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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

First meeting of the Committee on Governance and Popular Participation

9-10 December 2009  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Draft**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

1. The first meeting of the Committee on Governance and Popular Participation (CGPP) was held in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 10 December 2009.

2. The objectives of the meeting were threefold: First, to review and evaluate ECA's activities in the area of Governance and Public Administration as contained in the Work Program for 2008-2009 and the proposed activities for the biennium 2010-2011. Secondly, to suggest how the Division could improve its governance and public administration activities and working relations with continental, sub-regional and national institutions, including non-state actors and development partners to better enhance national capacity and capability and to support the APRM process. Thirdly, to review and adopt the new statutes of the Committee, since this is the first session of the CGPP.

3. Welcoming remarks were made by the Director ECA/GPAD where he highlighted the overall strategic objective of the Division to promote good governance practices in all sectors of society and provide support to the APRM as an African driven process to institutionalize the practice of good governance on the continent.

4. In his opening remarks, the representative of the African Union Commission (AUC) Director for Political Affairs praised the excellent institutional collaboration between the AU and the ECA and highlighted the fact that the partnership has been further strengthened by the formulation by the AUC of a mid-term strategy which is aligned on the program of work of ECA for the period 2010 – 2012. He called for the reinforcing of the capacity of civil society and the private sector so as to enable them to participate fully and effectively in the development of Africa and better play their role in the development and sustaining of good governance.

5. The Representative of the Ethiopian Government, the Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, made the Opening Statement where he warmly welcomed all delegates to Ethiopia. He laid great stress on the fact that the exercise of enhancing private sector development in Africa demands greater participation and that governments need to move towards more participatory and equitable processes. He further emphasized his wish that the meeting come up with appropriate recommendations to ensure that governments allow citizens to participate and articulate their needs in the formulation of vital policy instruments that are critical to improving their social welfare and wellbeing.

6. The Committee subscribed to the views expressed by the ECA Secretariat to the effect that the Bureau of the committee had been committed to its mandate and responsibilities, that it had diligently managed and steered the transition period and re-elected the Bureau members to serve for the period 2010 – 2011.

7. The Committee adopted the proposed agenda and the work program.

8. The Committee heard the presentation of the Parliamentary documents on (a) Governance and the fight against corruption and (b) Private sector development in Africa. The Committee discussed the two papers deepening some aspects and raising some views that are captured in the recommendations hereunder.

9. The Committee also heard the Review of GPAD's work for 2008 -2009 and the Preview of planned GPAD's activities for 2010 – 2011. The Committee discussed the two reports, and made certain suggestions, that are captured in the recommendations hereunder.

## **B. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. ECA/GPAD should continue to work closely with the African Union Commission to sensitize member States about the need to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance as an important element to promote popular participation in development;
2. ECA/GPAD to fulfill the UN wide collaboration and coordination on issues related to governance and leverage the existing complementarities;
3. ECA/GPAD should commission an in-depth study of the countries where corruption perception is lowest so that lessons be drawn and best practices be used to inform policies in the highly endemic countries. Furthermore, ECA should also consider conducting future analysis on corruption in Africa in a time series trend to evaluate the impact and progress being made by anticorruption strategies and institutions in African countries;
4. ECA/GPAD in collaboration with the AUC should involve itself in peace processes by way of conducting analytical work on social and economic dynamics so as to better inform the overall efforts for conflict resolution and peace building;
5. While continuing its work on all aspects of political governance, ECA/GPAD should enhance the importance given to economic governance in its research and analytical work;
6. ECA/GPAD should consider Local governance and decentralization issues in its work program and activities towards promoting popular participation;
7. In the context of promoting Public Private Partnerships due consideration should be given to the role of the informal sector;
8. ECA/GPAD should consider including Human Rights aspects in its future sensitization workshops on APRM. Furthermore, ECA/GPAD should strengthen its collaboration with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNOHCR) on issues of Human Rights for the biennium 2010/2011;
9. The Committee reiterates the need for more regular contacts between the biannual meetings of the Committee so as to inform member States on activities and evolution of the program approved by the Committee.