



## Economic and Social Council

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### Committee for Programme and Coordination

#### Fifty-second session

4-29 June 2012

Agenda item 7

#### Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

#### Addendum

### Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3(b))

#### Programme 15

#### Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 14th meeting, on 12 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 15)).
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 and support were expressed for the programme and for the work of the Economic Commission for Africa. The importance of the programme as one of the priorities of the Organization was emphasized.
4. It was observed that programme 15 was just one of many programmes targeting Africa and that the Organization should devote more time and programmes to support the African continent. The view was expressed that although the continent received the greatest attention by the United Nations, in particular given the growing number of initiatives, meetings and resolutions relating to African challenges, the multiplicity of efforts being made did not seem to meet the challenges faced by the continent. The view was also expressed that the United Nations needed greater focus in its work so as to avoid the dissipation of its efforts.



5. The opinion was expressed that the document before the Committee reflected an optimistic outlook for economic development in Africa. It was also observed that the proposed programme should highlight existing challenges faced by the continent, including issues relating to poverty, vulnerable sectors of society, infrastructure, youth unemployment, gender and equality.

6. It was observed that paragraph 15.2 of the programme referred to the mandates emanating from the outcomes and decisions of major global conferences and summits, including the 2012 World Summit on Sustainable Development, that were as yet unknown. The view was expressed that the programme of work should be focused on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

7. The opinion was expressed that paragraph 15.6 of the programme stated that under each of the subprogrammes, particular attention would be given to gender mainstreaming and to addressing the special needs of Africa's least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as countries emerging from conflict and fragile States. In this connection, clarification was sought as to the use of the term "fragile States", which did not represent agreed language for the United Nations.

8. In respect of the proposed focus on strategies for poverty reduction, employment creation, infrastructure and access to energy, clarifications were sought regarding General Assembly resolutions on youth, which had been taken into account in defining the proposed direction of the programme.

9. It was observed that some of the proposed expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement set out in the programme were focused on measuring achievements of Member States rather than on measuring accomplishments of the Secretariat.

10. It was noted that the proposed objective of subprogramme 3, Governance and public administration, differed from the objective for the period 2012-2013, particularly with regard to the concept of promoting good governance on the part of all Governments of African countries and the role of the State. In this connection, clarification was sought regarding the measurement of changes in capacities of African countries in accordance with the proposed objective.

11. Clarification was also sought concerning the work of the Commission in the area of trade and social development.

12. In addition, clarification was sought on the degree of cooperation between structures of the Commission and those of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

**13. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015, subject to the following modifications:**

**Overall orientation***Paragraph 15.6*

**Replace with the following:**

**“Under each of the subprogrammes, particular attention will be given to gender mainstreaming and to addressing the special needs of Africa’s least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries emerging from conflicts or recovering from natural disasters. Emphasis will also be placed on supporting member States to achieve sustainable development goals, in line with the commitments of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), design strategies for poverty reduction after the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, employment creation, infrastructure development, including promoting access to energy for all, and advocate for youth development.”**

**Subprogramme 1****Macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development***Paragraph 15.13*

**Replace first two sentences with the following:**

**“The issues to be dealt with will include macroeconomic, social and sectoral policies; accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by supporting African least developed countries and countries emerging from conflicts or recovering from natural disasters; and the mobilization of resources to promote investment and industry for development, including South-South cooperation and stemming capital flight and illicit financial flows from Africa. In that context, the strategy will particularly focus on addressing the needs of least developed countries, countries emerging from conflicts or recovering from natural disasters, small island States and landlocked developing countries in Africa in line with the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action.”**

**Subprogramme 3****Governance and public administration***Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat*

**Replace expected accomplishment (a) with the following:**

**“(a) Enhanced capacities of member States to adopt good governance practices and standards to attain major development goals in the context of the African Union and its NEPAD programme”.**

**Replace expected accomplishment (c) with the following:**

**“(c) Enhanced engagement with the private sector and civil society in development processes, in full consultation with concerned Member States”.**

*Indicators of achievement*

**Replace indicator (c) with the following:**

**“(c) Increased number of African countries implementing mechanisms and regulatory frameworks for enhancing the engagement of the private sector and civil society in development processes”.**

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