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Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fiftieth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 14

Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 12th meeting, on 15 June 2010, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 (A/65/6 (Prog. 14)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the introduction of programme 14 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 (A/65/6 (Prog. 14)), which, together with other programmes focusing on poverty eradication, sustainable economic and social development and the attainment of the international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, contribute to the development of Africa and are highly valued. Support was expressed for all 10 subprogrammes of programme 14 and for the focus on the themes of macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development, food security and sustainable development, governance and public administration, information and science and technology for development, trade, economic cooperation and regional integration, gender and women in development, subregional activities for



development, development planning and administration, statistics and social development.

4. The view was expressed that in respect of the current dilemma faced by Africa, paragraph 14.3 of programme 14 gives a very accurate description of the situation on the continent. The view was also expressed that the strategic framework clearly charts the way forward, illustrating the energy of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in contributing towards the sustainable development of the African continent, and the Commission was commended on its efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals. The view was expressed that it was clear that Africa appears to be the only continent unable to reduce poverty by the year 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by that date.

5. The United Nations system's continued concrete contribution towards solidifying the objective of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) of forging new global partnerships, which also illustrates the international solidarity and partnership with respect to the development needs of Africa, was commended.

6. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts made to ensure that the subprogrammes are interdependent and complementary.

7. Satisfaction was expressed with the objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and strategies of each subprogramme. The view was also expressed that in some instances, such as in subprogramme 5, Trade, economic cooperation and regional integration, expected accomplishment (c) and indicators of achievement (c) (i) through (c) (iii) were not realistic and measurable from the ECA point of view, since the logical framework of the subprogramme should provide a sense of what ECA is expected to achieve and how it would be able to measure its contribution, as some of the increased activity in all three indicators may be the result of the activities of other institutions (i.e., the Commonwealth or the Tokyo International Conference on African Development).

8. The view was expressed that expected accomplishment (b) and indicator of achievement (b) of subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development, appear to be the same, and it was considered that greater emphasis should be placed on the capacity of African countries to mobilize external funding in view of the correlation between the management of external funding and debt management as well as domestic resource mobilization. The view was also expressed that subprogramme 2, Food security and sustainable development, should be part of subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development, as subprogramme 2 contained no new elements. The view was also expressed that in respect of subprogramme 4, Information and science and technology for development, greater emphasis should be placed on capacity-building for research and development within Africa.

9. A query was raised as to how many countries had joined the free-trade areas referred to in indicator of achievement (a) (i) of subprogramme 5. The view was expressed that no mention was made in subprogramme 5 of cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO. A further query was raised as to the meaning of the phrase "physical integration" contained in the objective of subprogramme 5. The view was also expressed that the phrase "analysis of the African Governments and other associated development actors" contained in the objective of subprogramme 8,

Development planning and administration, was vague. The view was also expressed that paragraph 14.36, which contains the strategy of subprogramme 8, conveys the sense that the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) has become less relevant and therefore raises questions as to when it might have become less relevant. Another speaker commended the new work strategy of IDEP under subprogramme 8, consolidating its role as a premier capacity-development resource for African Governments.

10. The leading role of the African Centre for Statistics in the implementation of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity-Building in Africa, falling under subprogramme 9, was commended. The need to develop broad partnerships within the United Nations system, regional economic communities such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States and the Arab Maghreb Union was stressed.

11. While on the one hand it appeared that at the United Nations level there was coordination among entities in the development sphere, concern was expressed that, on the other hand, there appeared to be insufficient coordination with the African Union Commission/NEPAD structures.

12. The view was expressed that, although it was understood that the proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 was formulated prior to the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency as a technical body of the African Union, replacing the NEPAD secretariat, at the 14th African Union Summit, held in Addis Ababa from 31 January to 2 February 2010, closer coordination with those structures was recommended with a view to achieving optimum coordination.

13. The view was expressed that the great strides made by Africa towards ownership and responsibility through the African Action Plan and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, made it incumbent on all stakeholders to bring into alignment their development programmes and projects and, accordingly, to adopt the requisite planning and coordination measures and ensure that they are increasingly harmonized with those that Africa has set for itself; hence these developments should be taken into consideration in all coordination activities.

14. Clarification was sought as to how ECA dealt with the question of migration, what migration programmes there were in Africa and the challenges that result from migration.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. **The Committee urged the Economic Commission for Africa to continue its support to the African Union Commission and its NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to realize Africa's own priority-setting through the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, regional coordination of and support for NEPAD (programme 9) and the African Action Plan, which endeavour to coordinate and present a programme of development for Africa to serve as an overall, albeit sector-based, planning tool for member States and international partners.**

16. The Committee commended the important role that the Economic Commission for Africa is playing in coordination with regional organizations, in particular the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, regional economic communities, national organizations and member States, and welcomed the focus on efforts to achieve coherence between global and regional priorities, and the goals and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as well as its focus on the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements, in order to enhance development on the continent.

17. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed strategic framework, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 14.3

In the last sentence, delete the word "recurring".
