



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-eighth meeting of the Committee of Experts



AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION

Fourth meeting of the Committee of Experts

**Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the 2nd Joint Annual
Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and
Finance and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance,
Planning and Economic Development**

*Cairo, Egypt
2-5 June 2009*



Distr.: GENERAL
E/ECA/COE/28/7
AU/CAMEF/EXP/7(IV)
Date: 15 May 2009

Original: ENGLISH

Assessment of Progress on Regional Integration in Africa

A. Introduction

1. In the last two decades, African leaders have rekindled their goal of building a strong, united and fully integrated Africa underpinned by political, economic, social and cultural integration. The 1991 Abuja Treaty for Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) set the guiding framework for activities up to 2034. The Constitutive Act of 2000, which formed the basis of the transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU), demands that the continent goes beyond economic integration and create a political union.

2. The imperative for a strong and united Africa stems from the realization that the economic advantage of the regional community will be greater than the sum of the economic advantages of its separate member States. The need for deeper integration is also necessitated by a world economic environment characterized by the formation of regional blocks even among developed countries, through borderless globalization, advances in information and communication technology (ICT) and a multilateral trade regime under the World Trade Organization (WTO). That is why regional integration is a key pillar of the activities of the African Union Commission (AUC), as embodied in its Strategic Vision, which is anchored on the Constitutive Act establishing the African Union, the Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999, the Abuja Treaty of 1991, and the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa, 1980-2000.

3. Furthermore, since its inception in 1958, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has focused on the promotion and strengthening of the continental regional integration agenda. This mandate was given further impetus by the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government, in 2006, in Banjul, Gambia. In this context, ECA tailored its programmes and activities to support AU efforts fully, to accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent, promote and defend African common positions and establish the necessary conditions to enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy. ECA, in collaboration with AUC and the African Development Bank (AfDB), has been promoting dialogue and undertaking analytical studies in the area of regional integration. Furthermore, ECA is providing technical assistance to institutions driving the regional integration agenda, including the regional economic communities (RECs). It has also increased its involvement in trans-boundary initiatives and activities in sectors vital to the regional integration agenda.

4. As one of the main recurrent agenda items of the Joint ECA-AUC Conference of Ministers, this progress report aims to inform the Conference by presenting the main highlights and developments in Africa's regional integration process, particularly in terms of major policy decisions that shape its future direction. Consequently, the ensuing sections shed light on topical and emerging issues affecting Africa's integration agenda at the continental level in the AU context and at regional levels from the perspectives of the RECs, which are the building blocs of the Union.

B. Special Session of the African Union on the Union Government

5. Following up on the ninth and tenth Sessions, the twelfth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1-3 February 2009, continued the grand debate on the Union Government for Africa, and renewed the commitment to accelerate economic and political integration of the continent. The Summit made a major decision (Assembly/AU/Dec. 233 (XII)) to transform AUC into the African Union Authority and directed the Executive Council to further elaborate on this Decision. The Summit also endorsed the recommendations of the Executive Council, which essentially sought to have the Constitutive Act amended to reflect this new reality and entreated member States to expedite ratification of the amendments. The Executive Council had also recommended that further work be done on the proposals on the functions of the African Union Authority and its size, the functions of the Secretaries, and the financial implications of establishing such an Authority. The Executive Council had also requested the Assembly to allow more time for an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council to be convened within the next three months to consider these proposals and submit a Report to the next Assembly.

C. Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the AU Executive Council

6. The Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council which took place in Tripoli, Libya, from 15 to 16 April 2009 was devoted to the issue of modalities for the implementation of the Assembly Decision of January 2009 on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority. The meeting was reminded of the principle underscoring the Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec. 206 (XII)) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in July 2008, to the effect that AU is a Union of independent and sovereign States, and that as such, it is an inter-governmental organization and all its Organs are of an inter-governmental nature. The transformation of the Commission into an Authority is therefore intended to strengthen the institutional framework of the Union in order to enable it to play its role in accelerating political and socio-economic integration of the continent towards the ultimate goal of achieving a United States of Africa.

7. The Executive Council made a number of recommendations on the structure of the Authority. It recommended that the structure of the Authority should comprise 10 members, a President, Vice-President and 8 Secretaries. The President, assisted by the Vice-President, would serve as the Chief Executive, Legal Representative and Accounting Officer of the Authority, with overall responsibility for its effective functioning. In addition, instead of Commissioners, there would be Secretaries responsible in the following domains: Peace, Security and Common Defence; Political Affairs and Coordination of Common Positions on External Relations; Infrastructure and Energy; Health and Social Affairs; Education, Human Resources and Science and Technology; Trade, Industry and International Cooperation; Rural Economy, Agriculture and Environment; and Economic Affairs. The Secretaries would be answerable to the President of the Authority under whose supervision they would carry out duties, including initiation of common policies and programmes within their respective portfolios for the consideration of the Union Organs. They would also engage in advocacy

activities to promote the goals of the Union, in addition to performing representational and negotiation functions as and when the Authority is mandated by the Assembly.

8. The Executive Council was briefed during their deliberations on the proposals by H.E. Brother Muammar Gaddafi, Leader of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Chairperson of the Africa Union on the Authority. He recommended harmonization of the Authority's areas of competence with the portfolios of the Secretaries. In this context, the functions established for each portfolio would be replaced in the areas of competence of the Authority. Thus, Defence, Security and Coordination of External Relations would be added to the areas of competence of the Authority. The Secretary for Peace, Security and Joint Defence would chair the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC). The Secretary for Political Affairs and Coordination of External Relations would chair the Executive Council of the Union. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) would cover the portfolio of the Secretary of the Authority for Trade, Industry and International Cooperation. The Authority would be answerable directly to the Assembly without passing through the Executive Council. The Authority of the Union would be responsible for representing and negotiating on behalf of the Union. Appropriate amendments would be made to the Constitutive Act and the various protocols where necessary.

9. The Executive Council took note of the proposals of Brother Leader. These proposals are to be tabled for the consideration of the AU leadership at its next Summit in July 2009.

D. The Fourth Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration (COMAI)

10. The fourth Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration (COMAI) was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 7 to 8 May 2009, preceded by a meeting of experts from 4 to 5 May 2009. The theme of the conference was *Partnerships and Integration in Africa*. The AUC also met with the RECs on 2 May 2009 to discuss the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP). The Ministers exchanged views on a number of topics geared towards advancing the continental integration agenda, and received reports from AUC on the:

- (a) Status of Integration in Africa
- (b) Minimum Integration Programme (MIP), and
- (c) Partnerships and Regional Integration.

11. On the status of regional integration, the meeting noted that while the RECs have made great strides in their integration agendas, substantial gaps remain between their achievements and their mandates. With respect to the MIP, the meeting noted that the MIP represents key priority activities and milestones aimed at accelerating and expediting fruition of the process of regional and continental integration. The MIP on which the RECs are expected to reach agreement, includes achievable objectives according to the AU Strategic Plan (four years). It will be implemented by RECs, member States and AUC in collaboration with Africa's various development partners.

12. The main priority areas selected by the RECs to constitute the first phase of the MIP (2009-2012) are: free movement of persons, goods, services and capital; peace and security; infrastructure and energy; agriculture; trade; industry; investment; and statistics. In this context, there will be focus on:

- Gradual elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers in all RECs;
- Simplification and harmonization of rules of origin;
- Free movement of persons, capital and goods within regions;
- Prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict development in Africa;
- Implementation of the Programme for Infrastructural Development in Africa (PIDA);
- Acceleration of the implementation of NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP); and
- Capacity-building for RECs, AUC and member States.

13. The Ministers also discussed the implications of various partnerships between Africa and other countries, continents and entities. On this question, the Ministers recommended that Africa needs to examine and rationalize its approach to its partnership engagements. To this end, AUC should finalize the assessment of existing partnerships to determine their impact on the socio-economic development of the continent and the integration process. The Ministers also recommended that AUC should create a structure dedicated to coordination of partnerships, and that member States should respect the Banjul Decision on engagement with external partners. They also recommended that partnerships should be aligned with the AU/NEPAD development programmes.

14. Furthermore, the Ministers made a number of recommendations for consideration by the next AU Summit in July 2009. The Ministers commended the efforts of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to create a single Free Trade Area (FTA) and requested other RECs to emulate this example in order to give impetus to their own integration. They urged AUC to transmit the COMAI recommendations to member States, RECs and stakeholders within one month after their endorsement by the Assembly of the Union. A significant outcome of this meeting was adoption of the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP) as a framework for the integration process at the continental level, in line with the AUC strategic framework. In this regard, they urged AUC, in collaboration with member States, RECs, AfDB and ECA to work out the practical modalities for enhancing the progress already made in the MIP preparation process, as well as its gradual and sequential implementation per priority sector.

15. The Ministers also called upon all member States to comply with the COMAI recommendation that requested exemption from visa requirements for all holders of African diplomatic and service passports, and to extend this privilege gradually to all African nationals. They urged member States to enhance the security features of their national passports, and to strengthen intra-African cooperation and solidarity in their engagement with partners. The Ministers further called upon member States, RECs and AUC to ensure that Africa's development and regional continental integration interests are secured in all strategic

partnership arrangements. To this end, they requested AUC, in collaboration with RECs and member States, to work out a common strategy for engagement with partners in conformity with the objectives and programmes of AU/NEPAD.

E. Recent major decisions by RECs

16. Since the last Conference, a number of RECs have made important decisions with regard to accelerating and deepening regional integration in their respective subregions. The ensuing paragraphs highlight these REC decisions.

1. SADC-COMESA-EAC Joint Tripartite Summit

17. The first COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Summit was held in Kampala, Uganda from 18 to 22 October 2008. It was jointly organized by the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Taskforce and the Government of Uganda. The main objective of the Summit was to review and agree on a harmonization programme for trading arrangements among the three RECs, free movement of people, joint implementation of inter-regional infrastructure programmes as well as institutional arrangements by which the three RECs would foster cooperation, given the challenges of their multiple and overlapping memberships.

18. The Summit participants underscored that since the three RECs had all launched FTAs, a wider FTA was a logical step towards achieving greater regional integration. Moreover, the pan-regional FTA should contribute to realization of the goals of continental integration, poverty alleviation and wealth creation.

19. The Summit issued a Communiqué in which, the Heads of State urged the three RECs to start working immediately towards a merger, to form a single REC with the objective of fast-tracking attainment of the African Economic Community. In this regard, the Summit directed a Task Force to develop a roadmap for implementation of this merger, for consideration at its next meeting. It also approved the expeditious establishment of the FTA, encompassing the three REC member/partner States, with the ultimate goal of establishing a single Customs Union. It also directed the Chairpersons of the Councils of Ministers of the three RECs to speed up development of joint programmes that enhance cooperation and deepen coordination of industrial and competition policies, financial and payments systems, and develop capital markets and commodity exchanges. They also directed the Chairpersons of the Councils of Ministers of the three RECs to ensure that the Secretariats participate, coordinate and harmonize positions on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiations and other multilateral negotiations including WTO Doha Development Round Negotiations.

20. The Tripartite Summit also launched the Joint Competition Authority (JCA) on Air Transport Liberalization, which will oversee full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on Air Transport in the three RECs, commencing in January 2009. The Summit directed the three RECs to coordinate and harmonize effectively, within one year:

- (a) The Regional Transport Master Plans of the three RECs;
- (b) The Regional Energy Priority Investment Plans and the Energy Master Plans of the three RECs; and
- (c) Joint financing and implementation mechanisms for infrastructure development.

2. EAC

21. The Tenth Summit of EAC was held in Arusha, Tanzania on 29 April 2009. The Summit was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. The Summit received the progress report of the Council of Ministers covering the period July 2008 to April 2009 and noted the steady progress made in the Community, in particular consolidation of the EAC customs union, the progress in the negotiations of the common market protocol, and concretization of various projects and programmes in regional infrastructure development.

22. The Communiqué issued at the end of the Summit announced that the Summit had considered the report on the progress of the EAC Common Market negotiations and had taken note of the advanced stage that the negotiations had reached. It directed that finalization of annexes and sections on scope and common tariff policies should be done soonest, to ensure that the Protocol could be signed in November 2009. The Summit further observed that the Draft Protocol on a Common Market should not contain provisions that seek to give any authority for overriding national policies and laws. On the Draft Protocol provisions relating to the right of establishment and permanent residence, it stated that the granting of related rights to access to land and establishment should not be automatic but should lay a basis for eligibility. Identity cards should not be the acceptable travel document on an EAC-wide basis. However, partner States that are ready to use identity cards as a travel document on a bilateral basis can proceed. The Draft Protocol on a Common Market should ensure full protection for the cross-border investments of East Africans.

23. The Summit further directed that the Council of Ministers should review the reports of the national consultative process on fast-tracking the political federation conducted in Rwanda and Burundi and submit concrete recommendations to the Summit at its sitting in November 2009 on the way forward for establishment of political federation.

24. It also received a report from the Council of Ministers relating to a proposal on establishment of an African Union Government and transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority. The Summit stated that the establishment of the African Union Government should be gradual and that the RECs should be strengthened as building blocks towards realization of continental political integration. The Summit further

decided that the option of retaining the current number of AUC Executives, rationalizing their portfolios and changing their titles from AUC Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Commissioners to AU Authority President, Vice-President and Secretaries should be adopted.

3. SADC

25. The Summit of Heads of State and Government of SADC was held in Sandton, Republic of South Africa, 16-17 August, 2008. The Summit discussed matters of interest to the subregion, in particular deepening of integration. The Decisions reached at the end of the Summit launched the SADC FTA, which is the first milestone in the subregional economic integration agenda, and called for acceleration of regional integration through development of a programme of cooperation aimed at expanding regional production capacity. This entailed provision and rehabilitation of regional infrastructure to facilitate efficient movement of goods and people in a more open regional economy.

26. The Summit emphasized the need for full implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade in order to ensure that the FTA is sustainable and the envisaged Customs Union in SADC is attainable. It reviewed the progress report of the Ministerial Task Force on Food Security and adopted various measures aimed at enhancing regional food security, including increasing investments and budgetary allocation towards food production and the establishment of a Regional Food Reserve Facility. The Summit also welcomed the initiatives currently underway to militate against the negative consequences of the shortage and high prices of energy faced by the region.

27. It recognized that the region had managed to consolidate peace and democracy in SADC. With regard to the ongoing challenges in Zimbabwe, the Summit noted the outcomes of the Extraordinary Summit of the Organ held in the course of the Summit and reaffirmed its commitment to work with the people of Zimbabwe in order to overcome the challenges they were facing.

28. The Summit received a Report from the Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, H.E. President José Eduardo dos Santos, on the implementation of the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO), with specific reference to the political and security situation in the region.

4. COMESA

29. The Authority of Heads of State and Government of COMESA has not met since the last conference. However, it is planning to meet from 7 to 8 June 2009 at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The Summit is expected to launch the COMESA Customs Union. Indeed, the last Summit of 2007 adopted the COMESA Common External Tariff structure, which is made up of four bands: 0 per cent on raw materials, 0 per cent on capital goods, 10 per cent on intermediate goods, and 25 per cent on final goods.

30. COMESA has set up a Regional Development Fund to support development projects of member States, and in furtherance of its determination to create a monetary union, the last Summit endorsed the decision of the Committee of Governors of COMESA Central Banks to

establish a COMESA Monetary Institute, which would undertake necessary preparatory work leading to the creation of a COMESA Monetary Union in the zone.

31. In the area of food security, the COMESA Secretariat is working with member States to harmonize national agricultural policies and align their programmes to the NEPAD CAADP so as to ensure both national and regional food self-sufficiency.

32. It must be noted that since the last Conference, COMESA is under a new leadership. Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya and Mr. Stephen Karingizi are the new Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General (Programmes) since July 2008.

5. ECOWAS

33. The Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 19 December 2008. The Summit was held under the Chairmanship of His Excellency, Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso and current Chairman of ECOWAS.

34. The Summit examined the reports of: the President of the ECOWAS Commission; the Sixty-first Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, the Twenty-fifth Session of the Mediation and Security Council on the state of infrastructure in the region by Presidents Gbagbo (Côte D'Ivoire) and Vieira (Guinea-Bissau). The Authority of ECOWAS also discussed the integration and development programmes of the Commission. The Communiqué released after the deliberations of the Heads of State and Government highlighted the following issues, among others.

35. Global financial crisis:

- A warning that the global financial crisis could undermine the region's economic recovery and precipitate a reduction in foreign direct investment, remittances from migrant workers and a drop in commodity prices, the mainstay of the economies of most of the member States;
- A call for a regional strategy that would minimize the risks arising from the crisis on the regional economy;
- The need for member States to strengthen the management and structural reform of their economies;
- A call for improved global economic governance; and
- More involvement of Africa in the ongoing international initiatives to address the governance challenge.

36. Infrastructure and energy:

- Approval of new initiatives for ameliorating the infrastructure deficit in West Africa so that it can be used as a tool to boost regional development and integration. The initiatives call for massive investments in energy, roads, air transport, maritime transport and railways through private/public partnership;

- Adoption of a joint ECOWAS/UEMOA action plan on regional priority projects and the creation of a Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency to be based in Praia, Cape Verde;
- Endorsement of the establishment of an ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority to be based in Accra, which will help facilitate increased intra-community electricity trading at affordable costs and ensure the security of supply; and
- Approval for the creation of a Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU) to imbue ECOWAS with the capacity to develop bankable projects that could be developed by either the public or private sectors or through partnerships.

37. **Agriculture:**

- An appeal to member States to finalize preparation of their national agricultural investment programmes; and
- A call for structured dialogue between ECOWAS and its partners on the financing of agriculture and the implementation of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy.

38. **Drug trafficking:**

- Adoption of a political declaration and regional plan of action against drugs, organized crime and drug consumption;
- A directive to the ECOWAS Commission to prepare an implementation plan of action against drugs, organized crime and drug consumption;
- Approval of a five-year strategic plan for the West African Health Organization (WAHO) for the period 2009-2013.

39. **Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs):**

- A call for acceleration of the negotiations on EPA between ECOWAS and the European Union so as to ensure the signing of a comprehensive agreement by June 2009.

40. Finally, the Summit elected H. E. Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua, GCON, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS for the next one year.

6. CEN-SAD

41. The Tenth Ordinary Session of the Conference of Leaders and Heads of State of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) was held in Cotonou, Benin from 15 to 17 June 2008. It was preceded by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of CEN-SAD. The theme of the Summit was *Rural Development and Food Security*.

42. The Leaders and Heads of State received various reports from sectoral ministerial meetings. Among the decisions taken by the Summit were the following calls:

- For Darfur, Southern Sudan, Somalia, Chad, Northern Niger and Northern Mali and all stakeholders to accept the mediation of the Office of the Ombudsman of CEN-SAD and implement the agreements reached;
- Urging African States to support themselves and each other by providing human, material and financial resources to AU and regional organizations; and.
- Urging Leaders and Heads of State to establish a Committee of the Wise, under the chairmanship of the High Ombudsman for Permanent Peace and Security, to monitor all crises and make proposals for addressing them.

43. The conference noted that the illicit trafficking of drugs and light weapons constituted a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at individual, local, national, regional and continental levels. In this regard, the conference called for coordination of efforts at national, regional and continental levels to prevent, combat and eliminate the illicit trafficking of drugs and light weapons.

44. The conference also called for an international economic order that is just and equitable, especially in the field of trade and expressed their unanimous support for the thirty-third Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS in its requirements for an EPA that takes the interests of member States into account.

45. Finally, the conference reaffirmed its commitment to establish a CEN–SAD FTA, that would be integrated into the existing trade arrangements of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) , AMU, COMESA and ECOWAS.

7. AMU

46. The AMU is pursuing programmes and activities aimed at strengthening integration among its five member States. The leadership has adopted a development strategy to be implemented in four stages: the creation of a free trade zone, a customs union, a common market and an economic union.

47. The Eighth Session of the Maghreb Council of Energy and Mines Ministers was held in Algiers, Algeria on 4 July 2008. The Council called for strengthening of cooperation in the field of energy and mines. It also stressed the need to create an open and competitive Maghreb energy market as well as the need to promote cooperation in renewable energies by preserving energy, using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and trading oil products among AMU member States.

8. IGAD

48. The Twelfth Ordinary Summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 14 June 2008, under the chairmanship of

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The Summit reviewed the political and security situation in the subregion and received briefs by H.E. Omar Hassan El-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan, on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The President of Somalia, H.E. Abdullahi Yusuf also briefed the Summit on the political and security situation in Somalia and the national reconciliation efforts underway. H.E. Ismael Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti briefed the Summit on the situation at the Djibouti-Eritrea boarder. The Summit made a number of decisions after these presentations.

49. It commended continued implementation of Sudan's CPA by the two parties, welcomed the holding of the national census, and encouraged the Parties to continue implementing all aspects of the CPA. The Summit called on the Parties to always resolve their differences through negotiations in order to not unravel the CPA. It reiterated its commitment to follow implementation of the CPA closely. In this regard, it called upon Ethiopia and Kenya, the countries designated to represent the subregion, to appoint Special Envoys to the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC).

50. The Summit further noted with grave concern the continued conflict in Darfur, recalled the decision by the United Nations Security Council, welcomed the deployment of the hybrid force of the United Nations African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and urged the international community to provide the necessary resources to realize full deployment of the force. It also reviewed the situation in Somalia, noted with grave concern the continued violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and underlined the need for those responsible to be brought to justice.

51. The Summit also registered its serious concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia and called on the Parties and armed groups to take appropriate steps to protect the civilian population and ensure the safety and security of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), United Nations and humanitarian personnel, and permit timely, safe and unhindered access for delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need.

52. It commended the continued role played by Uganda and Burundi troops (AMISOM) as well as by Ethiopian troops, for their sacrifice in bringing lasting peace and stability to Somalia. The Summit urged those countries that had pledged to provide troops to AMISOM to do so without further delay. In this connection, it called on the international community to provide the financial and logistical support required to complete the deployment.

53. It also reviewed the financial situation of the IGAD Secretariat and after taking note of the accumulated arrears in the contributions from member States, urged them to support the organization by paying the outstanding arrears, and paying contributions on time.

9. ECCAS

54. An Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was held in Kinshasa, on 10 March 2008. The Summit was held under the current Chairmanship of H.E. Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Summit exchanged views on a number

of issues affecting the subregion, and examined the report of the last Council of Ministers. At the end of their deliberations, the Summit passed a number of resolutions.

55. The Heads of State and Government of the member States of ECCAS condemned the resort to arms and the unconstitutional means of seizing power. They expressed their solidarity with the Government and people of Chad and called on all countries to refrain from any action or attitude that could undermine the constitutional order, security and territorial integrity of the Republic of Chad.

56. They pledged their support to the President of the Republic of Congo, His Excellency Denis Sassou Nguesso and the Leader of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, H.E. Muammar Al-Kadhafi, who have been mandated by AU to mediate the conflict in Chad.

57. The Summit also called on all Parties to the conflict to implement all previous agreements, including those reached in Tripoli and Riyadh between the Republic of Chad and Sudan. They also welcomed the agreements reached on 13 August 2007 in N'Djamena and in October 2007 in Sirte and encouraged the Government of the Republic of Chad to implement these agreements in order to strengthen the rule of law and establish definitive and sustainable peace in Chad. On humanitarian grounds, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the deployment of EUFOR troops to secure the refugee camps, displaced persons and personnel of humanitarian agencies, and called on the international community to provide assistance to the Government and people of Chad.

58. The Heads of State and Government called for accelerated deployment of the UN/AU force in Darfur.

F. Major Activities Undertaken by AUC and ECA on Regional Integration

59. As part of their efforts to support acceleration of the continent's integration agenda, AUC and ECA undertook major activities in the year under review. AUC and ECA jointly published the third edition of the *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa* (ARIA-III), in November 2008, focusing on macroeconomic policy convergence and monetary and financial integration. ARIA is a major ECA flagship publication devoted to in-depth analysis of challenges and solutions to improve implementation of the objectives of Africa's regional integration. The first ARIA project (ARIA-I) completed in May 2004 focused on comprehensive assessment of the status of regional integration in Africa. The publication outcome was widely disseminated and RECs and other stakeholders are using it extensively as a rich source of analysis and recommendations for promoting and making adjustments to their respective integration programmes. ARIA-II examined and made recommendations on the issue of rationalization of multiple integration groupings in Africa and their attendant overlapping memberships. It served as one of the important inputs to the subsequent AU consultations with RECs and member States, eventually leading to the AU to recognize only the eight RECs currently in existence, as the main pillars of the African Union.

60. ECA and the Walvis Bay Corridor Group jointly organized a workshop and study tour on trade facilitation. The objectives of the workshop were: (a) to share experiences in the implementation of trade facilitation and corridor management programmes across the Eastern and Southern Africa subregion; and (b) to assess progress in the design and implementation of trade facilitation programmes and projects within the subregion.

61. The workshop came up with a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing trade facilitation within the Corridors. Member States, RECs, and corridor management institutions were urged to build the capacity of their officials to plan and implement trade facilitation activities and to implement measures to reduce high transport costs by improving transport infrastructure, reducing tariffs, removing non-tariff barriers and reducing delays along corridors and at borders.

62. Other recommendations centred on: the promotion of the role of railways by enhancing regional connectivity and undertaking network rehabilitation and reforms in management so as to benefit from the lower costs which ensue from rail transport; Exploration of Public Private Partnerships to promote trade facilitation, and financing of infrastructure and effective management of corridors; Implementation by member States and RECs of measures to improve border management. Such measures would include harmonizing and increasing working hours at adjacent border posts as well as operationalizing and expanding one-stop border posts initiatives. Corridor management institutions were asked to put mechanisms in place for monitoring corridor performance to ensure continued efficiency.

63. The workshop also called upon member States, RECs and other stakeholders to take steps to ensure the sustainability of corridor management institutions, including self-financing mechanisms such as user fees, taking into account the long-term growth and development of these institutions. In this regard, corridor management institutions were urged to identify key stakeholders to act as their champions, with the view to ensuring their sustainability.

64. The workshop noted the poor accession of member States to existing international conventions on trade facilitation, movement of transit traffic and special action for landlocked countries, and urged member States to correct the situation.

65. Finally, there was a recommendation for transit countries to reduce transit times at the ports, promote the use of cargo-tracking systems, and continue to improve port capacity, notably the expansion of container-handling capacity. In addition, port communities should be established or strengthened.

66. In support of all these initiatives, the workshop recommended that the Aid for Trade Initiative (AFT) should be leveraged in implementation of member State trade facilitation activities through corridor management institutions and the RECs.

G. ECA's Planned Activities on Regional Integration

67. The ECA regional integration agenda continues to be aligned with the broad vision and objectives of AU. In this regard, most of its activities are undertaken with the strong collaboration of AUC and AfDB. This agenda, over the next few years, would include:

- Promotion of regional cooperation and integration in line with the vision of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Abuja Treaty;
- Promotion of intra-African trade;
- Provision of institutional support to RECs; and
- Promotion of infrastructure and natural resources development (transport, energy, water and mining), within the framework of the NEPAD initiatives.

68. To achieve these objectives and goals, ECA should pursue a number of programmes including the following:

1. Assessing regional integration in Africa

69. During 2009-2010, ECA, in collaboration with AUC and AfDB, plans to implement ARIA-IV, focusing on intra-African trade, which remains a key challenge in Africa's integration process. This is because, over several decades, intra-African trade has consistently remained infinitesimal compared to the continent's trade with the outside world. Only 10 per cent of African trade is with other African nations, while 40 per cent of North American trade is with other North American countries and 63 per cent of trade by countries in Western Europe is with other Western European nations. The ARIA-IV publication will therefore tackle the issue of intra-African trade in all its ramifications, addressing a range of supply-side and trade-related infrastructural impediments, and incentives for boosting trade facilitation across Africa's major corridors.

2. Sixth Session of the Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration (CTRCI)

70. ECA, in collaboration with AUC, should organize the Sixth Session of the Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration (CTRCI) at the ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in October 2009. The CTRCI was established by resolution 827 (XXXII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers. The Session will consider matters pertaining to ECA activities in advancing the AU continental agenda on economic cooperation as well as the promotion of trade within and outside Africa. In this regard, the meeting will examine the following issues:

- Progress made on regional integration in Africa;
- Intra-African trade;
- Transport Infrastructure and Services in Africa;
- Status of the WTO negotiations and EPAs;
- Progress made on the NEPAD initiative; and

- Major activities undertaken by ECA during the current biennium and the work priorities for the next biennium, 2009-2010.

3. Observatory on Regional Integration in Africa

71. ECA will continue its work on the development of an observatory on regional integration. The main objective of the Observatory/Portal is to provide regular information, facts and figures, on Africa's regional integration agenda across RECs and member States. The information will encompass key protocols and treaties on regional integration; ratification of treaties and protocols; detailed information matrices on RECs; and sectoral information (trade, infrastructure, etc.).

72. The Observatory will also facilitate dissemination of activity reports and of ECA publications, as well as those of partners in the field of regional integration. In addition, it would promote cost-effectiveness and cooperation among RECs, African countries and institutions in the dissemination and sharing of information on regional integration, and in the quest for solution to common problems and challenges.

4. Technical assistance on capacity-building and cooperation

73. To strengthen the role of the RECs as subregional development policy institutions, ECA should continue to support the RECs in their human capacity development activities, especially on statistics, trade facilitation and ICT policy development. ECA should also provide technical assistance to member States in building their capacities to implement the AU integration programmes and its NEPAD programme components, as well as assist RECs to integrate their programmes towards establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC). This would be accomplished through the multi-year programmes established between ECA and RECs.

5. Infrastructure and natural resources initiatives

74. In line with the Decisions of the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government of February 2009, ECA will collaborate with the African Union Commission, RECs and member States to prepare concrete action plans to implement the Africa Mining Vision. In addition, as a follow up to the Final Declaration of the First African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development held in October 2008, and building on the work of the International Study Group to Review Africa's Mining Regimes (ISG), ECA in collaboration with the AUC and RECs, will develop templates, guidelines, standards and codes to assist African countries to optimize the potential benefits of their mineral resources. Mineral policy harmonization efforts of SADC, WAEMU and ECOWAS will benefit from the technical support of the ECA Subregional Offices for Southern Africa and West Africa, that is, SRO-SA and SRO-WA, respectively.

75. Work on transport will focus on facilitating the formulation and implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the Almaty Programme of Action. On energy, support will be directed at strengthening the capacity of regional power

pools while work on water will be geared towards providing functional support to the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) to implement the Africa Water Vision 2025.

H. Way Forward

76. This note presents an update on the regional integration agenda of AUC and ECA, which is strategically aligned to the broad vision and objectives of AU and NEPAD. In partnership with AfDB, the RECs, and other key stakeholders, AUC and ECA are determined to pursue a number of programmes and activities to strengthen and advance the continent's integration agenda.

Issues for consideration:

- Support for publication of the report on *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa*: The need for AUC and ECA to continue their analysis and assessment of progress in regional integration on the continent and to publish their findings through the flagship report, drawing on the experiences in the subregions to allow policy-makers to make strategic, evidence-based decisions on regional integration;
- Support to AUC and ECA to carry out programmes and activities to support the AU debate on the framework for a Union Government for Africa;
- Support for organizing the Sixth Session of the Committee on Trade and Regional Integration;
- Support for establishment of an observatory on regional integration so as to provide regular information, facts and figures, on Africa's regional integration agendas across RECs and member States;
- Support for the mainstreaming of regional integration in national policies; the need for AUC and ECA to support continental efforts to sensitize government officials, parliamentarians, the private sector and civil society on the contribution of regional integration to advancement of the continent's development agenda;
- Support for ECA to implement its multi-year programmes with the RECs as part of ECA technical assistance to RECs; and
- Support for AUC and ECA programmes and activities on infrastructure and natural resources.