



Distr.: **GENERAL**

E/ECA/GPAD/CGPP.1/09/5.
December 2009

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Original: **ENGLISH**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First meeting of the Committee on Governance and Popular Participation

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
9-10 December 2009

**STATUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE AND POPULAR
PARTICIPATION**

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning (The Commission), adopted Resolution No. 826 (XXXII) in April 1996, through which the Ministers established the "Committee on Human Development and Civil Society" (CHDCS).

WHEREAS UNECA undertook a reform exercise in 2006 aimed at repositioning the Commission to strategically realign its program priorities with the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Union (AU) and the overall United Nations system reform program, as well as the renewed international commitment to improving Africa's development prospects.

WHEREAS through the 2006 reform exercise, the Development Policy and Management Division (DPMD) was restructured and renamed as Governance and Public Administration Division (GPAD) to reflect the new priority areas of the Commission.

WHEREAS the overall objective of the GPAD is to promote good governance practices for all sectors of society including public sector, private sector and civil society, and to support the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process.

WHEREAS the fourth session of the CHDCS that took place in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2007 approved the new name of the Committee as "Committee on Governance and Popular Participation," (CGPP) proposed by the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in May 2006.

CONSCIOUS of the discussions of the fourth session of the CHDCS on the mandate, objectives, institutional arrangements, modalities of work, periodicity of meetings, the composition, funding of participation, relationships with other Committees and Bodies, and other matters related to the *raison d'être* of the new Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGING the fact that participation is the essential condition for development to happen and that development research and the implementation of development initiatives will not have much impact without the effective participation of the communities.

CONVINCED of the need to review the statutes of the CHDCS to realign it with the new name of the Division and the Committee, as well as the Division's new structure and mandate, it is hereby agreed as follows:

CHAPTER I: DEFINITIONS

Article 1: Terminologies

1. For this Statutes:
 - a) **Bureau** means the elected officials for a session of the Committee meeting.
 - b) **Commission** means the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning.
 - c) **Committee** means the Committee on Governance and Popular Participation.
 - d) **Statutes** means the Statutes of the Committee on Governance and Popular Participation.
 - e) **GPAD** means Governance and Public Administration Division.
 - f) **Member States** means African countries members of the Economic Commission for Africa.
 - g) **Region** means the African continent.
 - h) **UNECA** means the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

CHAPTER II: OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

Article 2: Objectives

1. The objectives of the Committee shall be to:
 - a) serve as a forum for promoting and strengthening good governance and participatory development in Africa, through which social justice can be achieved. In this respect, it will enable UNECA to draw on the advice of experts from the three sectors (public sector, private sector and civil society) in its activities in these areas.
 - b) ensure coherence of the UNECA work program in the areas of governance and public administration, private sector development, civil society engagement in development as well as deepening policy dialogue among African countries through the APRM process.
 - c) review specific issues related to governance and participatory development in Africa and provide a platform for advocacy, monitoring, and follow-up on such global and regionally agreed programs of action as the Copenhagen Program of Action of the World Summit on Social Development and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation.

Article 3: Functions

1. According to Article 2 above, the Committee shall:
 - (a) Provide advice to the UNECA in formulating its work program in the area of governance and popular participation;
 - (b) Suggest relevant policies and strategies on governance, human development and popular participation with a view to be considered by UNECA in its work program;

- (c) Review and monitor progress towards good governance in Africa, and undertake periodic assessments on progress made in the implementation of strategies for popular participation in development, through UNECA's activities in those areas;
- (d) Identify and recommend to the Commission measures for accelerating the process of participatory development in the region, including public-private partnerships;
- (e) Facilitate dialogue between representatives of government, private sector and civil society organizations to share experiences and exchange information on best practices relating to good governance and popular participation in development processes;
- (f) Provide guidance to the work of UNECA by suggesting future directions on its program of work and priorities. The Committee may suggest the Theme of their meetings.

CHAPTER III: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Article 4: Membership

1. The membership of the Committee shall be as follows:
 - All governments of UNECA member States
 - Umbrella CSOs at national, sub-regional and regional levels,
 - Umbrella Regional Private Sector Organizations,
 - African Union
2. UNECA will serve as member *ex-officio*

Article 5: Observers

Non-governmental and international organizations, including other UN agencies, with relevant mandate and/or role in the areas of governance and popular participation in development, should be considered for participation at the Committee meetings as observers.

Article 6: Relationship with other relevant institutions

1. The CGPP is the regional forum of experts that deals with the issues of governance, popular participation and civil society on all activities as mandated by the UN General Assembly.
2. The CGPP is the regional advisory body of the Commission on issues related to governance, public administration, popular participation and civil society in Africa as well as on activities related to the implementation of the APRM, the Arusha Declaration on Popular Participation, the Copenhagen Declaration and other relevant programs.
3. The CGPP shall cooperate with other relevant institutions involved in activities related to governance, popular participation, private sector development and civil society.
4. The CGPP shall also collaborate with other UNECA's technical committees and shall promote regular liaison and communication with these committees.

Article 7: The Bureau

1. The Bureau of the Committee shall be composed of five (5) members representing the three constituencies namely: Government, CSOs, and private Sector. The Bureau shall comprise members recommended by the three constituencies as follows:

2 from Government,

2 from CSOs, of which, 1 from women's organization,

1 from Private Sector.

2. The five (5) Bureau members shall elect among themselves, one Chairperson, three vice Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. UNECA will serve as the Secretariat of the Bureau.

3. The composition of the Bureau shall, whenever possible, respect the geographical equilibrium of its members.

Article 8: Term of office

1. The Bureau shall serve for one regular session of the Committee and shall remain in office until the election of the new Bureau.

2. The Bureau, in consultation with the UNECA Secretariat, may hold inter-sessional meetings as deemed necessary.

CHAPTER IV: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Article 9: Working Languages

Whenever possible, ordinary sessions of the Committee shall be conducted in French and English, with simultaneous interpretation.

Article 10: Venue and frequency of meetings

1. The meetings of the CGPP may be held in any member State, upon invitation by the country. In the absence of any offer to host the meeting, the Committee would meet at UNECA Headquarters.

2. The Committee shall meet once every two years.

Article 11: Funding

1. Ordinary sessions of the Committee are statutory. As such, participation of member States, including government, private sector and civil society representatives at the ordinary meetings of

the Committee will be borne by the participants themselves. However, this arrangement does not preclude participants from seeking financial assistance from donors to participate at meetings.

2. In the event of an extraordinary meeting of the Committee called by UNECA Secretariat, UNECA may fund the participation of the Bureau members only.

Article 12: Coordination

1. Each member State shall nominate and communicate to UNECA Secretariat a focal department to serve as liaison between UNECA and the country and to follow up on matters related to the Committee at country level.

2. Similarly representatives of the private sector and civil society should also nominate and communicate the names of their focal points to the UNECA Secretariat.

Article 13: Reporting mechanism

1. Reporting shall be in two ways. One report from UNECA on its activities in the areas of governance and popular participation in development, private sector development, APRM process, and civil society, to be submitted to the Committee at each session. The report will follow the format that should be designed and agreed upon between UNECA and the Bureau.

2. Another report from the Committee to the UNECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning to be submitted through the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) at their next session following the Committee meeting.

CHAPTER V: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 14: Amendments of the Statutes

1. Any member State and/or UNECA Secretariat may submit proposals for the amendment of this Statutes to the Committee.

2. Proposals for amendment from a member State shall be submitted to UNECA Secretariat. The UNECA Secretariat shall transmit that proposal to all member States at least 30 days after they have been received.

3. The Committee shall consider the proposals at its next meeting. Amendments shall be adopted by consensus or, failing which, by a two-third of members present at the meeting. Once adopted, the amendment shall be communicated to all member States for immediate implementation and other appropriate actions.