



PROGRAMME

23 - 28 March, 2017



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



AFRICAN UNION



African Development Week 2016

AU-ECA Conference of Ministers



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



AFRICAN UNION

**Economic Commission for
Africa
Conference of African
Ministers of Finance,
Planning and Economic
Development**
Fiftieth session

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

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

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2017



Tentative timetable



04 **Thursday** 23 March
Expert Segment

05 **Friday** 24 March
Expert Segment

05 **Saturday** 25 March
Side events/Other meetings

12 **Sunday** 26 March
Side events/Other meetings

15 **Monday** 27 March
Ministerial Segment

16 **Tuesday** 28 March
Ministerial Segment



Thursday, 23 March 2017

All day event 09.00 - 18.30 Meeting of the Committees of Experts [CR2]

09.00 - 09.30	Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting
09.30 - 09.45	Agenda item 2. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work
09.45 - 10.45	Agenda item 3. Session I. Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa
10.45 - 11.45	Agenda item 4. Session II. Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa
11.45 - 12.00	Coffee break
12.00 - 13.00	Agenda item 5. Session III. Statistical development in Africa: achievements, challenges and perspectives
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 - 16.30	Agenda item 6. Session IV. Presentation on the theme of the tenth Joint Annual Meetings: "Growth, inequality and unemployment"
16.30 - 16.45	Coffee break
16.45 - 18.30	Agenda item 7. Session V. Statutory issues of the Economic Commission for Africa
18.30 p.m.	Reception

Friday, 24 March 2017

All day event 09.00 - 19.00 Meeting of the Committees of Experts [CR2]

09.00 - 12.00	Session V. (continued)
12.00 - 12.15	Coffee break
12.15 - 13.45	Agenda item 8. Session VI. Statutory issues of the African Union Commission
13.45 - 14.45	Lunch break
14.45 - 16.30	Session VI. (continued)
16.30 - 16.45	Coffee break
16.45 - 18.15	Session VI. (continued)
18.15 - 18.30	Agenda item 9. Date, venue and theme of the eleventh Joint Annual Meetings
18.30 - 19.00	Agenda item 10. Other matters

Saturday, 25 March 2017

All day event 09.00 - 18.30 Meeting of the Committees of Experts [CR2]

09.00 - 16.00	Drafting of the report on the meeting of the Committees of Experts
16.00 - 18.00	Agenda item 11. Session VII. Consideration and recommendation for adoption of the draft report on the meeting of the Committees of Experts and of the draft resolutions
18.00 - 18.30	Agenda item 12. Closing of the meeting

**Side Events/Other meetings** Saturday, 25 March 2017**09.00 - 18.00****Eighteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (Salon Vert)****Organizer: ECA**

In line with the spirit of the 2016 United Nations quadrennial comprehensive policy review, for the first time, part of the session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) will be held jointly with the Regional United Nations Development Group. The theme for this year's meeting is "United Nations system support for harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth". In addition to reflections on the theme, the session will also discuss the implementation of the renewed framework of United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA) and consider the work programme of RCM-Africa for 2017 and 2018, ensuring that the new clusters are appropriately aligned to support the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

09.00 - 11.00**Side event 1: Health financing in Africa and launch of the Africa scorecard on domestic financing for health (BC12)****Organizers: ECA and WHO**

Following the joint planning meeting in June 2015, ECA and the World Health Organization (WHO) are implementing a workplan for the period 2015-2017. A key activity of the workplan is to organize a meeting for ministers of health and finance to promote dialogue on health financing and social protection for universal health coverage. As a prelude to the ministerial meeting, the side event will include a presentation of a technical report prepared by ECA and WHO; panels comprised of selected ministers of health and financing and key development partners in the region; and presentations by experts on key issues related to financing for health systems and programmes. Following the plenary sessions and discussions on the presentations, the participants of the side event will work together to come up with recommendations of key actions related to health financing for ministers of finance in the region.

Panellists include:

- Minister of Health, Senegal
- Regional Director, WHO African Region
- Regional Director, WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office
- Dr. Gitahi Githinji - AMREF Health Africa
- Professor Franklin Lisk

09.30 - 11.30

Side event 2: Capacity-building strategies for development planning (A01)**Organizer: ECA**

Development planning is essential for implementing national, regional and global development initiatives. In that regard, ECA supports member States in their efforts to strengthen development planning and adapt global and regional development frameworks as a key strategy for achieving inclusive economic growth and structural transformation. This side event aims to engage senior planning officials and professionals and get feedback from them on three projects that were designed to build planning capacity in African country institutions. Also, during the side event, the prospect of working with the African Institute for Development and Planning (IDEP) in developing a standardized training curricula for African higher education institutions covering the fundamental knowledge and skills of development planning will be considered.

09.30 - 11.30

Side event 3: Expert group meeting on the New Urban Agenda and demographic dividend: investments for Africa's Youth" (B01)**Organizers: Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA, UN-Habitat and African Union Commission**

The opportunities for African youth living in urban areas and the challenges they face are often topics of discussion found in regional and global agendas. In the Abuja Declaration, which presented a common African position for Habitat III. The urban and demographic transitions underway in Africa are two of the most important shifts with profound implications for inclusive growth. Urbanization and population growth and the potential and risks associated with them present invaluable opportunities and challenges for Africa in realizing the demographic dividend, which policymakers hope to capitalize on in the drive to support the structural transformation of the entire continent. The opportunities and challenges associated with urbanization and the demographic dividend are addressed in key regional and global agendas and frameworks, including Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As such, the Common African Position on the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) focuses as one of its pillars: on the need to "enhance people-centred urban and human settlements development" aimed at ensuring equitable opportunities for all in cities, including youth. In addition, the African Union theme for 2017 calls for harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth. Most recently, the New Urban Agenda, which emerged from Habitat III recognizes the interface between the urban and demographic transitions. The overall objective of this expert group meeting is to support decision makers in Africa in developing strategies for implementing the New Urban Agenda and reaping the demographic dividend. A key focus will be on the interlinkage of the growing youth segment of the population of Africa and its impact on sustainable urbanization, especially in the light of the opportunities and challenges associated with the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Africa.



Panellists include:

- President of the Economic and Social Council,
- Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations
- Economic Commission for Africa - Executive Secretary
- African Union Commission Director Political Affairs
- Youth Representative and Manager of the Human Needs Project

10.00 - 11.30

Side event 4: Launch of the human rights impact assessment of the continental free trade area in Africa (B06)

Organizers: ECA, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

The Economic Commission for Africa, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung have conducted an ex-ante assessment of the potential impacts of the continent free trade area (CFTA) in three key policy areas: (a) food security; (b) decent livelihoods; and (c) employment. The assessment provides recommendations as to how to ensure that CFTA advances and upholds these normative outcomes, taking into account the policy frameworks for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The side event, which will include a presentation of the findings of the assessment and recommendations with regard to CFTA, is timely because: (a) the topic of the event complements the theme of the 2017 Conference of Ministers, which focuses on employment and inequality; and (b) the CFTA negotiations are expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Panellists:

- David Luke, Coordinator, African Trade Policy Centre
- Prof. James Gathii, Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law and Professor of Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- Chris Changwe Nshimbi, Deputy Director, Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation, University of Pretoria
- Caroline Dommen, Consultant, ECA

09.30 - 11.30

Side event 5: Lowering the cost of remittance transfers in Africa (C01)**Organizers: African Union Commission**

Remittances sent by more than 30 million African migrants have been increasing at a steady rate, reaching in 2015, an officially reported amount that exceeds \$66 billion. Remittances are the lifeline for at least 120 million family members living in Africa. European and African leaders signed an agreement in Valletta in November 2015 to reduce remittance transaction costs to less than 3 per cent of the total sent by 2030 and to eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent. Also, the agreement calls for the identification of corridors for remittance transfers where the partners have agreed to substantially reduce the costs by 2020, from Europe to Africa and within Africa, in compliance with existing national legislation. Moreover, the above-mentioned target levels were initially set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development under target c of Sustainable Development Goal 10. In order to achieve these goals, the African Institute for Remittances, a specialized technical office of the African Union Commission, has been improving remittances data measurement, compiling and reporting capabilities of member States, and promoting reform of policies and regulatory frameworks pertaining to remittances to ensure market competition and greater efficiency. The main objectives of this side event will be to discuss the main avenues for contributing to the goals of the African Institute of Remittances and to identify areas of competency and the role of stakeholders, including government agencies, ministries and central banks, in the effort to lower the costs of remittance transfers within Africa.

09.30 - 11.30

Side event 6: Launch of the country profiles (C12)**Organizers: ECA**

The Country Profile series offers an independent narrative of the economic and social development experience and prospects in Africa. It contains assessments that focus on policy analysis as countries move towards regional integration and economic transformation. It also includes strategic recommendations for decision makers and national and regional institutions for carrying out evidence-based policymaking in support of their countries' development priorities. This side event will feature the launch of 21 country profiles and include a discussion on the direction of future country profiles.

**14.00 - 16.00****Side event 7: Managing and coordinating large-scale infrastructure projects for development planning in Africa (B05B06)****Organizers: African Union Commission, African Capacity Building Foundation and ECA**

Infrastructure development and maintenance are core components of regional development initiatives in Africa, with the most recent ones being the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Agenda 2063. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) provides a long-term vision for infrastructure development on the continent and a platform for African countries, both individually and collectively, to communicate with investors and development partners. The Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI), which consists of eight projects championed by African Heads of State and Government, drawn mostly from PIDA projects, provides further impetus to the implementation of regional infrastructure projects in Africa. In addition to PIDA and PICI projects, several regional corridors link landlocked countries to the sea. The most prominent of these regional programmes is the Trans-African Highways network. This side event aims to present and validate the results of pilot projects and member States consultations to make them coherent with existing continental frameworks on infrastructure and to present a plan for scaling up knowledge in critical areas, such as project preparation and development, and management and coordination of large-scale infrastructure projects for structural transformation in Africa. The event will also serve as a platform for presenting a plan for integrating the implementation of transboundary infrastructure projects into national development plans.

14.00 - 16.00**Side event 8: 2017 Economic Report on Africa: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation (B01)****Organizer: ECA**

The annual Economic Report on Africa is the flagship publication of ECA. The 2017 edition, which is entitled "Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation", examines how to accelerate industrialization as a vehicle for structural transformation in Africa by harnessing the opportunities arising from rapid urbanization. The main objective of the side event is to share the key findings of the report. During the event case studies involving policymakers and other stakeholders will be presented that provide rationale and supporting evidence in support of linking industrialization and urbanization processes and frameworks to achieve inclusive and sustainable structural transformation.

14.00 - 16.00

Side event 9: Meeting of senior officials of the Committee of Ten Ministers of Finance on the implementation of the 0.2 per cent levy on imports (C01)
Organizers: African Union Commission

During the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in July 2016 in Kigali, the Assembly decided to: (a) introduce a 0.2 per cent levy on eligible imports with the objective to finance the African Union Operational Programme and peace support operations budgets, starting in 2017; and (b) set up a committee of 10 ministers of finance to participate in the preparation of the budgets (AU/Dec.605 (XXVII)). The inaugural meeting of the Committee of Ten Ministers of Finance was held in Addis Ababa on 16 September 2016, on the eve of an African Union finance ministers meeting. The next meeting of the Ten Ministers of Finance was held in the margins of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which took place in Washington, D.C. in October 2016. During the inaugural meeting, it was decided that a meeting be held with the Bureau of the Association of African Central Banks to discuss how best to implement the levy. At the second meeting, it was decided that the next meeting would be held on the margins of the African Union-ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance in Dakar in 2017 to discuss outstanding technical issues. Consequently, this side event will serve as the forum for this meeting. The topics of discussion slated for this event are the validation of the terms of reference for the Technical Committee of Ten Ministers of Finance; the report of the Commission on the implementation of the decision on financing the African Union; the advocacy strategy for the implementation of the decision on financing the African Union; and collaboration between the Committee of Ten Ministers of Finance and the Bureau of the Association of African Central Bank in implementing the decision.

**Side Events/Other meetings** Sunday, 26 March 2017

09.00 - 18.00	Eighteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa [continued]
09.00 - 18.00	Side event 10: Regional meeting on industrialization and Infrastructure (BC12) Organizers: Economic and Social Council and ECA

Industrialization and infrastructure development have been key aspirations in development planning and policymaking in Africa and in most of the developing world, but the level of success in implementing the development plans have varied. In the light of this, the President of the Economic and Social Council will convene a special meeting of the Council on innovations for infrastructure development and promoting sustainable industrialization, at the United Nations headquarters in New York in May 2017. The objective of the meeting will be to enhance high-level advocacy for effective support for developing countries in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This side event is the first of two planned preparatory meetings in the run up to the special meeting, which will contribute to the effective engagement of national and regional stakeholders in discussions and actions undertaken by the Economic and Social Council pertaining to industrialization and infrastructure.

09.00 - 11.00	Side event 11: Side event on the African Inclusive Markets Centre of Excellence (C01) Organizers: African Union Commission
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The creation of the African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre was initially proposed at the ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The centre is intended to become the premier pan-African regional platform for thought leadership and actions pertaining to inclusive business and inclusive markets. Its role is to identify, facilitate and replicate good practices and innovations associated with inclusive business and inclusive markets policy, programming and partnerships. The main objective of the side event, is to present the centre's vision, mission and objectives. In addition, the event will serve as an opportunity to present the major outcomes of the feasibility study on the centre and its business plan, and to show the value proposition of the centre and its potential benefits.

Panellists include:

- H. E. Dr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, AUC
- Nana Oumou Toure-Sy, Coordinator, UNDP Regional Service

11.00 - 13.00

Side event 12: Investing in land in Africa to catalyse economic growth and prosperity: a ministerial dialogue (A01)
Organizers: ECA and African Union Commission

Land is central to development. The successful implantation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relies on the continent's ability to unlock the potential of its land to boost productivity and realize inclusive economic growth in support of efforts aimed at alleviating poverty and eradicating hunger. In that regard, Africa urgently needs responsive policies and institutions that facilitate access to land and security of tenure for land users and potential investors. Governments in Africa are at different stages in setting land policies and institutional reforms aimed at improving land governance. At the continental level, ECA, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission plan to enhance support extended to member States in this area through the proposed African land policy center. The objective of the centre will be to support member States in and coordinate efforts aimed at implementing commitments made at African Union summits and other high-level meetings. The objective of this high-level ministerial dialogue is to raise awareness and exchange knowledge about land governance and the management of land-based investments, and draw lessons from practices used to enhance land governance and management of land-based investments. The side event will also serve as the venue to launch the African Land Policy Center.

11.30 - 13.30

Side event 13: Aligning the Pan-African Investment Code with the investment chapter of the continental free trade area (B05B06)
Organizers: African Union Commission and ECA

There is a growing recognition of the importance of trade and investment as key instruments in the socioeconomic transformation of Africa during the next decade and beyond. The African Union Commission was mandated by African Ministers during the third Conference of African ministers for Integration (COMAI III), held in Abidjan in 2008, "to develop a comprehensive investment code for Africa with a view to promoting private sector participation". The Code is a powerful guiding instrument that can be used in the CFTA negotiations with regard to building a conducive environment for the development of a more vibrant and dynamic private sector that promotes intra-African trade and facilitates job creation. The main objective of this high-level event is to raise awareness on the large potential of the Pan-African Investment Code as an instrument to be used to promote an attractive investment climate and expand intra-African trade. The event will provide evidence-based information to policymakers and other stakeholders on the relevance of the Code and how it can be used in the Investment Chapter of the CFTA process to avoid duplication of efforts and strengthen coherence. The side event will be followed by a press conference.



Panellists include:

- H.E Dr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, AUC
- H.E Dr. Abdallah Hamdok, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
- H.E Albert Muchanga, Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union Commission
- Melaku Desta, Principal Regional Advisor, Economic Commission for Africa-Community Driven Development
- Moïse Makane Mbengue, Professor, University of Geneva

14.00 - 16.00

Side event 14: Ending the AIDS epidemic: the role of cities (B01)
Organizers: ECA and the Joint United Programme on HIV/AIDS

Local actions taken by cities to accelerate the HIV response are contributing significantly to the global response. City leaders around the world are committing themselves to this response by providing political and technical leadership in dealing with local issues and barriers to the delivery of services. Cities are taking action through their networks and by involving affected communities in efforts to achieve the 90-90-90 targets by 2020 and bring an end to the AIDS epidemic by 2030. During this side event, there will be discussions on the profound, long-lasting benefits for urban communities stemming from the ending of the AIDS epidemic, as well as for countries and the global community, and the merits of using the AIDS response as a pathfinder for broader health and development initiatives in urban areas.

14.00 - 16.00

Side event 15: African Union-Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture four-year business plan (C01)
Organizers: African Union Commission

Programme - Ministerial Segment

Monday, 27 March 2017

International Conference Centre Abdou Diouf

09.00 - 11.00	Agenda item 1. Opening of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by the hosts • Statements by the special guests
11.00 - 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 - 11.30	Agenda item 2. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work
11.30 - 13.30	Agenda item 3. High-level ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the tenth Joint Annual Meetings: "Growth, inequality and unemployment"
13.30 - 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 - 17.45	Agenda item 4. High-level round-table discussions
14.30 - 15.30	Round table 1: Strategies for sustainable and inclusive growth
15.30 - 16.30	Round table 2: Priorities for addressing inequalities at the national and regional levels
16.30 - 16.45	Coffee break
16.45 - 17.45	Round table 3: Policy approaches for promoting sustainable and inclusive employment
18.15 - 19.15 p.m.	2017 Adebayo Adedeji Lecture
18.45 p.m.	Reception



Programme - Ministerial Segment

Tuesday, 28 March 2017
International Conference Centre Abdou Diouf

09.30 - 09.40	Presentation on the African Union theme of the year: 'Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth'
09.40 - 09.50	Presentation of the outcome of the eighteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism
09.50 - 10.15	Statement by H.E. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, President of the Economic and Social Council
10.15 - 11.45	Agenda item 5. Economic Commission for Africa statutory segment: consideration of recommendations and adoption of draft resolutions
11.45 - 12.00	Coffee break
12.00 - 13.30	Agenda item 6. African Union Commission statutory segment: consideration of recommendations and adoption of draft resolutions
13.30 - 14.30	Lunch break Ministerial Luncheon hosted by the African Capacity Building Foundation
14.30 - 15.30	Agenda item 7. Consideration and adoption of the draft ministerial statement
15.30 - 16.00	Agenda item 8. Other matters
16.00 - 16.30	Agenda item 9. Closing of the session
16.30 - 17.00	Press conference



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