RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO AFRICA ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1994 AND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION
1. The objective of this document is to inform the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) and, through it, the Conference of Ministers on:

(a) The actions taken by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its substantive session held in New York from 27 June to 29 July 1994 on the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its twentieth meeting which called for action by the Council;

(b) The decisions taken by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the recommendations of ECOSOC concerning those resolutions; and

(c) Other resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa adopted during their 1994 sessions.

2. The twenty-ninth session of the Commission/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2 to 5 May 1994. It had adopted twenty-four resolutions, two decisions and two declarations. Five of these resolutions and one declaration called for action by ECOSOC. These were resolutions 770 (XXIX) on Effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF); 776 (XXIX) on Development and strengthening of the Economic Commission for Africa’s programme activities in the field of natural resources, energy and marine affairs; 777 (XXIX) on Enhancing the capacity of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs); 780 (XXIX) on Implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002); 789 (XXIX) on Strengthening information systems for Africa’s recovery and sustainable development; and Declaration 1 (XXIX) on Readmission of democratic South Africa into the Commission.

3. During the session of ECOSOC and at the request of some Member States, the afore-mentioned resolutions were referred to a consultative group for a negotiated draft acceptable to the Council. They were discussed and negotiated by a core group composed of African missions, Germany (representing the European Union), France and the United States of America. The initial position of some of the delegations was to outrightly delete all operative paragraphs with programme budget implication, considering that the Council was not aware of any steps including organizational restructuring embarked upon by ECA to ensure more cost effectiveness and efficiency. The African group was however able, through discussions, to change this position and open the doors for a negotiated draft presented to the Council for its adoption.

Resolution 770 (XXIX): Effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF)

4. The third preambular paragraph was amended as follows: "Recognizing that, during the period of the Programme of Action, many African countries have made progress in fulfilling their undertakings and that further progress remains critically dependent on access to financing from the international community, including both official and private resources, in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of the New Agenda".

5. The fourth preambular paragraph was amended to read as follows: "Noting that the first two years of the New Agenda have been affected by the constrained financial resource flows to Africa".

6. The sixth preambular paragraph was slightly amended to insert "which were" between Africa and submitted and now reads as follows: "Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the need for and feasibility of the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa’s commodities and financial resource flows to Africa, which were submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session".

7. The seventh preambular paragraph was amended to read as follows: "Taking into consideration the reports of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa on the New Agenda and on programme
evaluation in the Commission and the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1994-1997".

8. Operative paragraph 9 was reformulated to read as follows: "Invites the Secretary-General, in the framework of the restructuring of the Secretariat, to explore ways and means to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Economic Commission for Africa to fulfil its coordination, follow-up and monitoring role in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for Development of Africa in the 1990s".

9. Operative paragraph 10 was slightly amended to read as follows: "Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to monitor the implementation of the New Agenda closely, especially those aspects related to the mobilization of resources, and to report thereon to the Conference of Ministers of the Commission at its twenty-first meeting".

10. The resolution was thus adopted with the amendments and bears the number 1994/38.

Resolution 776 (XXIX): Development and strengthening of the Economic Commission for Africa’s programme activities in the field of natural resources, energy and marine affairs

11. Preambular paragraph 4 was slightly amended to include the following at the end of the paragraph "contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991".

12. Operative paragraph 3 was amended to read as follows: "Calls upon the Secretary-General, within the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, to continue to ensure the effective decentralization of relevant global programmes and activities to the Economic Commission for Africa".

13. The resolution was adopted with the amendments and the number is 1994/39.

Resolution 777 (XXIX): Enhancing the capacity of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs)

14. Preambular paragraph 6 was slightly amended to replace "member countries" by "member States".

15. Operative paragraph 3 was completely deleted and the resolution was adopted with the amendments. The number of the resolution is now 1994/40.


16. Preambular paragraph 4 was slightly amended at the end as the first "industrialized countries" was replaced by "industrializing countries".

17. In the last preambular paragraph, "Further reaffirming" was replaced by "Also reaffirming".

18. The second operative paragraph was amended to read as follows: "Invites Africa’s development partners and development finance institutions, in particular, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Islamic Development Bank, the Arab Bank for the Economic Development of Africa and African subregional banks and funds, to contribute the financial and technical resources needed for the implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa at the national and subregional levels".
19. The third operative paragraph was rearranged to read as follows: "Calls upon the African countries which have not yet done so to establish national coordinating committees for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and to take full account of the priorities of the second Decade in policy and programme formulation for the industrial sector ensuring that the implementation of the structural adjustment programmes and of the programme for the second Decade are mutually supportive".

20. Similarly, operative paragraph 4 was rearranged to read as follows: "Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to report on concrete steps taken to ensure that the programme for the second Decade and, in particular, the Coordination Unit for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa are provided with substantially increased human and financial resources so that the implementation of the fifty national and four subregional programmes for the second Decade can be supported more effectively".

21. In operative paragraph 10, "Appeals" was replaced by "Invites" and the rest reads as follows: "The General Assembly to further ensure that necessary resources are allocated to the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it to support the African countries in their efforts to implement the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa more effectively, and especially to support the activities of the Committee of 10 of the Commission at the regional, subregional and national levels".

22. The resolution, which becomes resolution 1994/41, was adopted with the amendments.

Resolution 789 (XXIX): Strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development

23. In operative paragraph 1, "member States" was amended to read "States of the region".

24. Operative paragraph 10 was amended to read as follows: "Invites the General Assembly to review the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 in the spirit of its decision 48/453, with a view to permitting the delivery of the activities of the subprogramme of the Economic Commission for Africa on statistical and information systems development".

25. The resolution was adopted with the amendments and bears the number 1994/42.

Declaration 1 (XXIX): Readmission of democratic South Africa into the Commission

26. The declaration was amended and the Council adopted it as decision 1994/303 which reads as follows: "At its forty-eighth plenary meeting, on 29 July 1994, the Council, recalling section IV of its resolution 974D (XXVII) of 30 July 1965 and noting paragraph 10 of Declaration 1 (XXIX) adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on 4 May 1994, decided to readmit South Africa as a member of the Economic Commission for Africa".

27. Other resolutions and decisions of interest to Africa adopted by ECOSOC at its substantive session of 1994 were:

(a) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (resolution 1994/7);

(b) Question of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts (resolution 1994/10);

(c) Preparations for the ninth United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (resolution 1994/20);
(d) Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera (resolution 1994/94);
(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (decision 1994/239);
(f) Cooperation in fisheries in Africa (decision 1994/264);
(g) Right of access of land-locked States to and from the sea and freedom of transit (decision 1994/298);
(h) Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development (decision 1994/300), etc.

28. As is the practice, all resolutions adopted by ECOSOC are submitted to the General Assembly for final adoption. Consequently, the above-mentioned ECA resolutions, together with other resolutions of interest to Africa, which were adopted by ECOSOC, were transmitted to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

29. Among the resolutions adopted by the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly were two of ECA’s resolutions adopted by ECOSOC and referred to above. These were resolutions 770 (XXIX) on Effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) and 789 (XXIX) on Strengthening information systems for Africa’s recovery and sustainable development. Operative paragraph 10 of resolution 789 (XXIX) was amended to read as follows: "Endorses resolution 789 (XXIX) of 4 May 1994 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa and requests the Secretary-General fully to implement the resolution within existing United Nations resources". They bear General Assembly numbers 49/142 and 49/134 respectively. The other three EGA resolutions had no financial implications and they were put forward for future discussions.

30. The following are other resolutions of interest to Africa adopted by the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly:

(a) United Nations educational and training programme for South Africa (49/1);
(b) The situation in Burundi (49/7);
(c) Assistance to Mozambique (49/21D);
(d) Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia (49/21E);
(e) Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti (49/21F);
(f) Emergency assistance to the Sudan (49/21K);
(g) Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia (49/21L);
(h) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (49/64);
(i) Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (49/82);
(j) Net flows and transfer of resources between developing countries and developed countries (49/93);
(k) Enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries (49/94);

(l) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (49/95);

(m) United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (49/96);

(n) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (49/98);

(o) Food and agriculture development (49/103);

(p) Commodities (49/104);

(q) Programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (49/107);

(r) International migration and development (49/127);

(s) Preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa (49/135);

(t) Establishment of an African nuclear weapon-free zone (49/138); etc.