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**Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee
of Experts for Southern Africa (ICE)**

**24 – 26 February 2003
Maseru, Lesotho**

REPORT

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A. SUMMARY

Introduction

The Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) of the Economic Commission for Africa Office in Southern Africa (ECA-SA) was held from 24 to 26 February 2003 in Maseru, Lesotho. The theme of the meeting was "Challenges in implementing NEPAD".

Representatives from the following member States attended the meeting: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and the host, Lesotho. The following partner organizations also participated: Development Bank for Southern Africa (DBSA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office of Lesotho.

The following is a summary of the main deliberations of the meeting:

Review of the Main Activities of the ECA-SA (Agenda item 4)

The Committee requested ECA to explain the modalities of requesting for advisory services. The Secretariat provided information on how individual countries or a group of countries could address their request to ECA-SA or ECA Headquarters in Addis Ababa. ECA would assess the requirements for the request and assist the member State. A brochure giving details on advisory services was circulated to the member States present. It was reported that the same information was available on the ECA website www.uneca.org.

Review of the Economic and Social Situation in Southern Africa (Agenda item 5)

The Committee observed that economic figures alone were not sufficient to measure social change, as well as developments taking place in the economies. It was suggested that the UNDP Human Development Report indices should be used as a basis for refining analysis and conclusions.

The Committee encouraged ECA to disaggregate the statistics in the report among the various sectors so as to reflect the contribution of each sector to GDP, with special emphasis on the performance by the Agriculture sector.

The Committee expressed concern about the correlation between economic growth and the levels of poverty prevailing in some countries. Further, it indicated that better use of development assistance was necessary in order to reduce poverty levels in the countries and that income distribution was a critical aspect, which needed to be actively addressed. The Committee also expressed concern about access to social services such as water and sanitation, which were not addressed in the report under review.

The Committee noted that deforestation was a major concern to Southern African countries and recommended that member States should consider enhancing their reforestation programmes.

The Status of Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Southern Africa Sub-region (Agenda item 6)

The Committee recommended that COMESA and SADC should continue to cooperate and minimize overlapping their activities.

The Status of Governance in the Southern African countries (Agenda item 7)

The Committee agreed that the project was very important to African countries and expressed its full support for the project in Southern Africa.

Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives in National Policies and Programmes in the Southern African countries (Agenda item 8)

The Committee emphasized that allocation of resources to gender activities was critical to ensure effective implementation of gender programmes at all levels. It indicated that what seemed to be viewed as “meeting fatigue” was to be expected because gender and gender mainstreaming were new concepts that needed more sensitization activities, including workshops, seminars and meetings in order to raise the level of awareness and understanding of gender concerns among the people.

The Committee further observed that gender mainstreaming was a process that required time and effort, both human and financial, and that gender issues needed to be considered within the broad context of development. It also urged that sensitization and lobbying to change attitudes, mentalities and the traditional way of doing things were necessary. In addition, the Committee pointed out that gender focal points should be given specific Terms of Reference and budgetary allocation in order for them to undertake their duties efficiently.

The Committee also indicated that issues such as HIV/AIDS and gender mainstreaming should be analysed together and underscored the need to ensure that all PRSPs were gender sensitive.

The Committee expressed concern about lack of statistics and disaggregated data for gender analysis. In the case of the ECA Economic Report, the Committee indicated the need to disaggregate data by gender, particularly with respect to education and employment. It was noted that lack of adequate information and data on gender made it difficult for most governments and development institutions to adopt appropriate policies that would adequately address gender issues. The Committee agreed on the fact that in order for

government and development partners to address gender issues effectively, data and information on gender needed to be collected at small area level. The Committee emphasized that gender was a developmental issue, which needed to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

The Committee further noted that in addition to financial resources, appropriate policies were necessary to ensure that gender mainstreaming was effective. In this respect, participants were informed about two directives which were passed by the government in Malawi to allocate certain government positions to women and this did not imply financial resources.

The Status of Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Southern African Sub-region (Agenda item 9)

The Meeting observed that in some countries, women's control over land was a more serious problem than access. This seemed to be true in the case of Lesotho. In other countries, access to and control of land resource by women were both serious problems. The Committee urged member States to address these issues as they were important in empowering women to be more effective in contributing to food security.

On the issue of subsidies the Committee deplored the double standards whereby developed countries heavily subsidized their farmers and yet objected to subsidies in developing countries. Although the debate at international level has recognized the need to remove subsidies in developed countries there still was resistance. These issues should continue to be addressed at various fora including at the level of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Committee suggested that a study be made on the impact of subsidies in developed countries on crops and commodities that are also grown and produced in Southern Africa countries.

The Committee observed that some countries in the sub-region had greater potential for agriculture and food production. It was therefore important to take their comparative advantage in exploiting the agricultural potential with respect to available water and land resources and the potential to expand irrigation. Some countries had started to take concrete actions on this.

The Committee recognized the importance of attaining food security. Consequently it called for the revolutionization of agricultural production. A Marshal Plan was needed in agriculture and the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme could transform Africa's agriculture if operationalized.

Progress in the Implementation of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) Plans in Southern African Countries
(Agenda item 10)

The Committee stressed the fact that civil society and NGOs were very important players in developing ICT in the countries. In addition, the meeting noted the concessional loans, which the Government of Mauritius put at the disposal of the private sector to access and develop ICT in rural areas.

The issues of transfer of technologies (bridging the digital divide) were very important. The Committee underscored the need to increase access to ICT with a particular focus on women. It was observed that most broadcasting systems in the countries were still using analogue systems with imported equipment and improvements needed to be made.

The Committee stressed the fact that exchange of experiences was very important and noted with appreciation progress made on ICT in Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and Seychelles, which needed to be emulated by other countries.

The Committee recommended that the Task Force established between COMESA and SADC should also look into harmonizing the ICT programs of these two institutions.

The Committee stressed the need for African countries to develop human resources sustainability and leadership in order to take full advantage of the ICT developments taking place worldwide.

Skills Development in the Mining Sector in Southern Africa (Agenda item 11)

The Committee appealed to the Secretariat to address, in collaboration with both SADC and COMESA, the issue of the low level of progress in implementing past recommendations.

Strategies for Women's Access to and Ownership of Land in Southern Africa (Agenda item 12)

Emphasis was made on the need to harmonize customary and State laws with respect to land tenure and inheritance provisions, so that they could address issues of gender equality and gender equity objectives including instruments to implement them.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to consider including in the paper a clear statement on the role of the State on issues pertaining to women access to and ownership of land and requested the integration of women's land and water rights in NEPAD.

The Committee emphasized the need to build on the positive aspects of our customs while discarding the negative ones. In this regard, the Committee requested a review of the rights of women to land in patrilineal and matrilineal societies of the sub-region. It also requested assessment of the impact of globalization on women and land with a view to ensuring food security.

Promotion of the Informal Sector for Development in Southern Africa
(Agenda item 13)

The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the report, particularly with regard to group mobilization and creating appropriate institutions to promote the activities of the informal sector so that eventually the sector could grow and graduate into the formal sector. It was suggested that some of the activities of the informal sector should be protected as they progress towards the formal sector.

ECA Programmes (Agenda item 14)

The Committee appealed to the ECA to assist member States in organizing sensitization seminars on NEPAD.

Reports by Cooperating Partners (Agenda item 15)

The Committee commended efforts being made by the DBSA in supporting the NEPAD objectives and urged other institutions to also play active roles in implementation of NEPAD.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. The Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) of the Economic Commission for Africa Office in Southern Africa (ECA-SA) was held from 24 to 26 February 2003 in Maseru, Lesotho. The theme of the meeting was "Challenges in implementing NEPAD".

2. Representatives from the following member States attended the meeting: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and the host, Lesotho. The following partner organizations also participated: Development Bank for Southern Africa (DBSA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office of Lesotho. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

C. OPENING OF THE MEETING (Agenda item 1)

3. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Siazongo Siakalenge, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development from Zambia as the outgoing Chairperson; Mr. Dickson Mzumara, Officer-in-Charge of the ECA-SA; and the Minister of Gender, Youth and Sport of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Honourable Mrs. 'Mathabiso Lepono.

4. The outgoing Chairperson welcomed participants to the meeting and expressed his appreciation to the Government of Lesotho and staff of ECA for their contribution to the preparations for the meeting.

5. He reminded the Committee of the issues discussed during its last meeting and observed that the ECA-SA had followed-up on most of them, notably: on the need to develop synergies between the Zambia-Malawi-Mozambique Growth Triangle project and the Spatial Development Initiatives being developed in South Africa and its neighbouring countries; and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms being developed for evaluating past projects.

6. He was pleased to note that the Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa currently before the Committee carried cross comparisons between sub-regions and that the issues related to strengthening the role of the private sector in promoting economic growth would be addressed in the next issue.

7. He requested member States to make maximum use of training programmes being offered by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) an ECA capacity building institution located in Dakar, Senegal. In this regard he recalled the ECA's work on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers Learning Group best practices and development of capacity to

strengthen the existing weak institutions in member States as they limited the implementation of policies and programmes.

8. Continuing, he commended the ECA Southern Africa Office for organization of sensitization workshops on NEPAD, considering the need for public awareness of the roles of NEPAD and the African Union. Finally he requested all stakeholders to address NEPAD issues holistically.

9. On behalf of Mr. K. Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Dickson Mzumara, the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of ECA-SA, welcomed participants to the meeting. He thanked the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho for accepting to host the Ninth ICE and the Special Event on the theme "Challenges in Implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)".

10. He indicated that, implementation of the NEPAD programme had to be anchored in national policies, with strategic linkages to sub-regional and regional initiatives and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He highlighted the different challenges experienced in implementing NEPAD. These included severe budget constraints, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the drought in the sub-region and others. He hoped that the discussions would lead to the adoption of actionable strategies that would ensure the successful implementation of the NEPAD.

11. He informed the meeting that over fifty percent of the work months and operational funds of the ECA-SA were allocated directly to support the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and member States in promoting regional co-operation and integration.

12. He outlined the socio-economic conditions in the Southern Africa Subregion in 2002 and observed that the initial 4.5 percent GDP growth rate estimated at the beginning of the year could not be reached due, inter-alia, to adverse weather conditions.

13. He observed that the sub-region was, and still is, badly affected by the worst drought to hit the region since 1992. The impact of food shortages was made worse by the high rates of HIV infection across the region with up to 34% of the adult population infected in some countries. He suggested that there was need to shift regional focus to long-term strategies that would address the immediate link between AIDS and food security.

14. Mr. Mzumara informed the meeting that a Workshop on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and Governance in Southern Africa would be held from the 27th to the 28th of February 2003. The Workshop would build on the preparatory work for ADF IV, particularly the country-level assessments in Southern Africa within the African Governance Project of ECA, as well as the

ongoing online consultation on e-governance coordinated by ECA's Development Information Services Division (DISD).

15. He further informed the meeting that following a decision of the ECA Conference of Ministers, and in order to reflect the synergies between ECA headquarters and the sub-regional programme outreach, the name of the SRDC-SA had been changed from Sub-Regional Development Centre for Southern Africa (SRDC/SA) to "Economic Commission for Africa Office in Southern Africa" (ECA-SA).

16. In her opening statement, Honourable 'Mothabiso Lepono, Minister of Gender, Youth and Sports of Lesotho welcomed, with gratitude, all the delegates to the ICE meeting. She acknowledged the high attendance to the meeting as testimony of support to the policy organ.

17. Focusing on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), the Minister cited the eight goals, which needed to be implemented in order to reduce poverty levels world-wide. These were: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a global partnership for development.

18. She reminded the meeting of the ominous timeframe and benchmarks to achieving these goals. These entailed attaining a GDP growth rate of 7 percent over the next 12 years in order to reduce poverty in Africa by half by 2015.

19. Turning to the progress made by Lesotho in the implementation of the eight MDGs, the Minister highlighted, among other things, the following: formulation and development of Gender and Developmental Policies to address the challenges of gender equalities, gender based violence, poverty, and increased spread of HIV/AIDS; launching of the Nevirapine for the reduction of HIV/AIDS mother-to-child transmission; establishment of a comprehensive framework for combating poverty; increased number of women parliamentarians; and free primary education in the first four years.

20. She informed the meeting that the main objective of the NEPAD programme, which was "to give impetus to Africa's development by bridging existing gaps in the priority sectors to enable the continent to catch up with the developed parts of the world". In addition to poverty eradication, the Minister stressed the need to promote the role of women in all development activities.

21. The Minister concluded her statement by reminding the meeting of the agenda issues and hoped that the action plans to be drawn from the presentations and discussions would go a long way in guiding development in

both the member States and the Regional Economic Communities as defined in their policies and protocols. She then declared the Ninth Meeting of ICE open.

D. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Election of Officers (Agenda item 2)

22. The meeting elected the following countries to the Bureau:

| | | |
|----------|---|---------------|
| Lesotho | - | Chairman |
| Malawi | - | Vice Chairman |
| Botswana | - | Rapporteur |

Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work (Agenda item 3)

23. The Meeting adopted the following Agenda:

1. Official Opening
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
4. Review of the Main Activities of the ECA-SA
5. Review of the Economic and Social Situation in Southern Africa
6. The Status of Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Southern Africa Sub-region
7. The Status of Governance in the Southern African countries
8. Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives in National Policies and Programmes in the Southern African countries
9. The Status of Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Southern African Sub-region
10. Progress in the Implementation of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) Plans in Southern African Countries
11. Skills Development in the Mining Sector in Southern Africa
12. Strategies for Women's Access to and Ownership of Land in Southern Africa
13. Promotion of the Informal Sector for Development in Southern Africa
14. ECA Programmes
15. Reports by Cooperating Partners
16. Any Other Business
17. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting
18. Adoption of the Report
19. Closure of the Meeting

24. The list of documents presented is attached as Annex II.

25. The meeting also adopted the following organization of work:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Morning | 09.00 to 13.00 hours, |
| Afternoon | 14.30 to 18.00 hours. |

Review of the Main Activities of the ECA-SA (Agenda item 4)

26. The Secretariat presented the Report on the Work of the Economic Commission for Africa Office for Southern Africa (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/03 and Addendum 1) for the period 27 April 2002 to 23 February 2003. The report also highlighted the recommendations of the Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Labour Markets and Employment in Southern Africa and activities to be undertaken for the period 2004-2005.

27. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the ICE held in Lusaka, Zambia from 24 to 26 April 2002 were undertaken as follows:

(a) On the Report on the Work of the ECA-SA:

- The ECA had since prepared a flagship report entitled "Annual Report on Regional Integration in Africa". This report was being finalized and would be published in the near future.
- An ongoing monitoring and evaluation programme was in place through consultations with SADC and COMESA more specifically on gender, food security, transport and trade.
- ECA continued to collaborate with the RECs and this was recently extended to include IDEP.

(b) On the Report on the Economic and Social Situation in Southern Africa:

- The current report on Economic and Social Conditions has been improved with the introduction of more statistical data and cross comparisons across regions. The 2003 Economic Report was reported to be under preparation on the theme "Unleashing the Private Sector".
- Activities in statistical development have commenced with a review of the work being undertaken in national accounts in the sub region and the sensitization of policy makers on the role of statistics in decision-making. Sensitization activities were undertaken within the context of the African Statistics Day, which in 2002 focused on "Governance for Development: the Challenge for Statistics". These challenges for statistical development entail the understanding of the extent, range, conceptual implications as well as the needs of users for governance statistics and the institutional aspects in relation to the governance of national institutions charged with the responsibility of producing statistical products.
- The Committee for Development Information (CODI) would also in 2003, address governance and the role of statistics. Furthermore, an Ad hoc

Expert Group meeting on Labour Markets and Employment in Southern Africa considered the role of statistics in labour markets and made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the statistics and the development of labour market information systems.

(c) On Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers – Learning Group (PSRP-LG):

- At the sub regional level efforts were also in place by SADC and COMESA to develop a Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and undertake a comparative analysis of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers respectively. The latter would also contribute to the development of the strategic development plan. Further, ECA was requested to assist with the preparation of the comparative study, with IDEP addressing the economic modeling aspects. The ECA-SA plans to organize a workshop, in June 2003, which will address Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategies.
- The Committee emphasized the need for more information dissemination on NEPAD. Given the critical importance of public awareness of the roles of NEPAD and the African Union, it recommended the organization of sensitization workshops which would include dissemination of best practices.

(d) On NEPAD and the Governance Project:

- The ECA-SA reported that it devoted the 11th issue of its Southern African Development Bulletin to NEPAD, under the theme “NEPAD, a framework for Africa’s development in the 21st Century”. The Bulletin presented an overview of NEPAD, the views of Civil Society on NEPAD, the Resource Mobilization Strategy of NEPAD and reported on the support of the G8 and the United Nations to NEPAD. The 11th issue of the Southern African Development Bulletin on NEPAD was available to the meeting and would also be widely disseminated.
- With regard to awareness raising, ECA-SA participated in several workshops aimed at publicizing NEPAD in the following countries: Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Uganda and also assisted with the implementation of the ECA Governance Project in Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- ECA-SA would be organizing a Special Event from 27 to 28 February 2003 in Maseru, Lesotho with a focus on Governance and ICT components of NEPAD.

28. The ECA-SA continued to reinforce the programme coordination between COMESA and SADC, in the development of transport infrastructure and services in the following areas:

- Fine-tuning of the Long Term Development Plan for the Sub- Sahara Africa Transport Policy Programme - (LTDP-SSATP).
- Action Plan for Axle Load Control to be funded by GTZ.
- Road Safety Programme Development submitted to the African Development Bank as a component of the COMESA/SADC Short Term Infrastructure Programme for funding.

29. The ECA-SA participated in the fourth COMESA Meeting of the Technical Committee on Agricultural Co-operation and the First COMESA Ministers of Agriculture Meeting, 1-5 November, Kampala, Uganda where its representative presented a paper entitled "The impact of HIV/AIDS on smallholder agriculture in East and Southern Africa and relevant actions needed". The ECA-SA assisted COMESA to develop an outline of their food security quarterly regional assessment report.

30. ECA-SA also participated in other sectoral meetings of COMESA, including the Seventh Meeting of the Transport and Communications Committee (Lusaka, Zambia, 6-8 February 2003), the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Transport and Communications (Lusaka, Zambia, 10 February 2003), the First meeting of the Technical Committee on Gender and COMESA/UNAIDS Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia (12 - 15 February 2003), the 12th Meeting of Trade and Customs Committee of COMESA (Lusaka, Zambia, 17-19 February 2003) and the 5th Meeting of COMESA Experts on Industrial Cooperation and PROINVEST-COMESA Workshop held in Lusaka, Zambia from 18 – 20 February 2003.

31. ECA-SA held a meeting with the Mining Sector Coordinator from the SADC Secretariat to discuss their mining sector programme of work and priorities, and the role ECA could play in its implementation. The programme focuses on harmonization of mining policies and regulatory frameworks; developing competitive skills capable of meeting the regional mining challenges and ensuring long term industry growth; developing the technology base required for adding value to sub regional mineral resources and supporting growth in the small scale mining sector.

32. ECA-SA, in collaboration with the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD), provided advisory services on designing a National Gender Mainstreaming Programme for Namibia and Zambia. It participated and presented a paper on the ECA's gender mainstreaming activities to the Ministers Meeting of the Committee on Women and Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, October 2002

33. ECA-SA organized a workshop on mainstreaming gender and human rights into the SADC HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework and Programme 2000 – 2004 in Lusaka Zambia from 16 to 17 May 2002. The workshop focused on the

SADC Mining, Employment and Labour Sectors. It was organized in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, UNIFEM Southern Africa, and support from the Government of the Republic of Zambia, SADC Mining Sector, SADC Employment and Labour Sector and SADC Health Sector Co-ordinating Unit.

34. The ECA-SA organized an Expert Group Meeting on Labour Markets and Employment in Southern Africa, in Lusaka, Zambia from 3 – 6 February 2003 to make recommendations on labour markets and employment for consideration by member States. The ECA further plans to present them for consideration at the SADC Employment and Labour Sector Committee of Ministers and Social Partners Annual Meeting to be held in Arusha, Tanzania from 24 to 28 March 2003.

35. The major publications prepared during the reporting period are: i) Southern Africa Development Bulletin, Issue No. 11 (December 2002); ii) Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa 2002, and iii) Report on the Evaluation of the Project on the Promotion of the Informal Sector for Development in Africa.

36. The ECA-SA established databases on Economic and Social Development and on Information and Communication Technology concerning the sub region. It also participated in various fora as presented in the report of this agenda item.

37. The ECA-SA participated in UN Country Team (UNCT) meetings. It also participated extensively in the Heads of Agencies and MDGs meetings within the framework of the Secretary-General's United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

38. During the biennium 2004-2005, the following outputs will be delivered:

- Servicing of two meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) in 2004 and in 2005, to which the following parliamentary documentation will be presented: i) Report on economic and social conditions in Southern Africa (One in 2004 and one in 2005); ii) Report on progress and prospects in the implementation of NEPAD and the attainment of the MDGs in Southern Africa (2005); iii) Subregional report on the decade review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms (2004); iv) Report on sustainable development in Southern Africa; v) Report on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in Southern Africa (2004); vi) Report on the status of information for development activities in Southern Africa .
- Organization of ad hoc expert group meetings on: i) harmonization of mineral resources development policies, standards and regulatory framework in Southern Africa (2004); ii) sustainable energy: a framework for new and renewable energy in Southern Africa (2005); iii) status of

governance in Southern Africa: review and validation of country reports; and iv) Subregional meeting on the decade review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms (2004).

- Preparation of recurrent publications on: i) Economic Report on Africa - Report on economic and social conditions in Southern Africa (One in 2004 and one in 2005) ii) and a Subregional Water Development Report (2004).
- Publication of non-recurrent publications on: i) harmonization of mineral resources development policies, standards and regulatory framework in Southern Africa (2004); ii) sustainable energy: a framework for new and renewable energy in Southern Africa (2005); and (iii) Statistical estimation of average exit time measure of poverty in Southern Africa.
- A subregional Database of experts and networks on governance will be prepared. The SRDC-SA will organize the Special event in the form of a Southern Africa Development forum (2005).
- Advisory services, upon request, to member States, RECs, IGOs on priority development issues.
- Organization of workshops, seminars, symposia on: i) the impact of HIV/AIDS on selected Southern African economies with focus on smallholder agriculture (2005); ii) implementation of existing transit transport agreements and their impact on cost reduction along transit corridors (2004); iii) application of "Easy Reference Guide" to engender national accounts and budgets (2004); iv) integrated resources planning and management with focus on water, energy and mining; v); economic and corporate governance and accountability in Southern Africa; and
- Implementation of field projects: i) The Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique Growth Triangle (ZMM-GT); ii) Support to the implementation of UN Action Plans for NEPAD in Southern Africa; and iii) Support to national statistics offices for the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA93) in Southern Africa.

39. In conclusion, ECA-SA reported that the momentum gained in the harmonization of and cooperation in the implementation of development programmes between the COMESA and SADC should be maintained. Given the fact that the level of implementation of advisory services still remained low, the ECA-SA reiterated that these services were an integral part of its mandate and that the services could only be provided upon request.

40. Funding of operational activities such as information dissemination workshops, seminars, etc, still posed problems. In this regard the Committee was requested to assist the ECA-SA in soliciting extra budgetary resources.

41. In the ensuing discussions, the Committee requested ECA to explain the modalities of requesting for advisory services. The Secretariat provided information on how individual countries or a group of countries could address their request to ECA-SA or ECA Headquarters in Addis Ababa. ECA would assess the requirements for the request and assist the member State. A

brochure giving details on advisory services was circulated to the member States present. It was reported that the same information was available on the ECA website www.uneca.org.

42. The ICE endorsed the Report.

Review of the Economic and Social Situation in Southern Africa (Agenda Item 5)

43. The Secretariat introduced the report on the Economic and Social Situation in Southern Africa (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/04).

44. The report indicated that aggregate GDP for the 11 countries served by the ECA-SA was expected to grow by 3.5 per cent in 2002, up from 2.4 in 2001, but below the 4.5 per cent initially estimated at the beginning of the year. Agricultural production registered a sharp reduced crop yield and cereal harvest in 2001/2002. Adverse weather conditions, which affected most countries in the subregion, particularly Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe and to some extent, Namibia, coupled with government policies and HIV/AIDS, made it difficult for most countries to achieve a higher GDP growth rate in 2002. With the exception of Malawi and Zimbabwe, all other countries achieved positive growth rates in 2002, though generally below the 2001. Three countries, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa, managed to perform relatively well.

45. Market access and trade liberalization continued to be a major concern to all member States. Some countries such as South Africa, Lesotho, Mauritius and Swaziland, managed to explore and use the benefits provided for under the African Growth and Opportunity Act of the US (AGOA) and the new Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU in 2002.

46. The framework for economic policy continued to be the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) in order to achieve macroeconomic equilibrium and recover balanced growth, economic competitiveness and a more equitable income distribution. The underlying premise of this approach remained liberalization, greater openness and rapid and close integration into the world economy as the key to growth and development.

47. The manufacturing industry continued to face challenges from foreign competition and limited financial resources. High interest rates for borrowers continued to have a negative impact on both working and investment capital, thereby increasing production costs. This situation made it difficult for local manufacturers in some countries to compete effectively.

48. HIV/AIDS remained a major development problem to Africa in general and to Southern Africa in particular, with negative effects on every economic sector

and hence the overall economy of each country. While nearly all countries in Southern Africa are involved in some programs, strategies and institutional frameworks to respond to health and HIV/AIDS problems, limited financial resources, weak institutional mechanisms and human resource constraints generally hindered effective implementation of these programmes.

49. Though many countries have adopted a gender policy only a few had designed a national gender-mainstreaming programme to provide them with guidelines for addressing existing gender gaps and inequalities. Although all the twelve critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action were addressed by member States in Southern Africa, individual countries selected a lesser number to focus on, based on their specific pressing gender needs, the common denominator of most policies being women and poverty and women in politics and decision-making.

50. Prospects for economic growth in 2003 were optimistic. Average GDP growth rate was expected to pick up by 4.3 per cent in 2003 and most countries were expected to register positive growth rates. However, much would depend on the evolution of natural disasters such as drought, floods or cyclones as well as the developments in the domestic and international economic environment.

51. The study on Economic Impact of Environmental Degradation in Southern Africa indicated that economic stagnation experienced by many countries combined with weakening environmental management caused harm to sensitive ecosystems and resulted in land degradation, lowered agricultural productivity and increased poverty. The study also indicated that while people had to exploit the environment and natural resources to alleviate poverty and raise their standard of living, such exploitation, however, was not without cost. In addition, overexploitation and abuse of natural resources not only led to environmental degradation, but also exacerbated poverty.

52. In the ensuing discussions the Committee expressed concern related to the aggregated nature of the statistics in the report. In this regard, the Committee observed that economic figures alone were not sufficient to measure social change, as well as developments taking place in the economies. It was suggested that the UNDP Human Development Report indices should be used as a basis for refining analysis and conclusions. In addition, the Committee encouraged ECA to disaggregate the statistics in the report among the various sectors so as to reflect the contribution of each sector to GDP, with special emphasis on the performance by the Agriculture sector.

53. The optimistic economic performance projection in the report was questioned in the light of the recent UN appeal for six countries of the sub region experiencing an alarming humanitarian situation (food crisis, diseases, etc.). The participants also noted that some of the data were inaccurate, particularly with

respect to GDP growth rates and women in parliament. Up-to-date data and information was provided to the Secretariat.

54. The Committee further noted the good economic performance achieved in Mozambique for the past two years and observed that there was a big jump between 2000 and 2001-2002 in the GDP growth rate. In addition, participants noted that HIV/AIDS infection rate was very low in Mauritius and were curious to know the reasons behind these two observations.

55. The Committee expressed concern about the correlation between economic growth and the levels of poverty prevailing in some countries. Further, it indicated that better use of development assistance was necessary in order to reduce poverty levels in the countries and that income distribution was a critical aspect, which needed to be actively addressed. The Committee also expressed concern about access to social services such as water and sanitation, which were not addressed in the report under review.

56. In response to the issues raised, the Secretariat accepted to present disaggregated data by sector in the next issue of the report. It, however, cited the complexity of the data collection exercise with regard to economic and social indicators.

57. The Secretariat explained that the low GDP growth rate recorded in Mozambique in the year 2000 was due to the floods the country experienced in that year, a situation which prompted the international community to revive the country's economic development. On the case of low HIV/AIDS rate in Mauritius, the Secretariat informed the meeting that this was likely to be due to socio-cultural behaviour.

58. Focusing on the discrepancies between economic growth and poverty reduction, the Secretariat informed the meeting that it was organizing a workshop on Growth Strategies for Poverty Reduction in Southern Africa in an attempt to address issues of income distribution in the design and implementation of poverty reduction strategies. Concerning poverty measurement, the Secretariat informed the meeting that South Africa with its "Poverty Mapping" programme and Malawi with the preparation of its "Social Atlas" had made strides in improving collection of small area data for measurement of poverty in its many dimensions. Such data would help in understanding the problems of the poor

59. With regard to the study on Economic Impact of Environmental degradation in Southern Africa, the Committee observed that while an increase in budgetary allocation was important in empowering local communities, it would be equally important to ensure that the resources were well managed. It was also suggested that the study should present best practices such as Namibia's land conservation programme with small groups of farmers. The study should also include a recommendation on reforestation.

60. In the light of the above observations, the meeting adopted the report.

The Status of Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Southern Africa Sub-region (Agenda item 6)

61. The Secretariat presented the report on the Status of Regional Integration in Southern Africa (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/05). The objective of the report was to disseminate the findings of the Third African Development Forum (ADF III) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 3 to 7 March 2002. The theme of the Forum was: "Defining Priorities for Regional Integration" and the Annual Report on Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA) was presented at the Forum. The status report focused on some sub-regional initiatives of COMESA and SADC.

62. The status report defined the role of RECs as the nerve centers of the regional cooperation process with the responsibility of (a) conceiving and monitoring implementation of related policies and programmes; (b) mobilizing required resources to support such policies and programmes; and (c) reporting periodically on progress or lack thereof. It cited institutional challenges to regional integration such as the need for putting in place effective national mechanisms for addressing regional cooperation issues and for developing a strong interface between the national governments and the RECs, and between the RECs themselves. The setting up of a COMESA/SADC Task Force to develop joint programmes was identified as a best practice, which will undoubtedly result in optimal use of resources in the realization of harmonized and coordinated programmes.

63. The Secretariat informed the meeting on research initiated under ARIA on the need to develop performance indicators to measure the performance of the RECs. The exercise entailed the assessment of the RECs in relation to the specified objectives in their protocols/treaties. The indicators were also expected to gauge the direction and momentum of regional integration. These would be used to assess the overall trend in regional integration and help compare and contrast levels of effort and results among countries. The research still has to be finalized.

64. The status report also gave an overview of the impact of the underlying policies of regional integration and practices with respect to trade, money and finance, infrastructure, natural resources and commodity production, human resources and labour mobility and regional commons (peace and security, HIV/AIDS and gender).

65. It summarized the broad issues pivotal to accelerating regional integration as given in ARIA, viz, trade and market integration, manufacturing, policy convergence, monetary and financial integration, infrastructure, food and agriculture, labour mobility, peace and security, HIV/AIDS, integration

instruments, private sector involvement and implementation of existing integration instruments. Sustaining and increasing the momentum to create an enabling environment through market expansion, free factor mobility, effective contribution to the provision of basic infrastructure etc, would also be critical to inducing investment, including intra-African resource flows.

66. In the ensuing discussions, the Committee recommended that COMESA and SADC should continue to cooperate and minimize overlapping their activities.

67. The meeting noted and adopted the report.

The Status of Governance in the Southern African countries
(Agenda item 7)

68. The Secretariat introduced the report on The Status of Governance in the Southern African countries (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/06).

69. The report indicated that African countries have increasingly recognized popular participation as a key factor for economic and social development of the continent. It was for that reason that ECA has undertaken since 2001 the African Governance Project on "Measuring and Monitoring Progress Towards Good Governance in Africa." The project aimed at monitoring and keeping track of the progress that various countries had made towards enhancing democratic values and governance. The Project was complementary to governments' efforts and it sought to establish consensus among a wide range of stakeholders on how best good governance could be enhanced on the continent.

70. The project was currently running in nine of the eleven Southern African countries covered by the ECA-SA, namely: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The remaining two countries (Angola and Mozambique) would be covered in the next phase.

71. The Committee noted that achieving good governance on the African continent gave rise to a number of benefits, including maximizing the gains from globalization, accelerating growth, reducing poverty, and creating a more stable and predictable macro-economic environment. Predictable macro-economic environment attracts long-term private investment both domestic and foreign. Private investment, in turn, was a necessary ingredient for employment generation, spurring economic growth, and the reduction of poverty. Good governance was, therefore, an important and a necessary condition for African countries to enhance the capacity of the State to deliver on its economic and social mandate, including eradicating poverty and improving economic growth.

72. The Committee further noted that proper implementation of the African Governance Project at country level would enable the country to determine the level of progress towards good governance, create mechanisms for evaluating and monitoring progress and, consequently, formulating appropriate policies towards improving good governance in the country and on the continent.

73. In the discussions that ensued, questions were raised as to who identified institutions to carry out the study for the project and the procedures used for selection.

74. Participants enquired whether the problem of corruption was covered in the study. They indicated that corruption was one of the important indicators of governance and therefore should be included in the study.

75. Participants sought clarification on the linkages between the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Governance Project and enquired whether the project covered the whole of Africa and how bias was taken care of in data and information collection for the report.

76. The Committee wanted to know how monitoring and evaluation of the African Governance Project study was done and who does it.

77. In response to the above issues, the Secretariat explained that ECA was responsible for identifying the institutions and that the procedures used to identify the institution to carry out the study were as follows:

- Offer is sent to several institutions in a member country;
- Institutions indicate to ECA that they are interested;
- ECA scrutinises the institutions to determine if they have capacity to undertake the study in terms of human resources, equipment, transport and physical offices;
- Short listing is done and about three (3) institutions are selected;
- Selected institutions are invited to submit bids and budgets;
- The institution that is finally selected receives 50% of the budget upon signing of a contract, 20% after reporting that questionnaires have been administered and 30% upon submission of the study.

78. The Secretariat stated that issues of corruption; transparency and accountability were pivotal to developing good governance standards and were included in the scope of the study. The study was complementary to the APRM and there was no duplication.

79. The Secretariat also indicated that it attempts to eliminate bias at the design of the questionnaires and during the various stages of the project implementation such as, for example, the selection of survey households. The

timing of the study is also taken into consideration to ensure the prevalence of a conducive and enabling environment.

80. ECA was responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the project. NGOs are selected to carry out the country studies while governments only participated in providing the enabling environment for the implementation of the project.

81. The Secretariat provided the names of institutions carrying out the studies in member countries and indicated that the project covered the whole of Africa. ECA expected to complete national studies in thirty countries in 2003. The report will have a periodicity of five years to assess progress.

82. The Committee agreed that the project was very important to African countries and expressed its full support for the project in Southern Africa.

Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives in National Policies and Programmes in the Southern African countries (Agenda Item 8)

83. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat presented the report on Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives in National Policies and Programmes in the Southern Africa (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/07). It focused on the need and modality for designing a National Gender Mainstreaming Programme (NGMP). The meeting was reminded that, the goal aspired to in the Beijing Platform of Action and indeed by the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, was the attainment of gender equality and the strategy to achieve this goal was gender mainstreaming. Conceptually, Gender mainstreaming was defined as a process in which gender equality concerns are taken into account in all policies, programmes and organizational procedures. Thus, in order to effectively achieve this, it is important to put in place a clearly defined national gender-mainstreaming programme in each respective member State.

84. It was noted that each member State in the SADC region had identified priority areas of gender concern to be addressed. This meant that, while all the twelve critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action were addressed, focus and emphasis was placed on selected national priority areas of concern.

85. Yet, efficiency in realizing the aspired goals, could be enhanced if there was in place an over-all common framework which guided and bound all the gender stakeholders to address gender equality concerns. This framework is a national gender-mainstreaming programme, a framework that besides providing a common guideline and a road map, it constitutes a blue print for all gender actors. It defines the strategies to be applied to achieve gender equality, highlights existing capacity, strengths and weaknesses; and provides recommended actions to address the weaknesses.

86. The realization of a National Gender Programme required a critical analysis of the following: (i) the Political Environment; (ii) the Gender Management System; (iii) Gender Mainstreaming Policy Strategy; (iv) Gender mainstreaming Guidelines; (v) Gender Data; (vi) Gender Mainstreaming Technical Capacity; (vii) Financial and Human Resource Allocation; (viii) Gender Equality and Equity Programmes in Place; (ix) Monitoring and Evaluation. The outcome of the analysis of these factors constitutes the National Gender Programme.

87. In the ensuing discussions, participants raised several questions pertaining to how to mainstream gender in all development programmes and activities and also underscored the importance of gender in addressing poverty reduction. They expressed concern as to whether the creation of a gender unit or focal point was enough to mainstream gender.

88. The Committee emphasized that allocation of resources to gender activities was critical to ensure effective implementation of gender programmes at all levels. It indicated that what seemed to be viewed as “meeting fatigue” was to be expected because gender and gender mainstreaming were new concepts that needed more sensitization activities, including workshops, seminars and meetings in order to raise the level of awareness and understanding of gender concerns among the people.

89. The Committee further observed that gender mainstreaming was a process that required time and effort, both human and financial, and that gender issues needed to be considered within the broad context of development. It also urged that sensitization and lobbying to change attitudes, mentalities and the traditional way of doing things were necessary. In addition, the Committee pointed out that gender focal points should be given specific Terms of Reference and budgetary allocation in order for them to undertake their duties efficiently.

90. The Committee also indicated that issues such as HIV/AIDS and gender mainstreaming should be analysed together and underscored the need to ensure that all PRSPs were gender sensitive.

91. The meeting was informed about the gender mainstreaming process in Botswana. The process started with sensitization meetings of heads of departments about the importance of gender mainstreaming in their respective departments. That was followed by a workshop of heads of divisions to develop a Ministry Gender Policy. In the final stage individual departments were requested to prepare specific Action Plans on gender activities.

92. The Committee expressed concern about lack of statistics and disaggregated data for gender analysis. In the case of the ECA Economic Report, the Committee indicated the need to disaggregate data by gender, particularly with respect to education and employment. It was noted that lack of

adequate information and data on gender made it difficult for most governments and development institutions to adopt appropriate policies that would adequately address gender issues. The Committee agreed on the fact that in order for government and development partners to address gender issues effectively, data and information on gender needed to be collected at small area level. The Committee emphasized that gender was a developmental issue, which needed to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

93. The Committee further noted that in addition to financial resources, appropriate policies were necessary to ensure that gender mainstreaming was effective. In this respect, participants were informed about two directives which were passed by the government in Malawi to allocate certain government positions to women and this did not imply financial resources.

94. In response to the above concerns the Secretariat indicated that the first step to ensure gender mainstreaming was to have a well designed National Gender Program in the country and that technical assistance and financial resources for capacity building to implement the programme could be sought from different sources including ECA and UNDP.

95. The Secretariat informed the meeting about the assistance provided by ECA to Namibia on designing a National Gender Mainstreaming Programme and that a similar process was initiated in Zambia in January 2003.

96. The Secretariat also indicated that in order to ensure that PRSPs were gender sensitive ECA organised two important meetings, one in Addis Ababa in November 2001 and the other one in Yaounde, Cameroon in 2002. The first one was to start a process of integrating gender perspectives into PRSPs. The second one was to find ways and means to engender national budgets and national accounts at country level. In addition, ECA also developed tools for monitoring and evaluating progress in the implementation of Beijing Platform of Action. Further ECA was developing an African Gender Development Index (AGDI) to quantitatively and qualitatively measure progress in achieving gender equality.

97. The meeting adopted the report.

The Status of Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Southern African Sub-region (Agenda item 9)

98. The Secretariat introduced the Report on the "Status of Food Security and Sustainable Development in Southern Africa," (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/08), the purpose of which was to stimulate continued debate towards finding solutions to food insecurity in the sub-region.

99. The report discussed several factors affecting food production, food insecurity and sustainable development. These included: poverty,

climatic/weather conditions, civil conflicts/wars, limited application of science and technology, HIV/AIDS, unequal treatment of women, lack of adequate investment in rural development programmes, little use of the irrigation potential, poor land husbandry and land tenure systems, little use of farm inputs, problems of access to credit and markets, inadequate extension services to small scale farmers, trade and globalization.

100. The report highlighted the current food and humanitarian crisis arising from the 2001/2002 poor crop harvest affecting over 14 million people in the six countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The impact of food insecurity on the nutrition status of the population was also highlighted. The report indicated that failure to improve food security and nutrition status undermined the attainment of the other Millennium Development Goals related to: the achievement of primary universal education, gender equality, reduction in child mortality, improvement in maternal health, combat of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and environmental sustainability.

101. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) was discussed in the report and reference was made to conservation farming which seemed to offer opportunities for improving food security. The lessons from the SPFS and conservation farming needed to be replicated on a large scale.

102. In view of the recurrent nature of food insecurity in the sub-region and that the causes for this were well known, the report underlined the urgency by member States, with the help of development partners, to address the identified factors affecting food insecurity and sustainable development. Operationalization of the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, increased commitment to fight HIV/AIDS, diversification of crops, expansion of irrigation farming, wide spread use of simple technologies by small scale farmers, improved status and roles of women, access to credit, inputs and markets, improved land husbandry and land tenure systems and good government policies were all necessary components in the equation of food security and sustainable development.

103. Although the United Nations Appeal for food and humanitarian crisis averted a starvation catastrophe in Southern Africa, the situation was far from stable. Reports in early February 2003 indicated that all the six Southern African countries affected by the crisis were likely to face problems again. In Lesotho for example, erratic weather had already undermined chances for an improved harvest in 2003. In Swaziland and southern Mozambique, a dry spell after planting affected once again crops across some areas. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Mozambique reported that the situation in 2003 might be worse than in 2002. In Zambia, the rainfall by January 2003 was below normal in the south including Southern Province, parts of Lusaka Province, and Sesheke, Senanga and Shangombo in the West. In Malawi, although some

districts were affected by floods, the situation may be better in 2003 than in 2002. In Zimbabwe, however, given the political situation and economic decline, the country was likely to continue experiencing food shortages in 2003. Dry weather conditions and significantly reduced amount of land under cultivation contributed to continued food insecurity.

104. In the discussion the meeting raised concerns on issues of women's access and control of resources especially land, subsidies, and the continued decline of agriculture and consequently the food insecurity.

105. The Meeting observed that in some countries, women's control over land was a more serious problem than access. This seemed to be true in the case of Lesotho. In other countries, access to and control of land resource by women were both serious problems. The Committee then urged member States to address these issues as they were important in empowering women to be more effective in contributing to food security.

106. On the issue of subsidies the Committee deplored the double standards whereby developed countries heavily subsidized their farmers and yet objected to subsidies in developing countries. Although the debate at international level has recognized the need to remove subsidies in developed countries there still was resistance. These issues should continue to be addressed at various fora including at the level of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Committee suggested that a study be made on the impact of subsidies in developed countries on crops and commodities that are also grown and produced in Southern Africa countries.

107. African countries, given their poor agricultural performance and weak financial, human and institutional capacity, need to be supported in the initial stages with subsidies especially in agricultural and food production. This should be seen as a short-term measure to help small scale farmers get out of their current situation of poverty, which is made worse by food insecurity. The Committee agreed that subsidies in developing countries cannot be sustained. The Committee then noted the effort being made in Zambia on targeted subsidies to be implemented for the three seasons beginning with the 2002/2003 season. Under the Input Support Programme, small scale farmers were subsidized at 50% in the 2002/2003 season. Zambia also has another programme (Food Security Pack) which focuses on women and other vulnerable groups such as the disabled and child-headed households.

108. The Committee observed that some countries in the sub-region had greater potential for agriculture and food production. It was therefore important to take their comparative advantage in exploiting the agricultural potential with respect to available water and land resources and the potential to expand irrigation. Some countries had started to take concrete actions on this.

109. The Committee recognized the importance of attaining food security. Consequently it called for the revolutionization of agricultural production. A Marshal Plan was needed in agriculture and the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme could transform Africa's agriculture if operationalized.

110. The Committee endorsed the report and recommendations contained therein.

Progress in the Implementation of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) Plans in Southern African Countries (Agenda item 10)

111. The Committee considered the report "Progress in the Implementation of National Information and communication Infrastructure (NICI) Plans in the Southern African Countries" ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/09), an analysis of the progress in the development of national and communication infrastructure in the eleven countries of the sub region.

112. It noted that the use of ICT in Africa had grown rapidly over the last few years. Notably, many new technologies have emerged, especially in the area of wireless communications. At the same time, telephone and Internet access in Africa had increased, largely due to private sector intervention. All 53 African countries were now online, and there was at least one private-sector telecommunications provider in every country. Many monopolistic policy regimes have been liberalized to create more market competition, better access and lower prices. There have also been renewed efforts, both globally and regionally, to bridge the digital divide – notably, through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

113. The Meeting further noted that in the Southern African countries, there had been significant progress on the development of broad-based strategies and policies since the 6th ICE meeting held in Namibia in April 2000. In 2002, out of eleven countries, three countries (Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa) completed implementation of their NICI policies; five countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia) were halfway through NICI implementation. Angola, at the time of reporting had just launched the process. Botswana and Zimbabwe have not yet started.

114. The report emphasized that political will and leadership were fundamental for translating NICI policies to actions.

115. In the discussions that followed, the Committee observed that only SADC ICT policies were mentioned in the document but there was nothing mentioned about the COMESA ICT programme. Further as each REC had its own ICT policy there was need to integrate them.

116. The meeting was informed about ICT developments in Zambia. These aimed at minimizing policy fragmentation and would embrace issues of e-Education, e-Governance and tele-medicine and broadcasting. A new Technical Committee was formed with the support of UNDP, and that the Technical Committee for ICT was looking into the use of ICT as an engine of economic growth in the country.

117. The Committee was also informed about ICT development in Malawi. However, it was observed that most of the assistance countries were receiving for ICT development was mostly of a consumption nature but nothing was done to ensure sustainability of ICT development in the countries. It was recommended that donor assistance on ICT should be targeted to develop software and hardware.

118. The Committee stressed the fact that civil society and NGOs were very important players in developing ICT in the countries. In addition, the meeting noted the concessional loans, which the Government of Mauritius put at the disposal of the private sector to access and develop ICT in rural areas.

119. The issues of transfer of technologies (bridging the digital divide) were very important. The Committee underscored the need to increase access to ICT with a particular focus on women. It was observed that most broadcasting systems in the countries were still using analogue systems with imported equipment and improvements needed to be made.

120. In response to the above concerns the Secretariat indicated that the purpose of the paper was to assess progress in the implementation of NICI in member States and not to assess ICT programmes in COMESA and SADC. Nevertheless, the Secretariat informed the meeting that both institutions (COMESA and SADC) have set up a Task Force to harmonize their programmes.

121. It was also stated that issues of universal access to ICT in the countries was constrained by inadequate infrastructure and lack of appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks.

122. The Committee stressed the fact that exchange of experiences was very important and noted with appreciation progress made on ICT in Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and Seychelles, which needed to be emulated by other countries.

123. The Committee recommended that the Task Force established between COMESA and SADC should also look into harmonizing the ICT programs of these two institutions.

124. The Committee stressed the need for African countries to develop human resources sustainability and leadership in order to take full advantage of the ICT developments taking place worldwide.

125. The Committee adopted the report.

Skills Development in the Mining Sector in Southern Africa (Agenda item 11)

126. The committee considered the presentation by the Secretariat of the report on mining skills development for Southern Africa (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/10). The report raised four key issues: why Southern Africa needed competitive mining skills, what the main mining skills needs of the sub-region were, the main factors constraining skills development in the mining sector and what the sub regional skills development strategy should be.

127. The Committee noted that Southern Africa needed competitive mining skills because the sub-region was exceptionally endowed with numerous mineral deposits, and that mining was the backbone of the sub regional economy contributing about 60% to foreign exchange earnings per year. The the mining skills required in the sub-region included: (i) technical skills such as geological, mining and mineral processing and extractive metallurgy, (ii) support technical skills such as chemical laboratory skills and plant and equipment maintenance services, (iii) management skills such as mine planning, geostatistics, and project management, (iv) policy making level skills in the public and intergovernmental mining sector, and (v) small-scale mining skills.

128. The Committee also noted that virtually all countries in the sub-region continued to face numerical mining skills deficits but this varied from country to country. In South Africa, deficits were reported for mining engineers, mineral processing engineers, metallurgists and, geologists, whereas Botswana and Namibia had deficits in virtually all skill categories. Namibia and Botswana's labour force had 30-40% expatriates in management and technical skills. At national level, all countries showed weak government skills for implementing regulatory functions, such as monitoring mine safety, the environment and enforcing mining acts. In the small-scale mining sub sector, deficits were in poor technical knowledge and business skills.

129. The main factors constraining skills development include: non availability of full facilities for training mining engineers, metallurgists, mineral processing engineers and geologists in some countries. The industry was not fully integrated in the development of mining skills. Non-academic facilities for developing research and other specialised skills were not fully functional except in South Africa.

130. The main recommendations included: improving accreditation and competence through the creation of guidelines for the sub region; provision of and access to cross-country training through development of a register of providers of mining-related learning institutions and rationalization of mining programmes across the region; diversifying funding sources for skills development; emphasising sub regional continuing professional development through in-service training, and capacity building through secondments; development of small scale mining skills through extension officers to assist the small-scale miners as in the agricultural sector and having the large mining companies provide mentorship and support; policy and institutional improvements through development of a sub-regional strategy that clearly outlines a vision for the sector and its expected role in the long-term economic growth strategy of the sub region. The report suggested that a good starting point should be the formation of a Committee or task force to develop a phased implementation plan.

131. During the discussion that ensued, the Committee took note of the Zambian long tradition in mining and mining training. Through the University of Zambia, a considerable number of people were trained in all technical fields of the mining sector, including at the managerial level. The Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) provided in-house training and offered scholarships for overseas training as well. The government provided technical assistance to small scale miners through its various programmes and bureaus in terms of curriculum, materials, funding and finding markets.

132. The Committee pointed out that while the report assigned a number of activities to SADC, it should also consider the role of COMESA in advancing skills development in the mining sector of the sub-region. The report would stand to gain from assessing existing facilities in place in the subregion and identifying weaknesses so as to offer a set of recommendations. Given, however, the low level of progress in implementing past recommendations, the Committee appealed to the Secretariat to address this issue.

133. The Committee took note of the report and adopted the recommendations contained therein and further requested the Secretariat to undertake a review of existing facilities in the sub-region.

Strategies for Women's Access to and Ownership of Land in Southern Africa (Agenda Item 12)

134. The Secretariat presented a report on Strategies for Women's Access to and Ownership of Land in Southern Africa (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/11).

135. The meeting noted that Gender equality is the goal stipulated in the Beijing Platform of Action and the SADC Gender and Development Declaration by the Heads of State and Government. Thus, access to productive resources is one

positive strategy for promoting women's economic empowerment. Land is a such crucial productive resource yet while women constitute the majority in both subsistence and cash crop production, many of them only had user rights but not ownership.

136. The Secretariat highlighted the prevailing land policies and practices in some Southern African countries. These policies impinged on land tenure systems; land administration or distribution; and the modalities for accessing land use. It was reported that land policies, national constitutions, legal frameworks and traditional practices constituted the regulatory frameworks. However, women have not benefited much due to: lack of enforcement of the legal frameworks where they exist; limited legal literacy; and sometimes resistance by men.

137. The meeting noted further that, in order to apply a collective approach in addressing Women and Land Rights in Southern Africa, it has been proposed to build on the Eastern African experience by forming a Sub-Regional Task Force on Women Land Rights which would nurture the formation and operationalization of National Task Forces on Women Land Rights. To that end, a proposed Action Plan on related actions to establish Task Forces at National and Sub-Regional levels were presented to the meeting.

138. Further, the meeting noted the proposals to create strategic operational linkages and networks to address the issue of Women and Land Rights collectively in the framework of Eastern and Southern Africa. This was in line with building on existing initiatives and work in progress in the sub-region and sharing of best practices from within and outside the sub-region.

139. The Committee noted the new developments in Zambia with respect to the revision of land policies, which now include gender equity and takes into account international conventions for empowering women to benefit from the use of land.

140. Regarding the regulatory framework on land issues in Lesotho, the Committee noted that although the Land Act of 1979 is presumably gender neutral, allocation of land however, has to be registered under the Deeds Registry Act of 1967 that states that no piece of land can be registered in the name of a woman married in community of property. Unfortunately, most women find themselves trapped here. When the husband dies, his property, especially allocated land, is inherited by the first male child irrespective of his birth position.

141. The government of Lesotho has, however, made progress towards addressing these. It is hoped that with the approval and implementation of the Gender and Development Policy as well as the presentation and approval of the Married Persons Equality Bill most problems will be overcome.

142. An ECA Resource Person augmented the presentation on the Critical Issues affecting Women's land rights in Southern Africa. She informed the

meeting that Land was a fundamental socio-economic resource for women's survival and economic security. It is even argued that access to and ownership of land is the most critical factor in women's struggle for equality in gender relations. Despite the important role of land to women's economic survival, women in Southern Africa do not have equal access to land nor do they own the land on which they work due to: (a) legal and policy framework; (b) lack of information; (c) lack of access to resources ((d) impact of globalisation (privatisation of land and water); and (e) impact of Structural Adjustment programmes (SAPs).

143 Southern Africa observed a dual legal system where customary law operates side by side with laws based on colonial heritage crafted in gender neutral terms and do not take into account the role of women. In the customary ambit, land is considered a male domain and is thus allocated mainly to the male lineage leaving women as secondary users through their husbands or male relatives. This is further compounded by the fact that where regulatory law exist, they are not enforced.

144. Furthermore, women also lacked technical assistance as the extension workers do not view women as the recipients of their services. Extension workers target men and this is because of their training that is not gender-sensitive. Additionally, globalisation and Structural Adjustment Programmes have impacted negatively on women's ability to access land and benefit from it. Globalisation has resulted in the removal of social services for women that enabled them to access some resources through the State.

145. In order to address the above issues from a regional level, the Platform on Women's Land and Water rights was launched in May 2002 at a Regional Conference on Women's Land Rights held in Harare and attended by eight countries from the region.

146. The Platform intends to address the above issues, among other things, through: (a) commissioning high quality research around issues of poverty reduction through women's access to and ownership of land and water; (b) facilitating production, packaging and dissemination of information on women's land rights.

147. The Platform will build alliances and develop partnerships with relevant organisations at regional and international levels that deal with women's land and water rights, ensuring that both NEPAD and the SADC Technical Facility on Land address women's land and water rights.

148. Monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken to assess whether the activities of the Platform are making an impact in advancing the status of women's land rights in the region. In order to address the critical issues pertaining to women and land rights in Southern Africa, it is important that partnerships and strategic linkages are developed in order to share experiences

and create a critical mass to advance and lobby the relevant stakeholders on the issue of women land rights. The intended outcome of this intervention will be to ensure that the African Union (AU) takes on, as part of its agenda, the issue of women's land and water rights.

149. The process will assist to translate the SADC Gender Declaration into a protocol that will be binding on member States as well as adoption of International Human Rights Instruments that the Southern African Governments are part to.

150. In the discussions that followed, the Committee:

- (a) Expressed concern about the issues of women ownership of land in cases of polygamous and unregistered customary law marriages. It was therefore stressed that in such cases, a clear statement of ownership of land should be sought from the husband by each and every one of the wives; all inequitable aspects of marriage laws should be reviewed and particularly in cases of divorce or death;
- (b) Observed that the reproductive occupation of women put them at a disadvantage to effectively take care of the management of economic issues including land;
- (c) Stressed the need to harmonize customary and State laws with respect to land tenure and inheritance provisions, so that they could address issues of gender equality and gender equity objectives including instruments to implement them;
- (d) Requested the integration of women's land and water rights in NEPAD;
- (e) Emphasized the need to build on the positive aspects of our customs while discarding the negative ones;
- (f) Requested a review of the rights of women to land in patrilineal and matrilineal societies of the sub-region;
- (g) Requested assessment of the impact of globalization on women and land with a view to ensuring food security.

151. The Secretariat noted the issues raised, confirmed the importance of harmonizing customary and state laws and added that ECA was working with some member States to ensure that customary and state laws were harmonized.

152. The Meeting adopted the report.

Promotion of the Informal Sector for Development in Southern Africa
(Agenda item 13)

153. The committee considered the document "Report on the Evaluation of the project on the Promotion of the Informal Sector for Development in Africa" (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/12).

154. The meeting noted that the project was implemented in Zambia from 1996 to 2001 under phase II and III. The project was successfully implemented and contributed to making the informal sector dynamic, open and competitive. Some of the Informal Sector Operators (ISOs) had even started selling their commodities in the formal sector. The meeting noted also that the Visualization in Participatory Planning (VIPP) was an effective tool for bringing ISOs together to learn and resolve their problems collectively as part of their effort to promote their business operations.

155. The findings of the evaluation showed that:

- (a) The implementation of the project under both phases II and III of the project addressed the same issues and put emphasis on mobilization of ISO groups, provision of training in problem solving techniques, business management, technical skills, leadership and credit management, creation of linkages between ISO groups and support institutions and assisting ISO groups to formalize their informal groups. In phase III of the project emphasis continued to be on the activities under phase II plus assisting the ISO groups to access credit from the Revolving Micro Credit Fund (RMCF) of the project. The VIPP methodology generated considerable participation and group interaction, creating a sense of involvement, ownership and determination to resolve problems in a participatory manner. Project monitoring reports were generated through out the project period providing useful information and data on the activities of the project.
- (b) The project attained both its immediate objectives, namely to test the facilitative and participatory approach to project design and implementation and to sensitize policy makers to improve the informal sector's framework and environment.

156. The project demonstrated that; (a) the VIPP methodology was effective in achieving some of the goals of the project and in bringing the ISOs together during weekly meetings to learn and resolve their problems; (b) Institutional support was a fundamental prerequisite for promoting the informal sector; and (c) that business management training was key to equipping the ISOs with the necessary knowledge and skills for efficient and profitable business operations.

157. The success, achieved in implementing the project in Lusaka, Ndola and Kitwe, was encouraging and the project can be replicated in other towns in Zambia and in other interested countries in Southern Africa.

158. The meeting attached importance to the activities of the informal sector as it employed a large number of the population for example in agriculture, despite its low contribution to GDP. The Committee therefore, underscored the need to develop appropriate tools to enhance the productivity of the informal sector and the need to capture fully all the economic activities of the sector.

159. The Committee was informed of a similar project on Rural Financing in Lesotho and information was sought from the Zambian Pilot Informal Sector Project on how loans were successfully recovered. It was explained that in the Zambian Pilot Project, group pressure from the group members helped to ensure that loans are recovered. If a group member failed to pay back a loan, the group concerned had to pay.

160. The Committee emphasized reinforced some of the recommendations particularly those on: group mobilization and the need to have appropriate institutions to promote the activities of the informal sector so that eventually the sector could grow and graduate into the formal sector. Suggestions were made on the need to protect some of the activities of the informal sector in the face of globalization and on account of the sector's contribution to the economy and poverty reduction.

161. Finally, the Committee underlined role of advocacy in the promotion and development of the informal sector and endorsed the report and its recommendations.

ECA Programmes (Agenda item 14)

162. The Secretariat presented the Report on ECA's Major Initiatives and Programme Developments in 2002-2003 (ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/13) highlighting the contents and outcomes of recent initiatives and the prospective activities in the year 2003. Consistent with its work programme, ECA's major initiatives and programmes are aimed at forging partnerships for Africa's development and providing support to the implementation of NEPAD.

163. The Committee noted that ECA operationalized its partnerships programme through various collaborative arrangements, which lead, among other things, to the institutionalization of a number of forums. Chief among these forums are: the African Development Forum; the Africa/OECD Ministerial Consultation Big Table; and the African Learning Group on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

164. With regard to ECA support to the implementation of NEPAD, it was reported that this support was channeled through the Commission's Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and through the development of regional projects that respond to emerging challenges facing the African development agenda. In this regard, the Committee was briefed on the outcome of the last ECA Ministerial Conference, which took place in October 2002 in South Africa.

165. The Committee took note of the developments that took place in advancing the ECA Governance project, the African Trade Policy SRDC-SA (ATPC) Project, the African Capital Markets Development, the International e-Development Resource Network (leDRN) and the SRDC-SA for Connectivity in Africa (CCA). Finally, it underscored the importance of the Annual Consultation of UN Agencies working in Africa, especially in light of bringing the closure of the UN-New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) and the subsequent adoption of NEPAD as the framework within which the UN system should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development.

166. The Committee:

- Expressed its appreciation for the brief and lucid report;
- Observed that the NEPAD Programme had only recently been initiated and therefore its implementation had not fully taken root and thus, there was need for more focus and more direction;
- Appealed to ECA to assist in the sensitization of the NEPAD programmes, and further sought clarification on the relationship, if any, between governance and the Peer Review Mechanism. Lesotho specifically appealed for assistance in the sensitization of NEPAD.

167. The Secretariat responded that such assistance was offered on an ad hoc basis, upon request. For instance, in collaboration with UNDP, ECA has organized NEPAD sensitization seminars under MDG Goal Number 8. Further, ECA – Southern Africa Office in response to a request had assisted Zambia in the sensitization on the NEPAD programme.

168. The meeting took note of the report

Reports by Cooperating Partners (Agenda item 15)

169. Under this item the Committee was briefed by a representative of the Southern Africa Development Bank (DBSA) on the Bank's Strategy for support to the NEPAD initiative. The DBSA 2010 Vision in supporting NEPAD objectives entails: (a) support of countries' key and leading economic sectors, (b) brings regional focus and expertise into the developmental process; and (c) forms strategic partnerships to mobilize resources.

170. The DBSA views Africa's challenges with respect to: weak economic growth and investment environment; undiversified economies; poor political and economic governance; lack of investment strategies to attract FDI; lack of skilled human resources; and inadequate infrastructure to sustain development. In response the Bank was gearing itself up to: (a) adequately respond to the above challenges; (b) offer development advice; (c) participate in the multi-year investment programmes; and (d) form partnerships to implement projects.

171. The Bank has competencies, inter alia, in the areas of policy formulation, development information analysis, project planning and appraisal, project management capacity gap assessment, risk analysis and mitigation, project financing, funds mobilization and project monitoring and evaluation.

172. The key performance areas in which the Bank intends to support NEPAD were on advocacy, capacity support, partnerships and investment. The Bank was committed to deliver on NEPAD objectives in the areas it has the comparative advantage to add value. It will work with other partners as it has already started, for example, with the African Development Bank. Recent developments showed that the Bank has started to operate beyond the SADC sub region to cover other parts of the continent.

173. The Committee commended efforts being made by the DBSA in supporting the NEPAD objectives and urged other institutions to also play active roles in implementation of NEPAD and underscored the need to ensure that all efforts are coordinated. Some information was sought on certain activities of the Bank, especially selection criteria for NEPAD projects. Information was also sought on what would be linkages between existing development finance institutions and those that would be created under the African Union (AU) e.g. the Central Bank and Investment Bank.

174. The DBSA representative provided clarification on its activities to countries as well as to NEPAD. For NEPAD projects, a criteria had been established for assessing and selecting projects. Regarding new institutions to be established under AU, these would not necessarily duplicate existing institutions. In fact, more institutions were needed to effectively support Africa's development agenda.

Any Other Business (Agenda item 16)

175. The Committee did not raise any issues on this item.

Date and Venue of the Next Meeting (Agenda item 17)

176. The Tenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts is scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2004. ECA-SA will consult potential

candidate countries for hosting the meeting. An announcement will be made in consultation with the bureau of the confirmed venue and date for the meeting.

Adoption of the report (Agenda item 18)

177. The report of the Ninth ICE meeting was presented by the Rapporteur (Botswana) and was adopted with minor amendments.

Closure of the meeting (Agenda item 19)

178. The Officer-in-Charge of ECA-SA expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of Lesotho for hosting the meeting. He also acknowledged with great appreciation the high level of interaction during the deliberations, which contributed to the successful outcome of the meeting.

179. In concluding, the OIC thanked all ECA professional and support staff, the technical support personnel provided by the Government of Lesotho and other support staff from the Government for their respective roles in organizing and servicing the meeting.

180. The delegate from Namibia gave a vote of thanks, on behalf of the participants. She expressed appreciation to the Government of Lesotho for the hospitality shown to the participants since their arrival in Maseru. She thanked ECA for organizing the meeting, which enabled exchange of views and experience in addressing issues of import to the subregion.

181. The vice chairperson also conveyed her appreciation to the organizers and to the delegates to the meeting and urged them to make optimal use of the expertise available at ECA.

182. On behalf of the Government of Lesotho, the Deputy Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sport thanked ECA-SA for organizing the meeting and the participants for having held a very successful meeting. In his concluding remarks, he invited all participants to a cultural dinner and officially closed the meeting.

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ANNEX II

List of Documents

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| ECA/SRDC/SA/ICE/2003/01 | Draft Agenda |
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