



## **Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General

17 May 2022

Original: English

---

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

Dakar (hybrid), 16 and 17 May 2022

### **Resolutions and decision adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development during the fifty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Africa**

#### **A. Resolutions**

##### **982 (LIV). Financing the recovery of Africa and beyond**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite current national and global efforts, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine and extreme weather events are widening the development financing gap in Africa and augmenting the continent's debt vulnerabilities,

*Concerned* that the asymmetric responses to the pandemic by developed and developing countries in terms of fiscal stimulus and vaccination are leading to a slower recovery in developing regions, in particular the African continent,

*Recalling* that global initiatives such as the Group of 20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative have not directly addressed the financing needs of middle-income countries,

*Noting* the slow progress in implementation of the Common Framework and concerned that the three countries of the Common Framework are yet to experience debt relief as envisaged by the Debt Service Suspension Initiative,

*Concerned* that the call on private creditors to participate on comparable terms in the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework has not generated a favourable response,

*Noting* that the perception of risk posed by the continent contributes to high credit costs, which penalize the competitiveness of African economies,

*Concerned* that the continent's debt vulnerabilities have been exacerbated by insufficient domestic resource mobilization and the high costs of borrowing from capital markets that do not justifiably reflect countries' economic fundamentals,



*Acknowledging* the important role of private capital markets in the development financing landscape of Africa, including in supplementing scarce concessional financing,

*Recognizing* the conducive role of functional repurchase agreement markets in enhancing the liquidity of sovereign bonds, thus reducing the liquidity premiums and eventually lowering the borrowing costs for bond issuers,

*Recalling* the acknowledged role played by the Economic Commission for Africa in designing the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility to reduce the cost of private credit for African countries,

*Convinced* that the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility can contribute to reducing interest rates by compressing liquidity premiums, alleviating the debt vulnerabilities of African countries and expanding the fiscal space for investment in critical infrastructure for digitalization, trade development, just energy transition and health facilities with a view to achieving a green and sustainable recovery in the post-pandemic era,

*Cognizant* of the important role of special drawing rights as a source of concessionary financing and the important role that the new issuance of special drawing rights can play in expediting the recovery of Africa from the current crises, while the allocation of special drawing rights has disproportionately benefited developed countries despite their strong fiscal positions and low utilization of such rights,

1. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa, African ministers of finance and the International Monetary Fund for facilitating the establishment of the high-level working group on a new global financial architecture that works for Africa;

2. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to provide thought leadership and technical support in the deliberations of the high-level working group and to serve as its secretariat;

3. *Also calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to support the extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for two more years and the rescheduling of the Initiative at the end of those two years for an additional period of five years for interested countries;

4. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa on launching the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility;

5. *Urges* countries, development partners and international, regional, and subregional organizations to welcome and extend support in financing and advocacy to the newly founded Liquidity and Sustainability Facility;

6. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to facilitate the operationalization of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, notably by mobilizing financial resources from supportive countries, development partners and international, regional and subregional organizations, and also by exploring the opportunity for support through the new issuance of special drawing rights by the International Monetary Fund;

7. *Also calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue its advocacy for the reform of the international financial architecture to allow African countries, including upper-middle-income countries, to gain access to resources more easily and at a lower cost from multilateral and regional financial institutions;

8. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to provide substantive technical assistance and capacity-building services to countries that are willing and eligible to participate in the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility initiative;

9. *Also requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to assist countries and facilitate their issuance of green, blue and Sustainable Development Goal-linked bonds to stimulate investment in climate adaptation actions and natural resource conservation, by leveraging the functional Liquidity and Sustainability Facility;

10. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to advocate and mobilize support for the reallocation of special drawing rights to countries that are most in need, with a view to addressing social, economic and environmental challenges, including the on-lending of special drawing rights to regional development banks to support the development financing priorities of Africa, so as to build forward better and achieve green and sustainable development as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union;

11. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to create an African credit rating agency in collaboration with the African Union Commission;

12. *Calls upon* all countries to actively use the Africa Trade Exchange platform for trading within the African Continental Free Trade Area.

*6th plenary meeting*

*17 May 2022*

### **983 (LIV). Importance of digital transformation for breaking new ground**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Considering* the continued socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the African continent, which has plunged close to 26 million Africans into extreme poverty, and the need to devise innovative and strategic engagement in order to facilitate the speedy economic recovery of Africa,

*Noting* that African countries are heavily dependent on imported technologies and information systems and that the war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine could cause the degradation of information and communications technology services all over the world and in particular in Africa, thereby aggravating the cybersecurity threats posed to the African continent,

*Considering* that Africa requires 100 billion United States dollars to achieve universal, affordable and quality Internet access by 2030,

*Considering also* that digitalization plays a critical role in boosting intra-African trade by improving digital payment systems and strengthening instant inclusive payment systems,

*Recognizing* that gender inequality affects the uptake of digital technologies for economic development,

*Recalling* the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its thirty-third ordinary session,

*Commending* the current efforts by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and key development partners to support member States in developing and implementing their respective national digital transformation strategies,

*Noting with appreciation* the current efforts by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Export-Import Bank and the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area to support African countries in developing and implementing the African Trade Exchange, a business-to-business platform which serves as a virtual marketplace for buyers and suppliers, based on rules of the African Continental Free Trade Area,

*Noting with satisfaction* the adoption of the Lomé Declaration on cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime at the first African summit meeting on cybersecurity, held in Lomé in March 2022,

1. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to further support the development of digital identity capacity across the African continent as a means of promoting inclusive sustainable development, moving beyond the informality of African economies, improving domestic resource mobilization, accelerating the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area and ensuring that no one is left behind;

2. *Also requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue its pursuit of initiatives that enhance the participation of women and girls in digital transformation strategies;

3. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to support the implementation of the Lomé Declaration on cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime;

4. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to strengthen its work on leveraging digital technologies and innovation to enable its member States to explore new areas of the data economy for increased trade and development opportunities and to harness the benefits of digitalization for the recovery and stabilization of their respective economies;

5. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to support member States of the Economic Commission for Africa in devising additional innovative mechanisms for the financing and implementation of digital transformation strategies;

6. *Also calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to expedite efforts to support the development of digital trade on the African continent to accelerate the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

*6th plenary meeting*

*17 May 2022*

#### **984 (LIV). Role of Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing in improving African health outcomes**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Acknowledging* the indispensable contribution of health to the future prosperity of Africa and to the achievement of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union,

*Conscious of* the need for more inclusive, responsive and resilient health systems that serve as key drivers of economic growth, job creation, development financing and private sector participation in Africa,

*Recalling* the launch of Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing by the African Union Commission and the Africa Centres for Disease Control

and Prevention at the high-level online summit held on 12 and 13 April 2021 under the theme “Expanding Africa’s vaccine manufacturing for health security: building back better, bolder and bigger”,

*Welcoming* Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing as an African initiative, taking into account the continent’s priorities and means to harness the power of collective action to address health challenges during and beyond the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Taking note* of the continuing efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa to improve health outcomes on the continent, including its role as chair of the market design and demand intelligence pillar of Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing and as a member of the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team,

*Mindful of* the call by the Committee on Private Sector Development, Regional Integration, Trade, Infrastructure, Industry and Technology at its second session for the Economic Commission for Africa to continue and scale up the roll-out of the three dimensions of the African Continental Free Trade Area-anchored pharmaceutical initiative (pooled procurement, local manufacturing, and standards and quality assurance), including by forging and strengthening partnerships with relevant stakeholders,

*Recognizing* the critical importance of consolidating gains and securing innovations introduced during the pandemic and of leveraging them in the service of long-term health security in Africa,

1. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa, other pan-African organizations, key global health entities, development partners, regional and international financial institutions and the private sector to mobilize financing to achieve the target of Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing of ensuring uninterrupted access to affordable, high-quality vaccines in Africa by fulfilling 60 per cent of the continent’s vaccine demand through local production by 2040;

2. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to work in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team to develop an African Union model law on pooled procurement, for possible adoption, so as to enhance coherence on mechanisms to pool resources and to create demand certainty for vaccines produced in Africa;

3. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Africa to support its member States in identifying, securing and developing the workforce, intellectual properties, industrial know-how, technology and financing required for a commercially viable and financially sustainable vaccine manufacturing sector in Africa.

*6th plenary meeting*

*17 May 2022*

**985 (LIV). Updated strategic directions, the medium-term programme framework (2022–2025) and the 2023 programme plan and budget**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly called upon

the United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations development system to fully implement the statement of collaboration between the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations regional commissions on support to Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the role and functions of the United Nations development system at the regional level, including the regional economic commissions and the regional teams of the United Nations development system, and underlined the need to continue to make them fit for purpose in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recalling further* its resolution 959 (LI) of 15 May 2018 on the revised strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018–2019, in which the Conference of Ministers adopted the revised strategic framework,<sup>1</sup> having considered the note by the secretariat entitled “New strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa: putting ideas into action for an empowered and transformed Africa”,<sup>2</sup> with a view to delivering ideas and actions for an empowered, inclusive and transformed Africa within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union,

*Noting* that, in 2021, the Secretary-General issued the report entitled “Our Common Agenda”,<sup>3</sup> in which he set out an agenda for action on the basis of his vision for the future of global cooperation through inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism, and recognizing the need to reflect such an agenda in the strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with its mandate, to ensure the effective implementation of its programme plan, in collaboration with all entities of the United Nations system and other partners,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 72/266 of 24 December 2017 on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations, in which the Assembly approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020, and emphasized that reform initiatives should be integrated, coherent and mutually reinforcing,

*Recognizing* the strategic importance of annual programme plans and budgets in contextualizing and operationalizing the implementation of the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with its strategic directions and core functions, across its nine subprogrammes and pursuant to guidance from the Economic and Social Council,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 964 (LII) of 26 March 2019 on the 2020 programme plan and budget, in which it called upon the Economic Commission for Africa to increase the level of ambition in its programme of work and to develop a medium-term programme framework, covering a period of three to five years, to facilitate the engagement of its member States, with annual plans and budgets to be derived from the framework,

*Recalling* its resolution 981 (LIII) of 23 March 2021 on the 2022 programme plan and budget, in which it noted that the formulation of the medium-term programme framework had been affected by the coronavirus

---

<sup>1</sup> E/ECA/COE/37/4/Rev.1.

<sup>2</sup> E/ECA/COE/37/14.

<sup>3</sup> A/75/982.

disease (COVID-19) situation and would require further consultations with constituencies and stakeholders,

*Noting* that the medium-term programme framework (2022–2025) is in line with the development priorities and aspirations of Africa, with a focus on the main transformations that are necessary to accelerate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals that are contained in the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of Agenda 2063,

*Acknowledging* that the medium-term programme framework (2022–2025) provides a robust orientation for the 2023 programme plan and budget, which, in turn, highlights the objectives and the most important expected results and deliverables for all subprogrammes of the Economic Commission for Africa,

*Recognizing* that the 2023 programme plan and budget reflects the continued efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance the implementation of its strategic programmatic orientations, so that it can effectively support the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and mobilize resources towards financing the continent's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis,

*Noting* the alignment of the strategic directions with those contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda",

*Commending* the Economic Commission for Africa for implementing its work programme for 2021 amid adverse circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Having examined* the update on the strategic framework, the medium-term programme framework (2022–2025) and the 2023 programme plan and budget,

1. *Approves* the medium-term programme framework (2022–2025);
2. *Adopts* the 2023 programme plan and budget of the Economic Commission for Africa.

*6th plenary meeting*

*17 May 2022*

## **986 (LIV). Data and statistics**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Recognizing* the importance of transforming and modernizing national statistical systems to support the development process adequately and to respond to the need for official statistics and data for planning and decision-making and for monitoring progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, and national development plans,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 71/313, in which the Assembly welcomed the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, which provides the framework for discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of statistical capacity-building pertaining to the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the modernization of national statistical systems,

*Taking note* of the progress made on the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems in Africa and appreciating the outputs and deliverables produced to date,

*Noting that* several countries are undertaking digital censuses in the current 2020 round of the population and housing census, which runs from 2015 to 2024, with support from the Economic Commission for Africa and partners,

*Acknowledging* the need to use new data sources, disaggregated data and alternative methods of data collection, leveraging technological progress, to respond to the need for data in monitoring progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and subregional and national development plans,

1. *Calls upon* member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to support work on the transformation and modernization of official statistics by the African group created by the Statistical Commission for Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa and comprising heads of national statistical offices in Africa, and to adopt and implement a national statistical system transformation and modernization road map;

2. *Calls upon* pan-African organizations and partners to steer and coordinate their support towards modernizing national statistical systems;

3. *Urges* member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to devote adequate financial resources to building modern statistical systems that adequately respond to the need for official statistics and data for planning and decision-making;

4. *Encourages* member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to produce disaggregated statistics in conformity with United Nations methodology and guidelines, including the System of National Accounts;

5. *Calls upon* Governments, entities of the United Nations system and development partners to provide financial, material and technical support to member States of the Economic Commission for Africa that have not undertaken a census in the 2020 round to undertake censuses before the end of the 2020 round in 2024 and to support the implementation of the fully technologically driven censuses in Africa during the 2030 round (2025–2034);

6. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, working with other key regional partners, including the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, to continue to support its member States in strengthening the capacity of their statistical and data systems;

7. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to work with countries and development partners to mobilize special funding to assist member States of the Commission that face financial challenges in the development of their statistical and data systems.

*6th plenary meeting*

*17 May 2022*

**987 (LIV). Support by the Economic Commission for Africa for least developed countries in the context of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Recognizing* that least developed countries in Africa offer enormous human and natural resource potential for global economic growth, welfare, prosperity and food and energy security, and acknowledging the considerable efforts that they have made in implementing the commitments of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,



*Concerned* that half of the least developed countries in Africa did not meet the graduation criteria set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action,

*Taking note of* the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031, adopted at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 17 March 2022 and endorsed by the General Assembly on 1 April 2022, wherein commitments between the least developed countries and their development partners, including the private sector, civil society and governments at all levels, were renewed and strengthened,

*Concerned* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine may undermine efforts to expedite implementation of the Doha Programme of Action,

*Cognizant* of the opportunities available to deepen support for African least developed countries in the context of the Doha Programme of Action,

1. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to report on the progress made by African least developed countries in their implementation of the Doha Programme of Action;

2. *Also requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to deploy all appropriate tools and resources to support evidence-based planning, macroeconomic policymaking and debt management in African least developed countries;

3. *Further requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, working with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to continue to support the least developed countries in the implementation and monitoring of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through coordination with various United Nations entities, raising global awareness, mobilizing international support and resources in favour of the least developed countries, building multi-stakeholder partnerships and reaching out to all stakeholders, including by establishing partnerships with civil society and the private sector, to enhance support for those countries.

*6th plenary meeting*

*17 May 2022*

## **988 (LIV).     Scaling up investment in transport to optimize the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Recognizing* the important role of the African Continental Free Trade Area in the socioeconomic development and transformation of Africa and the role of transport infrastructure in expanding trade and economic connectivity and promoting the economies of scale for African businesses necessary to maximize the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area on the continent,

*Noting* that the transport sector contributes directly to the economies of African countries through value addition, job creation and market expansion,

*Mindful* that the African continent has a continuing shortfall in investment in transportation infrastructure,

*Recalling* its resolution 965 (LII) of 26 March 2019 on the Luxembourg Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Railway Rolling Stock, in which it called upon the Economic

Commission for Africa to inform interested parties on the way that private credit and leasing can assist with providing the financial resources necessary to revitalize and expand the African rail network, and the benefits of becoming party to the Protocol,

*Acknowledging* the contribution of key regional initiatives, such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Single African Air Transport Market, to modernizing and expanding existing national and regional transport networks, and acknowledging the commitment of member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to those initiatives,

*Noting* that, to date, 35 African countries have signed the solemn commitment to the Single African Air Transport Market,

*Mindful* that effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area requires adequate cross-border transport infrastructure and services,

*Mindful also* that the African Continental Free Trade Area provides extensive opportunities for investment in transport infrastructure and services,

1. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa for undertaking a study on the implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area for the demand for transport infrastructure and services;

2. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to widely disseminate the findings of the study and to undertake further studies, if necessary, in that regard;

3. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to support its member States in implementing the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Single African Air Transport Market;

4. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with key partners, including the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, to support its member States in mobilizing financial resources for the upgrading of transport links that are critical to the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area and for investment in the transport equipment required to accommodate increased trade volumes resulting from the African Continental Free Trade Area.

*6th plenary meeting  
17 May 2022*

## **989 (LIV). Carbon certification**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Noting with concern*, as reported in the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that Africa remains the most vulnerable region to climate shocks while being the least responsible for the inexorable increase of global temperatures,

*Underlining* the critical importance of the continent's natural heritage and its incalculable contribution towards the sequestration of harmful greenhouse gases, and in particular such regions as the Congo basin, which play an essential role in regulating the Earth's climate,

*Noting* the absence of efficient accounting and carbon certification processes in the African region to incentivize efforts to sustain such carbon sinks and regulate the Earth's climate, while addressing its own development imperative, by pricing such emissions in manners that match the related social costs,

*Recognizing* the vast potential of carbon markets for generating new streams of financial revenue for public and private organizations and for

allowing Governments to meet their low carbon emissions targets while achieving green and climate-resilient development, as outlined in their national development plans, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the numerous goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union,

*Recognizing* the needs expressed by African Governments and other parties at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, specifically with regard to the negotiations held on article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, in which Governments are encouraged to establish environmental integrity and carbon market integrity by, among other things, ensuring that all carbon use is transparent and verifiable, and applying comparable accounting systems and supporting development plans,

*Recalling* its resolutions 884 (XLIV) on climate change and sustainable development in Africa and 919 (XLVII) on the green economy and structural transformation, which can be substantially promoted by carbon market integrity carefully designed for the best interests of Africa,

*Noting* the importance of accurate data on carbon stocks and carbon stock changes in terrestrial and other carbon pools in the process of managing carbon assets and addressing sustainable development needs, including moderating climate risks to societies and economies,

*Recalling* the request made recently by member States of the Economic Commission for Africa in the Kigali Declaration on building forward better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis and accelerating delivery of sustainable development in Africa, adopted in 2022, for the operationalization of carbon market programmes and for building the capacity of the countries of the Congo basin to deliver funding for sustainable development through the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin to support the implementation of nationally determined contributions, to estimate their capacity for carbon sequestration and to develop livelihoods that are linked to the subregion's unique natural capital,

1. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to provide technical and advisory support to its member States that are interested in implementing carbon certification and accreditation processes in terms of accessing carbon credit markets and regional climate commissions, such as the Congo Basin Climate Commission;

2. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to provide capacity-building support to its member States that express an interest and to regional climate commissions, such as the Congo Basin Climate Commission, in the accounting and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reduction processes;

3. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to provide technical and advisory support to its member States that express an interest in assessing the carbon sequestration potential of their natural assets;

4. *Also calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to partner with regional development banks to develop a strategy for mobilizing financial resources, building on the opportunity presented by the issuance of carbon credits.

*6th plenary meeting  
17 May 2022*

**990 (LIV).     Curbing illicit financial flows and recovery of lost assets**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Recognizing* the importance of cooperation at the national, regional and international levels in combating illicit financial flows,

*Noting* the enduring fiscal constraints facing African countries, which have been further tightened during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, inhibiting response strategies,

*Noting with grave concern* that the growing fiscal burden imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic has been exacerbated by the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine,

*Recalling* resolution 886 (XLIV) on illicit financial flows, in which the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa was established, and the mandate given in the Assembly Special Declaration on Illicit Financial Flows,<sup>4</sup> adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in 2015, to the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to carry out more research on illicit financial flows and the recovery of lost assets,

*Recalling also* the appeal to States Members of the United Nations in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to track and curb illicit financial flows through Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1,

*Noting with concern* that the ongoing constraints have made it more difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union,

1.     *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa, together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which are the two custodians of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1 on illicit financial flows and its conceptual framework, on piloting the agreed United Nations methodologies for the measurement of illicit financial flows in 12 member States of the Economic Commission for Africa;

2.     *Calls upon* the international community to undertake appropriate actions at the national, regional and global levels to ensure that illicit financial flows are treated as a system-wide challenge at the global level and that the international community adopts a mechanism for global coordination to systematically monitor illicit financial flows;

3.     *Requests* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa to work with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the African Capacity-Building Foundation, the African Tax Administration Forum and other development partners to build the capacity of States members of the Economic Commission for Africa and institutions, especially in tax policy and administration, international tax cooperation, the countering of money laundering, corruption prevention and related enforcement measures, asset recovery and return, and natural resource governance.

4.     *Requests* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa and development partners to formulate a plan to build capacity in the above-mentioned tax-related areas, which will be considered by ministers during a proposed online meeting to be held in September 2022;

---

<sup>4</sup> Assembly/AU/Decl.5.(XXIV).

5. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa and other partners to build the capacity of African countries to tackle the gaps in institutional architecture, with a view to developing their ability to track, measure and report on the evolution of illicit financial flows under Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1, and to devise measures to curb illicit financial flows;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations to begin negotiations under its auspices on an international convention on tax matters, with the participation of all States members and relevant stakeholders, aimed at eliminating base erosion, profit shifting, tax evasion, including of capital gains tax, and other tax abuses.

*6th plenary meeting  
17 May 2022*

## **991 (LIV). Culture and heritage management programme**

*The Conference of Ministers,*

*Recognizing* the development potential of arts, culture and heritage as accelerators for achieving the Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the aspirations of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union,

*Taking note* of the declaration of the African Union theme for 2021 as “Arts, culture and heritage: levers for building the Africa We Want”,

*Acknowledging* that culture is necessary for growth and has the potential to transform Africa, which resonates with the fifth aspiration of Agenda 2063, “an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics”,

*Recognizing* the socioeconomic importance of arts and culture as a potential powerhouse in creating employment for millions of people, promoting social cohesion and strengthening national and regional identities, as underscored by the Secretary-General at the Africa Dialogue Series, held in May 2021 under the theme “Cultural identity and ownership: reshaping mindsets”, which builds on the African Union theme for 2021,

*Recalling* the relevant instruments, including the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance (2006), the statute of the African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission (2019), the revised African Union Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries in Africa (2021) and the African Union Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Property and Heritage (2018), all of which provide strong direction for African countries to further promote and develop this important sector,

*Cognizant* of the fact that the safeguarding and promotion of culture contribute directly to many of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and creativity are resources that need to be protected and carefully managed, and that they can serve both as drivers for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and as enablers, since approaches that promote culture will help to ensure the success of interventions to achieve the Goals,

*Recognizing also* the potential for culture to contribute to the process of economic recovery and to addressing the challenges of the post-pandemic environment,

*Acknowledging* the role of the Economic Commission for Africa in promoting cultural heritage as a tool of economic development by forming partnerships with several stakeholders, including the African Union

Commission, the Heritage Management Organization and the Atlantic Council to implement a heritage management programme, aimed at contributing to the cultural and creative industries and to the African Union theme for 2021,

*Recognizing* that the objective of the programme is to build on the continental initiatives to empower local communities through capacity-building and other areas of intervention in the cultural, creative and heritage management sector, thus maximizing the powerful strategic advantage provided by the continent's heritage, and, in turn, strengthening the arts, culture and heritage sector, with a view to fostering economic development in African countries,

1. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to support the heritage management programme with the aim of contributing to the continental initiatives that promote the cultural and creative industries as a lever for sustainable development and to urge its member States to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the programme;

2. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to encourage its member States to accelerate efforts to recognize and acknowledge the economic potential of their heritage resources and provide a significant portion of their budget for their protection, management and development;

3. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to engage key institutions on the African continent and the international organizations involved in the management, development and financing of the arts, culture and heritage sector, in collaborating on the implementation of the programme with a view to enhancing the economic contribution of the sector.

*6th plenary meeting  
17 May 2022*

## **B. Decision**

### **A (LIV). Date, venue and theme for the fifty-fifth session**

At its 6th plenary meeting, on 17 May 2022, the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development decided that the fifty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Africa would be held in Addis Ababa in 2023 on a date in the months of March or April under the theme "Fostering recovery and transformation in Africa to reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities". The Conference of Ministers stressed that the deliberations at the fifty-fifth session would offer an opportunity to reflect on the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union) and the completion of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 (2014–2023).

*6th plenary meeting  
17 May 2022*