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (*IGAD*), and Southern African Development Community (*SADC*).

C. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

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

D. D. Other States Members of the United Nations

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Korea, Japan, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

E. Intergovernmental organizations

African Development Bank, the Central Bank of West African States, the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA), the NEPAD Business Foundation, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, and Pan African Postal Union.

F. Other organizations and bodies attending as observers

Action Aid International, Action Aid, Action Jeunesse pour le Développement, African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), African Leadership Forum (ALF), African Monitor, Association of African Universities, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Capacity and Development Services, Center for Democratic Development, Indian Ocean Commission, Community Emergency Response Initiative (CRI), Development Initiatives-Africa Hub, Development Research and Training, European Union, Fikir Leselam Development Organization, Freann Financial Services Limited, Geological Society of Africa, GK Kanki Foundation, Global Education, African Capacity Building Foundation, Global Fund, Information Network Security Agency, Institute for Conscious Global Change, Institute of Development Studies, Integrated Seed Sector Development, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Trade Union Confederation, League of Arab States, MED Confederation, Mzalendo Trust, Nurses Across the Borders Africa and Asia, Ohaha Family Foundation, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, International Organization of La Francophonie, Overseas Development Institute, Oxfam International, RMA Capital, One Campaign, Plan International, Save the Children, Statistics South Africa, National Bureau of Statistics, Third World Network (TWN), Transparency International Cameroon, Uganda Women Network (UWONET), African Monitor, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), University of Cape Town, University of Muenster, University of Oxford, University of Waterloo, West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, World Vision International, World Wide Fund for Nature, and World Wide Web Foundation.

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planning and integration and ECA
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