

ECOSOC Resolution 2007/4

Review of the intergovernmental machinery of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic Commission for Africa resolution 844 (XXXIX) of 16 May 2006 on repositioning the Economic Commission for Africa to better respond to Africa's priorities, in which it endorsed the strategic direction, the guiding principles and proposals for repositioning the Economic Commission for Africa and requested the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to implement these proposals and reflect them in the Commission's biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, and to realign the intergovernmental, programme and organizational structures of the Economic Commission for Africa in order to enhance the secretariat's management and business processes for greater results,

Taking into account decision AU/Dec.14 (VII) on strengthening the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank partnership, adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its seventh ordinary session on 2 July 2006, in which the Heads of State and Government of member States of the African Union welcomed the commitment of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to strengthening and repositioning the Economic Commission for Africa to address Africa's development challenges and reaffirmed the role of the Economic Commission for Africa as a key and necessary United Nations institution in Africa to assist and facilitate the work of the African Union and the regional economic communities in defining, articulating and advocating common positions on development policies, issues and goals, and in promoting and supporting economic and social development in Africa,

Recalling decision AU/Dec.140 (VIII) on enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation, adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session on 30 January 2007, by which the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the African Union endorsed the signing by the United Nations and the African Union of the declaration entitled "Enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation: framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union",

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 61/234 of 22 December 2006 on enhancing the role of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa, in which the General Assembly welcomed the efforts being made by the Economic Commission for Africa to reposition itself to better respond to the challenges facing Africa,

Noting with appreciation the extensive consultations and continuing dialogue that the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa has been engaging in with the Group of African Ambassadors in Addis Ababa and New York with a view to

keeping them informed on the reforms he has taken to reposition the Economic Commission for Africa, including the adoption of the new programme and organizational structures of the Economic Commission for Africa secretariat,

Mindful that, in compliance with the request of the General Assembly and the provisions of the programme planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation rules, the intergovernmental structure of the Commission should mirror the newly adopted programme structure resulting from the repositioning of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Emphasizing the need to further define the composition and objectives of the proposed structures comprising the intergovernmental machinery as well as the rules governing their operation, due account being taken of the conditions and regulatory context of each of the subregional economic communities,

Having examined the proposed intergovernmental machinery contained in document E/ECA/COE/26/10,

Endorses the proposed intergovernmental machinery of the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into account the discussion and related recommendations made at the fortieth session of the Commission/Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, namely to:

(a) Organize a joint annual African Union/Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

(b) Replace the current Intergovernmental Committee of Experts with subregional ministerial conferences, whose meetings would be organized according to intergovernmental arrangements existing in each subregion;

(c) Organize the subsidiary organs of the Economic Commission for Africa into seven sectoral committees, as follows:

(i) Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development;

(ii) Committee on Governance and Popular Participation;

(iii) Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology;

(iv) Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration;

(v) Committee on Women and Development;

(vi) Committee on Statistics;

(vii) Committee on Human and Social Development.

*39th plenary meeting
23 July 2007*