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### **Report of the regional implementation meeting for Africa**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development referred to as “Rio+20” was convened from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The objective of the conference was to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development, assess the progress and implementation gaps, and address new and emerging challenges. The conference focused on two themes: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.
2. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) called for efficient and effective preparations for Rio+20 at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system, and encouraged the active participation of all major groups at all stages of the preparatory process. In this context, and in recognition of the important role that Regional Commissions (RCs) of the United Nations play in bridging the gap between global level agreements and national level priorities and actions, UNGA called for the Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) coordinated by RCs in preparation for the Sessions of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to be converted to Regional Preparatory Meetings for Rio+20.
3. The conference resulted in an outcome document, *The Future We Want*, in which the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives renewed their commitment to sustainable development and to ensuring promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for the present and future generation. In line with this decision of UNGA, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) spearheaded the Africa Regional Preparatory Process for Rio+20, jointly with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), in partnership with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The process was aimed at supporting African countries to collectively articulate their concerns and priorities at the conference and to ensure that these were adequately reflected in the conference outcomes. It also aimed at strengthening regional consultative mechanisms to support implementation of Rio+20 outcomes.
4. Following Rio+20, it was decided that the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-20) would convene in New York in May 2013 and that the deliberations would focus on the outcomes of Rio+20. The outcome of CSD-20 will feed into the UNGA processes on follow-up to the outcomes of Rio+20. In this regard, the RCs were requested to organize RIMs in preparation for CSD-20. In the Africa region, the sessions of the ECA Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD) have, since 2005, provided platforms for the Africa RIMs. In this context, the eighth session of the CFSSD (CFSSD-8) held from 19 to 21 November 2012, provided the platform for the Africa RIM for CSD-20. The RIM was organized by ECA in collaboration with the AUC, AfDB and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

5. The deliberations of the RIM focused on the main outcomes of Rio+20 that would be discussed at CSD-20, namely: the high-level political forum on Sustainable Development; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Means of Implementation (Financing Sustainable Development, Technology Development and Transfer; and Capacity Development); as well as the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In addition to these, the RIM considered other outcomes deemed pertinent to Africa such as the voluntary commitments that complement the traditional means of implementation, a programme on measures to complement Gross Domestic Product (GDP Plus), the green economy, and the Africa section of the Outcome Document. In the context of these Rio outcomes, the meeting also discussed relevant aspects of the post-2015 development agenda.

6. This document constitutes the Africa RIM Outcome Document for the post-Rio+20 follow-up processes including the CSD-20. It represents Africa's collective input to that session of the Commission and to the open working group on sustainable development goals. It is considered a living document that will be updated in consultation with the Bureau of CFSSD-8, the African Permanent Representatives in Addis Ababa and the coordinator of the Africa Group in New York on the basis of relevant information and developments between its adoption and the convening of CSD-20. It will be presented at relevant regional forums, including the twentieth Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), the Fifth Joint Annual Meetings of the AUC Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

## II. PREAMBLE

*We*, the representatives of African member States having consulted with relevant stakeholders, including intergovernmental organizations and major groups:

*Having* met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 19 to 21 November 2012 for the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) in preparation for the Twentieth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-20);

*Recalling* the commitments on sustainable development made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development otherwise referred to as "Rio+20" that was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012 embodied in its Outcome Document, *The Future We Want*;

*Also recalling*, that Rio+20 recognized poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge and a key overarching objective of sustainable development, and in this respect, lauding its commitment to eradicate poverty, address food insecurity, promote sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, social development and environmental protection;

*Welcoming* the commitment of Rio+20 to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages;  
*Further welcoming* the reaffirmation by the Conference of the commitment to accelerate the

achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the support to Africa's sustainable development efforts, including the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);

**Commending** the reaffirmation by Rio+20 of the Rio principles, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR), as well as Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (PFIA-21) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI);

**Expressing appreciation** for the recognition by Rio+20 of the vital role played by all major groups, including women, children and youth, indigenous people, farmers, workers and trade unions, the scientific and technological community, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders in furthering sustainable development;

**Expressing further appreciation** of the partnership between and the role played by the ECA, AUC and AfDB, RECs, UNEP, UNDP in supporting African countries to collectively articulate their concerns and priorities at the Rio+20 and in ensuring that these were adequately reflected in the conference outcomes;

**We reaffirm** the key role of all levels of government and legislative bodies in promoting sustainable development. In this regard, we request ECA, AUC, AfDB, RECs, UNEP, UNDP and other partners to continue and step up the efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards the effective implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes to support sustainable development efforts in Africa.

**Hereby** adopt this Outcome Document as follows:

### **III. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BODIES**

#### **A. Global**

7. Africa welcomes the recognition by Rio+20 that the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD) should be consistent with the Rio Principles of 1992, build on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). The region reiterates that IFSD should not be an end in itself, but should be linked to the achievement of sustainable development and thus the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental). In this regard, the region underlines the need to avoid overlaps in institutional mandates, the role and importance of having effective institutions and strategies, as well as multi-stakeholder participation. Moreover, the region considers it pertinent to ensure effective linkages among global, regional, subregional and national-level institutional processes based on the principle of subsidiarity.

#### **High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development**

8. Africa considers the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) as a forum for policy and decision making on sustainable development matters at the global level. In this regard, Africa welcomes its impending establishment as a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum to, *inter alia*, provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development.

9. The high-level political forum shall make policy decisions as it carries out the following functions:

- (a) Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development;
- (b) Enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels;
- (c) Provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue, and for stocktaking and agenda setting to advance sustainable development;
- (d) Have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development opportunities and challenges; and
- (e) Follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the outcome of the present conference and, as appropriate, relevant outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, including the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as their respective means of implementation.

10. The operational modalities of the forum should ensure effective linkages with related bodies from the regional to local levels. These linkages should be based on the principle of subsidiarity in view of its importance in ensuring effective implementation of global sustainable development agreements by means of tangible actions and outcomes at the national and local levels;

***Format and organizational matter***

11. Africa proposes that the HLPF shall have the following format and organizational aspects:

- (a) Be composed of the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives;
- (b) Convene for two days at the beginning of the sessions of the General Assembly every three years;
- (c) Be preceded by preparatory meetings of technical experts for three days, and to be supported by inputs and reports by relevant stakeholders;
- (d) Have a strong Secretariat that would, *inter alia*, support its function of ensuring a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;
- (e) Be chaired by the President of the General Assembly and its outcomes shall be a declaration adopted by the General Assembly; and

- (f) Benefit from the contribution and inputs of all relevant stakeholders.

## **B. Regional and subregional**

12. Africa lauds Rio+20 for its recognition of the important role of regional and subregional institutions in promoting sustainable development at those levels, including fostering effective linkages between the global, national and local-level institutions. Noteworthy in this regard is that the conference, *inter alia*, emphasized that regional and subregional organizations, including RCs and their Subregional Offices (SROs), play a significant role in promoting balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and underscored the need to support these institutions. In the Africa region, ECA, in collaboration with African regional and subregional organizations, as well as United Nations agencies, has been organizing Africa-RIMs in preparation for the sessions of CSD, with impressive results. ECA, AUC, AfDB, NPCA and RECs should therefore build on this experience to facilitate consultative meetings and processes that monitor, evaluate and scale-up implementation of sustainable development commitments by all countries.

13. In light of the foregoing, Africa puts forward the following:

- (a) The RIMs should be upgraded to Regional High Level Political Forums for Sustainable Development, to constitute regional chapters of the high-level political forum. This should build on the valuable experience gained in convening the RIMs;
- (b) ECA should convene the Africa Regional Political Forum (Africa-RPF) in preparation for the sessions of the High Level Forum on Sustainable Development, jointly with the AUC and the AfDB, in collaboration with relevant partners. In doing so, the provision of a strengthened platform that adequately ensures an enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development should be ensured;
- (c) To enhance participation in the Africa Regional Political Forum, AUC, AfDB, NPCA and RECs should be more actively engaged in the preparation of regional and subregional review reports in collaboration with ECA and United Nations agencies, as well as in the convening of Africa-RPFs;
- (d) Preparations for, and participation in the Africa-RPFs should ensure adequate coordination among delegations from member States, who are encouraged to include in their delegations representatives from Capitals, the African missions in Addis Ababa, the African group in New York. Representatives of major groups should also be invited to participate. This would ensure a richly-informed, well-coordinated and participatory process, and effective linkages between local, national, regional and global-level processes;

- (e) The ECA SROs and RECs in collaboration with other bodies and United Nations agencies operating at the subregional level, should organize review meetings informed by subregional review reports, which should in turn be informed by national review reports. The subregional review reports and outcomes of the subregional review meetings should feed into the Africa-level reports and RPFs;
- (f) The UNDESA should work with ECA to ensure that the national, subregional, regional and global-level processes and linkages spelt out above are realized accordingly;
- (g) In line with the Rio+20 outcomes, concrete actions should be taken to strengthen ECA and its SROs to enhance their support to African countries in furthering their sustainable development objectives, including building capacity to facilitate mainstreaming, integrated assessments, monitoring and evaluation and the provision of platforms to promote experience-sharing and knowledge networking;
- (h) The Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme (RCM-Africa) and its subregional chapters, should enhance its role in supporting a coordinated and coherent approach to United Nations support to Africa in the implementation of sustainable development agreements and should ensure effective linkage with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process at national level; and
- (i) In view of the resource implications of ensuring well-coordinated and effective processes at the different levels, Africa calls upon the international community to provide it with adequate support towards this end.

### **C. National and local**

14. Africa underscores the Rio+20 call for more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national, subnational and local levels and to this end, called on the international community to strengthen national, subnational and/or local institutions or relevant multi-stakeholder bodies and processes dealing with sustainable development, including coordinating and enabling the effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. These bodies should consolidate and ensure the mainstreaming of sustainable development at the highest level of decision-making organs of governments, the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs). Moreover, the modus operandi of these coordinating bodies should ensure the involvement of all ministries, relevant government entities and other stakeholders to enable them to exercise their full responsibilities in sustainable development.

15. In light of the above, the following should inform the establishment/strengthening and functioning of coordinating bodies for sustainable development at the national level:

- (a) The mandate, location and organizational structure of coordinating bodies should allow for horizontal and vertical linkages, and ensure that the three dimensions of sustainable development are addressed in an integrated manner;
- (b) The composition of coordinating bodies should be broad-based ensuring the full and effective involvement of all relevant ministries and government entities and major groups. Participatory mechanisms should ensure the active engagement of all stakeholders in decision-making and the implementation of activities;
- (c) National coordinating bodies for sustainable development should have decentralized structures at local levels to guide implementation and ensure that the desired impact is made at those levels. National bodies should be encouraged to recognize and include local experiences, lessons learnt and actions in sustainability solutions and agreements and to feed them into the policy and decision-making processes at the national level;
- (d) Sustainable development coordinating bodies should guide the development and implementation of policies, strategies and plans in order to ensure synergies and avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts;
- (e) Coordinating bodies should adopt or enhance the use and application of approaches and tools including integrated assessments to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;
- (f) Coordinating bodies should have a sensitization and advocacy role regarding sustainable development matters and should provide platforms for experience-sharing and knowledge networking; and
- (g) ECA jointly with AUC and AfDB, in partnership with NPCA, RECs and other partners, should provide capacity-building support and promote exchange of experiences and knowledge networking among the coordinating bodies.

#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

16. Africa recognizes the important role that sustainable development goals, based on the Millennium Declaration, Agenda 21 and the JPOI, could play in pursuing sustainable development, coherent with and integrated into the development agenda beyond 2015 (Post-2015 development agenda) based on the Millennium Declaration. Taking into account that the development of these goals should not divert efforts, resources and focus from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, we emphasize that most African countries are lagging behind and may not achieve MDGs by 2015. In this regard, Africa reiterates the need for acceleration of support to achieve the MDGs.

17. Africa considers it critical that the SDGs complement rather than substitute the MDGs. Linking the SDGs to the MDGs and establishing goals that become part of the post-2015 development agenda would promote coherence in policymaking and synergistic implementation of internationally agreed goals. It would also minimize the pressure on the limited institutional capacities of many African countries that would otherwise be struggling with a myriad of agendas that appear to be unrelated, distinct or separate. In this regard, it is imperative that the two processes are carried out in close collaboration and synergy. The SDGs should also encompass all dimensions of sustainable development, so as to ensure greater convergence among the issues captured by the MDGs Post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.

18. Africa reaffirms that SDGs should be based on the following principles;

- (a) The Rio Principles particularly the principle of CBDR taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities;
- (b) The goals, targets and indicators should embody the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as issues pertaining to governance for sustainable development;
- (c) The SDGs should be action-oriented and allow for tracking progress towards sustainable development over time. In this regard, they should have clear and measurable targets designed taking into account different regional and national priorities, realities, capacities and developmental levels;
- (d) Should be universal in nature and flexible enough to cater for different national priorities;
- (e) The SDGs must build on and complement the MDGs that must be maintained and be effectively implemented and supported;
- (f) The SDGs must be accompanied by adequate means of implementation particularly financing, technology transfer and capacity building;
- (g) Promote equitable and inclusive human-centred development; and
- (h) The SDGs should be developed in the context of *One United Nations Development Agenda*.

19. Eradicating poverty is the greatest challenge facing the African continent today and it remains an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Therefore, Africa considers that the SDGs should address the following priority areas:

- (a) Poverty eradication;

- (b) Combating hunger, ensuring food security and nutrition;
- (c) Access to safe water supply and adequate sanitation facilities;
- (d) Access to quality education and health services;
- (e) Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women;
- (f) Equitable and universal access to social services and social protection;
- (g) Sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
- (h) Reducing vulnerability and promoting resilience, including to the impacts of climate change;
- (i) Creating decent employment opportunities;
- (j) Enhancing infrastructure development;
- (k) Ensuring access to affordable and sustainable energy;
- (l) Combating land degradation and desertification, drought and deforestation;
- (m) Addressing climate change challenges, including through adaptation and mitigation;
- (n) Promoting sustainable water resource management;
- (o) Ensuring favourable access to, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including for climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
- (p) Fostering peace and security.

20. The goals, targets and indicators should be informed by the outcomes of the Africa process on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and that of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA) in the context of which a Sustainable Development Indicator set has been established for Africa. The process is led by ECA, in collaboration with AUC, AfDB, and United Nations agencies.

21. The SDRA provides an important medium for assessing progress towards sustainable development in Africa and should constitute the regional chapter of the proposed global sustainable development report. The SDRA process should therefore be supported to ensure that the report becomes the authoritative reference document for tracking progress towards sustainable development in the region.

22. In addition to domesticating the SDGs and related targets and indicators at the regional level, they should also be domesticated at the subregional and national levels. Indeed, a clear and actionable indicator framework for sustainable development at the national level is important to enhance understanding, guide integration modalities and identify the type of linkages that should exist among different sectors. In this connection, the region calls on relevant global and regional institutions to support countries in the development and application of sustainable development indicator frameworks.

23. In order to ensure a well-coordinated and effective SDG process, Africa calls on the international community to provide it with adequate support to enable it establish an effective, broad based bottom-up consultative process to flesh out goals, indicators and targets that should underpin the SDGs.

## **V. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

24. Africa recognizes that it is primarily responsible for its own development, and has made significant strides in this regard. However, it is clear that the region requires external support to complement its efforts, particularly in the face of new and emerging challenges. Therefore, the region deems as critical the fulfillment of previous commitments and pledges on means of implementation, including financing, technology development and transfer, capacity development, international trade and south-south cooperation. In this context, the international community should capitalize on the synergies among the different means of implementation in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in their delivery for sustainable development. Africa is encouraged by the Rio+20 recognition of the need for additional resources for sustainable development on the part of developing countries and its further recognition of the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing.

### **A. Financing**

25. Africa welcomes the agreement reached at Rio+20, and the subsequent UNGA resolution to establish an intergovernmental process to better inform decisions regarding sustainable development financing. The region is encouraged that the process will assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives. Africa is well represented, and will actively participate in the deliberations of the working group constituted by UNGA and tasked with the assessment of financing needs and preparation of the sustainable development financing strategy. In this context, Africa submits as follows:

- (a) The process for the identification of a sustainable development financing strategy should be broad-based, transparent and inclusive and take into account the views of all stakeholders;
- (b) The process should explore all possible sources of financing, including internal and external, public and private. These should include: strategies to enable countries, in particular developing countries, to mobilize additional domestic resources for sustainable development, including through innovative sources; mechanisms to enhance revenues from the exploitation of natural resources and direct these towards development objectives; the establishment of special drawing rights for developing regions; the extension of debt relief beyond its current levels (based on debt “sustainability”); opportunities for public-private partnerships in financing public projects with high social and economic returns; leveraging on existing specialized financing instruments, such as those on climate change, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF); the role of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Official Development Assistance (ODA), and the aid and development effectiveness agenda;

- (c) The process should exploit the promotion of synergies among the different means of implementation (financing, technology, capacity development and trade) to enhance efficiency in the deployment and use of resources;
- (d) Assessment of financing needs should focus on the sustainable development priorities of countries in line with their national development objectives, and the strategy should prioritize the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed; and
- (e) Furthermore, ECA, AUC, AfDB and other partners should provide platforms for broad based consultations on the financing strategy in Africa to ensure that the inputs of the African members of the sustainable development financing committee are well informed by the region's priorities and concerns.

26. While actively engaging in the global process, African countries remain committed to continue to mobilizing domestic resources (both public and private), improving the national governance environment, harmonizing national, regional and international efforts, pursuing policy coherence, and establishing or strengthening national policies that promote investment to implement sustainable development commitments.

27. AfDB, ECA and AUC should support countries to:

- (a) Carry out a comprehensive assessment of the sustainable development financing requirements for the region to inform its negotiating position regarding the sustainable development financing strategy;
- (b) Consolidate existing funds for sustainable development related matters with the aim of providing an overall picture of the financial resources available, creating synergies, assessing gaps and developing a strategy for mobilizing additional resources; and
- (c) Explore, in the context of (b) above, the possibility of establishing an Africa Sustainable Development Fund for priority areas such as capacity development and reform of institutions and processes; research and development to support innovation and the generation of new knowledge; developing mechanisms for technology development, transfer, adaptation and application; and infrastructure policy reforms.

## **B. Technology development and transfer**

28. Africa considers that access to safe, clean and environmentally-sustainable technologies adapted to local needs and circumstances would help the region exploit its rich natural resource base without undermining its sustainability, thereby contributing to sustainable development in the

region. But most African countries do not have adequate access to these technologies, as they lack the technological know-how, skills, resources, infrastructure, including institutions and the business environment necessary to stimulate technology development. In this regard, Africa is inspired by Rio+20's emphasis on the need for technology transfer to developing countries. However, the region notes the caveat implying that this transfer should be mutually agreed. Therefore, Africa reiterates its call on the international community to make technology transfer a binding commitment on the part of developed countries.

29. Notwithstanding, Africa is encouraged by the undertaking of the conference to support the building of science and technology capacity, including through collaboration among research institutions, universities, the private sector, governments, non-governmental organizations and scientists. Africa is further encouraged by the Rio+20 call for relevant United Nations agencies to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. Africa will actively participate in the discussions to ensure that the region's priorities and concerns with respect to technology development, adaptation, and transfer are adequately reflected.

30. In light of the above, Africa submits that the Secretary-General's Report on a technology facilitation mechanism that would promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean technologies should include the following considerations:

- (a) The need to address all steps involved in the process of transfer of technology, notably: (i) identification of the need and the technology of interest; (ii) the potential sources, costs and negotiations to gain access; (iii) the actual transfer of technology; (iv) adaptation and learning to operate and maintain the technology; and (v) use and further upgrade of the acquired technologies;
- (b) The need for the United Nations to establish an independent advisory board drawing on its various agencies to provide different perspectives on technology development, transfer and use. A system-wide approach to development, transfer and use of clean technology would enable the United Nations to coordinate its activities across its agencies;
- (c) Establishment of regional network of centres of excellence and hubs, leveraging on existing networks and institutional arrangements to assess the needs and to identify, develop, adapt and transfer clean technologies;
- (d) Strategies to promote and strengthen regional, subregional and national institutions in technology innovation through increased financial resources, as well as partnerships within and outside the region for technology development, and promoting industry-academia-government partnerships; this may include establishment of a mechanism that can help countries identify, source, adapt and utilize existing and emerging technologies as close to the ground as possible;

- (e) The role of partnerships between government, business and civil society to identify and test new technologies and approaches, and to scale-up promising ones. This should include the role of public funding in leveraging sustainable private investments;
- (f) Agreements to promote coordination and synergies across the various technology transfer initiatives and the establishment of technology mechanisms and technology networks. Such mechanisms and networks should be leveraged upon for the development, diffusion and transfer of broader green technologies for sustainable development;
- (g) Options for establishing regional funding mechanisms to support developing countries in meeting the costs associated with technology development, adaptation, transfer and deployment. These should include training and any royalties or licensing fees where the owners of the technologies may not be willing to waive them; and
- (h) International support for the establishment of a technology development and transfer mechanism in Africa, in particular for those technologies that can help Africa better exploit its rich natural resource base without undermining its sustainability.

### **C. Capacity development**

31. Africa considers capacity development, including its three facets, human resources, organizational and institutional, as crucial to implementing sustainable development commitments in the region. In this regard, the region recognizes the need to develop and implement comprehensive national capacity development strategies as a matter of priority to further the implementation of its sustainable development agenda. In addition to the international community, Africa endeavours to strengthen partnerships with non-traditional actors and the private sector, both within and outside the continent, to leverage resources and capacities for sustainable development. Moreover, Africa reiterates the urgent need to fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building.

32. Africa appreciates the emphasis of Rio+20 on the need for enhanced efforts for sustainable development, its call for strengthened technical and scientific cooperation, including through north- south, south-south and triangular cooperation, as well as its reiteration of human resource development, including through training and knowledge transfer. The region reiterates the call of the conference for relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations to support developing countries in capacity-building for developing resource-efficient and inclusive economies.

33. In light of the foregoing, Africa submits that the international community supports:

- (a) The revision of the AU-NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework to enhance the building of capacity for implementing sustainable development commitments. The new strategy should include clear and measurable indicators to monitor and evaluate interventions that address the region's progress on capacity development.
- (b) The elaboration of national capacity development strategies that take a broader perspective, embodying all aspects of capacity development, including human resource development, organizational development and institutional development;
- (c) The reform of Africa's educational curricula to provide for the development of knowledge and skills for sustainable development at all levels; and
- (d) The promotion of coordination and synergies among the various capacity development initiatives, in international agreements in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

#### **D. Voluntary commitments**

34. Africa welcomes the commitments voluntarily entered into at Rio+20 and (to be entered into) throughout 2012 by all stakeholders to implement concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and actions to promote sustainable development and eradicate poverty. Africa underlines the importance of these voluntary commitments, which could help the region to translate the various outcomes of Rio+20 into concrete programmes and actions to promote and achieve sustainable development in the region. Therefore, it is essential for African countries to fully benefit from the voluntary commitments and promote the scaling-up of the related initiatives. In this regard, African countries will endeavour to:

- (a) Work with the committing organizations in order to better define and specify the target countries/beneficiaries, mechanisms for accessing and activating the financing and technical support, as well as clarifying roles and responsibilities;
- (b) Work with the various committing organizations to ensure better coordinated and integrated approaches in the delivery of the commitments, as this would enhance synergy and ensure effectiveness in the realization of the commitments;
- (c) Engage the committing organizations and beneficiary countries to develop and implement short, medium or long-term monitoring/tracking, accountability and dialogue framework and forums in order to follow-up and ensure delivery on the commitments;
- (d) Be proactive in expressing their interest to committing organizations for inclusion in relevant initiatives. This is particularly important for those countries that have not been specifically targeted;

- (e) Advocate for specific and more commitments on sustainable development in priority areas. These include poverty eradication; sustainable development economics, finance and trade; measuring sustainable development progress; natural disaster preparedness; land degradation and desertification control; gender equality; and sustainable consumption and production; and
- (f) Together with the committing organizations document and disseminate good practices and lessons learned in the course of implementation.

35. Furthermore, Africa calls upon ECA and partners to:

- (a) Serve as a broker between UNDESA, the committing organizations and the target countries and beneficiaries to ensure that the intended support is provided in an efficient manner;
- (b) Identify non-target countries and advocate for their inclusion in relevant programmes;
- (c) Promote platforms to share experiences and foster knowledge networking among countries and other stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society organizations. The aim is to contribute to effective implementation, as well as the scaling-up and scaling-out of good practices and success stories.

## **VI. THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

36. Africa is heartened by the Rio+20 call for continued and enhanced efforts to support SIDS in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, as well as for the strengthening of United Nations System support to SIDS. In this connection, the region welcomes the agreement reached at Rio+20 to convene in 2014, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, building on the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and the subsequent adoption by UNGA at its sixty-seventh session, of a resolution that spells out the modalities of the conference. African SIDS endeavour to effectively prepare for, participate in and ensure that the region's priorities and concerns are adequately addressed in the conference outcomes. In this connection, Africa:

- (a) Reiterates the importance of the conference in consolidating and scaling-up the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, thus enabling SIDS to attain sustainable development, and the need for actions to be undertaken to create awareness and generate a high profile for the conference;

- (b) Underlines the need for the conference to reach an outcome that is bold and ambitious, which builds on previous processes including Rio+20 and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation+5. As such Africa calls for the outcome to build on the progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy;
- (c) Underscores the importance of robust national and regional preparations and therefore the need to mobilize and provide adequate resources for capacity-building and to support national and regional preparatory activities for the conference, as well as the effective representation and participation of African SIDS in the conference; and
- (d) Urges effective and coordinated support to the national and regional preparations to be provided by the United Nations System for African SIDS and encourages ECA to be actively engaged in the process, working closely with DESA/SIDS Unit, UNDP/RBA, UNEP/ROA, other relevant United Nations agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) such as the Indian Ocean Commission.

## **VII. PROGRAMME OF WORK ON BROADER MEASURES OF PROGRESS TO COMPLEMENT GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**

37. Africa has long recognized the need for new reference indicators to assess the economic, social and environmental performance of its economies, alongside GDP. In this context, the region has called for using the new indicators and the Human Development Index (HDI) for a better understanding of the state of its economies. Furthermore, Africa considers as important the adoption of policies that promote the integration of the true environmental cost of production and consumption into accounting models, in order to address the cause, rather than the symptoms of environmental and natural resources degradation and depletion.

38. In spite of efforts to bridge the gap through several regional, subregional and national initiatives, African countries continue to be afflicted by limited institutional capacities and weak statistical systems. Therefore, Africa welcomes the call of Rio+20 for broader measures of progress to complement GDP in order to better inform policy decisions. The region looks forward to the successful launching of a programme of work in this area by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant organizations, including those in the region. This will provide Africa with the opportunity to undertake a more accurate assessment of the state of its economies and adopt policies that internalize the social and environmental costs of growth to better inform sustainable development trajectories. In light of the foregoing, Africa submits as follows:

- (a) The Statistical Commission for Africa should provide a platform in the region to discuss and inform Africa's position on the programme of work on measures to

complement GDP. In this regard, its various working groups should effectively coordinate with a view to ensuring effective linkages with one another, relevant ECA committees and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD);

- (b) AUC, in collaboration with ECA and AfDB, should develop a management framework for the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics, taking into account the need to consider statistics and indicators to complement GDP and other economic indicators from the System of National Accounts to provide more comprehensive measures of sustainable development;
- (c) AUC, ECA, AfDB, and other regional institutions, as well as the international community, are called upon to step up their support to African countries in the context of relevant regional and subregional frameworks, to enable their effective participation in the programme of work on measures to complement GDP; and
- (d) The UNSD should ensure effective linkages with relevant regional platforms to ensure that region specific priorities and concerns, as well as challenges and constraints, are factored in the global discussions.

## **VIII. GREEN ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

39. Africa applauds the pronouncements of Rio+20 on the green economy, which are in line with its thinking. The region reiterates that green economy is but one tool/pathway for achieving sustainable development. In this regard, the green economy should be rooted in national priorities and plans, and should not be used as aid conditionality and become a barrier to trade. The transition should be enabled by adequate means of implementation and should take into account the region's level of development.

40. Africa is already engaged in the green economy discussions, which has been debated in several regional platforms. Moreover, some African countries have adopted green-growth strategies and are pursuing green growth in selected sectors. However, in view of the concerns expressed regarding the transition to a green economy, it is considered prudent to adopt a step approach, focusing on selected sectors of the economy where targeted investments with accompanying enabling measures could spur inclusive green growth. It is for this reason that several development partners are now referring to inclusive green growth rather than green economy, which may imply the need for radical transformational changes.

41. In light of the above, Africa:

- (a) Will continue to deliberate on the green economy and green-growth paradigms with a view to better understanding their implications for the region;

- (b) Will adopt a step-wise approach, focusing initial efforts on understanding the challenges and opportunities for inclusive green growth in selected sectors of the economy;
- (c) Use the momentum of Rio+20 as an opportunity to catalyse local actions for sustainability and development programmes in the area of the green growth for the realization of sustainable urbanization;
- (d) Will endeavour to put in place an enabling environment that would strengthen partnership with civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders, and enable business and industry, to contribute to sustainable development, and to ensure that green growth contributes to the overarching goal of poverty eradication;
- (e) Calls on developed countries to speedily implement internationally agreed commitments on appropriate technology development, transfer and diffusion and corresponding know-how on favourable terms;
- (f) Urges the international community to mobilize additional financial resources to support African countries that so decide to develop and implement inclusive green-growth strategies and plans that are aligned with national priorities and development strategies;
- (g) ECA, AUC, AfDB, UNEP, UNDP and other regional partners should support Africa's sustainable development efforts, including through:
  - (i) Assessing the challenges and opportunities of pursuing inclusive green growth for their development agenda;
  - (ii) Supporting the development of inclusive green growth policies and strategies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
  - (iii) Establishing mechanisms for sharing toolboxes and best practices in applying policies on green economy/green growth, good examples of policies promoting inclusive green growth; and
  - (iv) Developing and applying methodologies for assessing policies on inclusive green growth.

## **IX. THEMATIC AREAS AND CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES**

42. Africa deems the thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues contained in the Rio+20 Outcome Document as relevant to the region's sustainable development agenda. For most of them, the region has prepared programmes and action plans. In this regard, Africa will implement the Rio+20 outcomes within the framework of existing regional, subregional and national frameworks, which could be reviewed to address the Rio+20 outcomes. The support of United

Nations agencies through RCM Africa will provide an effective framework for a coordinated support to the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes.

43. In this regard, Africa submits that the international community should:

- (a) Support the revision/strengthening of existing regional programmes and action plans to incorporate as appropriate, related thematic and cross-sectoral issues identified in the Outcome Document of Rio+20; and
- (b) Support RCM-Africa to implement the business and work plans of its various clusters to ensure a coordinated support for the implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20 from regional to national level.

## **X. AFRICA**

44. Africa welcomes the fact that Rio+20 dedicated a specific section to the region. It welcomes the conference's call for the international community to enhance support and fulfil commitments to advance sustainable development in the region, including the effective implementation of the NEPAD programme. Africa reiterates this call, as well as the one urging development partners to support the region in strengthening human capacities and democratic institutions, in line with national priorities, and to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing development.

45. Africa recognizes that the foundation for sustainable development lies in good governance, and has made important strides towards deepening political and economic governance, as well as institution building.

46. In order to enhance the momentum towards the achievement of sustainable development, Africa calls on the international community to:

- (a) Support the new generation of leaders through provision of the necessary funding for credible electoral processes, which respond to the need for change, reforms and new perspectives in the pursuit of sustainable development;
- (b) Enhance support for the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which is a good initiative for strengthening governance in the region. The effective implementation of the National Plans of Action deriving from the APRM process will go a long way in improving political, economic and corporate governance in countries;
- (c) Enjoins the international community to reinvigorate the political will and commitment to enable Africa realize its sustainable development goals, such as those embodied in NEPAD, and the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs;

- (d) Support the development and implementation of national strategies for sustainable development with clear milestones for the achievement of results in each of the dimensions of sustainable development; and
- (e) Support the creation of a sustainable development financing mechanism for Africa, to enable a well-coordinated and efficient mobilization of resources at all levels for the effective implementation of sustainable development commitments in the region.

## **XI. CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD**

47. The region commends Rio+20 for setting in motion a series of crucial intergovernmental processes that will ultimately determine the impact of the conference for the global sustainable development agenda. All of these processes are critical for Africa, as they deal with matters that have significant bearing for the region's sustainable development agenda.

48. Africa stands ready to effectively engage in these intergovernmental processes, to ensure that its priorities and concerns are adequately addressed in their outcomes. These include: the high-level political forum on Sustainable Development; Sustainable Development Goals; Means of Implementation (financing, technology development and transfer and capacity development); the Programme on Broader Measures of Progress to Complement GDP and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

49. Africa will build on the partnership model of the Africa Regional Preparatory Process for Rio+20 to ensure the effective implementation of the conference outcomes in the region. Africa will not lose the momentum and will engage in the implementation process with even more determination than during the preparatory period. This is considered crucial, as sustainable development is not an option in the choice of routes to transformation of national economies and societies. It is a challenge that Africa has to address for long-term survival. Therefore, Africa calls on its development partners to effectively accompany it in its implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes.

50. This Outcome Document shall be considered a living document to be updated on the basis on new developments and information. In this regard, ECA will update the document in close consultation with the Bureau of CFSSD-8, African Permanent Missions in Addis Ababa, and the Coordinator of the African group in New York. It shall serve as Africa's collective input to CSD-20 and to relevant GA processes on follow up to the outcomes of Rio+20. It shall also form the basis for the preparation of an Action Plan on the Rio+20 outcomes that will be jointly prepared and implemented by AUC, ECA and AfDB in collaboration with all stakeholders and other partners at regional, subregional, national and local levels.

51. The ECA, AUC and AfDB, in consultation with the chairperson of CFSSD-8 and the

coordinator of the African Group in New York, shall coordinate and ensure that this Outcome Document is presented at relevant regional forums, including the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU); and the Fifth Joint Annual Meetings of the AUC Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

## **XII. VOTE OF THANKS**

52. We commend the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other partners for supporting Africa's adequate preparations for and effective participation in the Rio+20 Conference, and for facilitating the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20 in the region.

53. We further commend the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for successfully convening the Africa RIM for CSD-20.

54. We are grateful to H.E. Lazare Makayat Safouesse, Ambassador of the Republic of the Congo to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and Chairperson of the Bureau of CFSSD-8, for ably guiding the deliberation of the meeting with successful and productive outcomes.

55. Finally, we express our profound gratitude to the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their generosity and warm hospitality during our stay in Addis Ababa.