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

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

**Ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union  
Specialized Technical Committee on Finance,  
Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and  
Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa  
Conference of African Ministers of Finance,  
Planning and Economic Development**  
Addis Ababa, 4 and 5 April 2016

## **Ministerial statement** [final version]

*We, African ministers of finance, planning, economic development and integration,*

1. Meeting in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 April 2016, for the Ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,

2. Honoured by the presence of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Dessalegn, the Vice-President of Namibia, Nickey Iyambo, the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Augustin Matata Ponyo, members of the African Forum of former Heads of State and Government, the governors of our national and regional central banks, and other high-level dignitaries and special guests,

3. Having deliberated on the theme “Towards an integrated and coherent approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals” and cognizant that, with the advent of these two agendas, the continent now has the frameworks for a qualitative transition towards a new transformative and people-centred development trajectory that combines economic, social, and environmental and other developmental considerations,

*Do hereby state that:*

4. We note that Africa’s growth rate declined slightly to 3.7 per cent in 2015, from 3.9 per cent in 2014. Nevertheless, the continent’s growth rate remained above the global average and that of all other regions, except for East and South Asia, owing to continued improvement in economic governance and macroeconomic management,

increased domestic demand, and diversified trade and investment ties within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world. Growth is expected to increase in 2016 and 2017, driven mainly by strong domestic demand and investment. Internal and external risks, however, such as the weak recovery of the global economy and the economic slowdown in emerging economies, low commodity prices and the depreciation of currencies, weather-related shocks and security concerns in some African countries, still pose threats to Africa's endeavours to achieve growth.

5. We recognize that Africa has made considerable progress towards social outcomes, with poverty levels dropping in the various subregions, albeit at a slow pace. Notwithstanding these improvements, however, inequalities persist with regard to income, gender, youth, people with disability, access to opportunities and geographical location.

6. We also recognize that multiple development frameworks have not met Africa's imperative for accelerated, inclusive and sustainable growth, thus weakening the continent's prospects for structural transformation.

7. We acknowledge that Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offer a unique opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive and transformative development with equity. In this context, we underscore the importance for Africa of adopting a coherent strategy for the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we agree on a single monitoring and evaluation framework, accommodating both agendas, and a common reporting architecture that will produce a single periodic performance report.

8. We also acknowledge that the implementation of, reporting on, and follow-up to, both agendas require a coherent strategy and an integrated set of goals, targets and indicators, along with a harmonized review and reporting platform.

9. We recognize that reporting on these two apparently separate frameworks could prove to be onerous and thus recommend that a unified reporting platform should be set in place consistent with the equivalence of goals and targets established through the goal, indicator mapping and costing exercise that has been undertaken.

10. We take note of the huge capacity requirements for the implementation of both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and the critical importance of prioritizing related capacity-building at all levels.

11. We welcome continuing efforts by the African Union Commission, supported by the Economic Commission for Africa and other affiliated United Nations agencies, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the regional economic communities and African statisticians, to develop a core set of continental indicators to track progress on both agendas, taking into account the levels of development of individual countries, in order to facilitate benchmarking and comparability. In this regard, we urge all relevant stakeholders to speed up operationalization of the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Statistics in Tunisia and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre in Côte d'Ivoire.

12. We also encourage these institutions to develop a common platform for follow-up to, and the review of progress on, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, such as the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development.

13. We acknowledge the efforts of the African Union Commission, supported by the Economic Commission for Africa and other affiliated United Nations agencies, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the African Peer Review Mechanism, the regional economic communities and member States, to mainstream Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals into the

national development plans of African countries, following the African Union reporting architecture.

14. We also note that, through the process of their incorporation in national frameworks, the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 endeavours to integrate the two agendas. We appreciate that the measurement framework that has been developed highlights the convergence of the two agendas at the target level, which has made it possible to identify common indicators. We recognize that these synergies provide an opportunity to implement the two initiatives without unduly burdening policymakers with multiple development frameworks and onerous transactions and coordination costs.

15. We are cognizant that Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals have to be integrated national planning frameworks and the planning strategies of the regional economic communities. We are aware that the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development currently serves as the continent's platform for dialogue on issues of sustainable development in the context of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. To ensure coherence in the follow-up process, the Forum should constitute the platform for follow-up to and the review of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

16. We note that a pivotal role in the process of raising global awareness is played by such issues as Africa's contribution to the crafting of the 2030 Agenda, setting out the Sustainable Development Goals, the similarities between these Goals and Agenda 2063, and the implications of these commonalities for the implementation process. We recognize that both agendas are comprehensive, underpinned by an extensive consultation process, and share common aspirations of structural transformation and sustainable development, and therefore compatible.

17. We recognize that the implementation of both agendas will require substantial amounts of financial and non-financial resources from all sources. Cognizant of the unpredictability of official development assistance, we underscore the role of domestic resources as the main source of finance for the two agendas, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

18. We recall the commitment of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to establish an infrastructure platform aimed at coordinating investments in infrastructure; developing a technology facilitation mechanism to support innovation, science and technology; strengthening international cooperation on tax matters to stem the tide of illicit financial outflows; and improving capacities for domestic resource mobilization.

19. We are mindful that climate change undermines Africa's ability to attain its development goals. We therefore welcome the adoption of the Paris Agreement by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and recognize the opportunities that the agreement presents for the transition to a low-carbon development pathway in Africa.

20. We call upon the African Union Commission, supported by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, to assist member States in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular with their nationally determined contributions, to ensure alignment of their national development plans with the Agreement.

21. We recognize the key role of regional integration in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We call upon the United Nations to continue its support for Africa's transformative agenda by aligning itself with, and supporting the priorities of, the African Union, in particular Africa's

aspirations for a continental free trade agreement, regional integration and trade, industrialization and the related goals of Agenda 2063, including the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa and the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa.

22. We also underscore the benefits of migration for economic and human development in Africa. We therefore stress the importance of cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with respect for the human rights and dignity of migrants, regardless of their origin and status.

23. We acknowledge that promoting peace and security and combating terrorism are critical for Africa to achieve the desired development. We therefore invite member States to join together to ensure that peace and security are upheld in Africa and across the world.

### **Vote of thanks**

24. We thank the Government and people of Ethiopia for the hospitality that they have continued to afford the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa, and also for the courtesies extended to us, which ensured the success of our meetings.

25. Finally, we wish to extend our gratitude to the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa for successfully convening the Ninth Joint 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.