



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-ninth meeting of the Committee of Experts

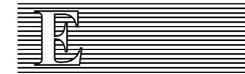


AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION

Fifth meeting of the Committee of Experts

Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the 3rd Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

*Lilongwe, Malawi
25 – 28 March 2010*



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DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Theme: Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa

1. Opening of the meeting

(The opening session will be presided over by the Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau of the Committee of Experts, until a new Bureau is elected). Opening statements will be delivered by:

- *Mr. Hany Kadry Dimian, Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau and Deputy Minister of Finance, Arab Republic of Egypt,*
- *Mr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission*
- *Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa*
- *His Excellency Hon. Ken Kandodo MP, Minister of Finance, Republic of Malawi*

2. Election of the Bureau

The composition of the new Bureau will be announced following consultations by the heads of delegation. The Bureau will comprise of five members as follows: – 1 Chairperson, 3 Vice Chairpersons and 1 Rapporteur elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. The incoming Chairperson will preside over the rest of the proceedings following brief remarks. The membership of the past two Bureaux and proposals for the next Bureau are attached to this draft annotated agenda.

3. Adoption of the draft agenda and programme of work

The Committee will be invited to consider and adopt the draft provisional agenda and programme of work, subject to such amendments as deemed necessary.

4. Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will present an overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa. The presentation will highlight recent developments in the global economy and their implications for Africa. It analyses trends in regional and subregional economic performance, including trends in social development and the continent's growth prospects for 2010. It also examines the underlying policy initiatives and options to deal with emerging issues and longer-term challenges. This will be followed by a general discussion on the main policy issues and recommendations highlighted in the presentation. [The overview will draw on the *Economic Report on Africa, 2010*]

5. Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will present a progress report on the status of regional integration in Africa, including highlighting key challenges and constraints. The presentation will be based on the recent research findings and analytical work jointly undertaken by the AU Commission and ECA on the qualitative and quantitative assessment of progress towards achieving integration in various sectors. The presentation will be followed by a general discussion on key issues highlighted by the secretariat in order to distill policies and strategies for accelerating the integration process.

6. Africa Regional Review of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) and African Common Position on MDGs

Under this item, the Secretariat will present a progress report on the MDGs in Africa and the African Common Position on MDGs. The UNDP will also make a brief intervention on progress towards the MDGs in Africa. The presentations will highlight progress made towards achieving the 8 goals of the MDGs in Africa, including challenges faced and further policy measures and actions required to achieve the goals by the target date of 2015. These will be followed by general discussions and sharing of country experiences on policies and programmes for achieving the MDGs. The outcome of the review will feed into the General Assembly global 10-year review of the MDGs scheduled to be held in September 2010.

7. Follow-up to the outcomes of major UN and AU Conferences and Summits, including the 2009 Joint Annual Meetings of the AUC and ECA

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will make brief presentations on a number of sectoral policy issues as a follow-up to the outcomes of global and regional conferences, including the decisions of the 2009 Conference of Ministers. The Committee is expected to consider these and make recommendations for further action. The progress reports would allow member States to take stock of their progress, identify areas where they are off-track and offer an opportunity for reflection and discussion on the recommendations addressed to them in the report. The following reports will be presented:

- *Report on the outcome of the Africa regional review of Progress in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010*

- *Progress report on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development*
- *Progress report of the 10th Regional Consultation Mechanism of United Nations agencies working in Africa in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme*
- *Climate change and development*
- *Progress report on the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation and similar commitments*
- *Strategy for the harmonization of statistics and implementation of the African Charter on Statistics*

8. Presentation and discussion on the theme of the Conference: *Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa*

The secretariat will make a brief presentation to introduce the theme of the Conference drawing on the issues paper and other background documents on the theme. The presentation will be followed by general interactive discussions. Both the presentation and discussions will focus on the growth-employment-poverty reduction nexus and discuss strategies for job-creating growth based on lessons from successful African and other countries. The session will also provide an opportunity to assess the overall regional and subregional growth situation, the main sources of growth and the impact of the recent global economic and financial crisis, including identifying strategies and approaches for scaling up broad-based growth in Africa based on specific regional, sub-regional and individual country experiences. The discussion will help African countries to reorient their development strategies not just to respond to the short-term impact of the recent global financial and economic crisis but also to achieve higher and sustained for employment-creation and poverty reduction.

9. Statutory issues

Under this agenda item, the AU Commission and the ECA secretariat will make presentations on various statutory issues related to their work and their respective subsidiary organs. The Committee will be required to consider and make recommendations to the Conference for further guidance and action as appropriate. This year, the following statutory issues and reports will be brought to the attention of the Committee:

- *Presentation and consideration of the ECA Annual Report, 2010*
- *ECA's proposed biennial programme plan, 2012-2013 and ECA Business Plan, 2010-2012*
- *Report on ECA's Programme Performance for the biennium 2008-2009*
- *Note by the Executive Secretary on recent organizational changes in ECA*
- *Independent external evaluation report on ECA's Sub-regional Offices (SROs)*
- *Report on the repositioning of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)*
- *Review of progress in the implementation of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy and First Action Plan*

10. Any other business

The Committee may raise other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

11. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the Committee of Experts and draft resolutions

The Committee will consider and adopt a draft report of its meeting containing major recommendations and draft resolutions based on agenda of the meeting for submission to the Conference of Ministers

12. Closing of the meeting

The AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs and the Executive Secretary of ECA will both make brief closing remarks, and the *Chairperson of the Bureau of the Committee of Experts* will summarize the main outcomes of the deliberations and declare the meeting closed.