



**Economic Commission for Africa
Committee of Experts of the Conference of African
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**
Fortieth meeting

Dakar (hybrid), 11–13 May 2022

Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee of Experts,
consideration of recommendations and draft resolutions**

Draft resolution on the importance of digital transformation for breaking new ground

The Conference of Ministers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noting with appreciation the current efforts by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Export-Import Bank and the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area to support member States of the Commission in developing and implementing the African Trade Exchange, a business-to-business platform which

* E/ECA/COE/40/1.



serves as a virtual marketplace for buyers and suppliers, based on rules of the African Continental Free Trade Area,

Noting with satisfaction the adoption of the Lomé Declaration on Cybersecurity and the Fight against Cybercrime at the first African summit meeting on cybersecurity, held in Lomé in March 2022,

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

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

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

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

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

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