

**Economic Commission for Africa  
Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender**Fourth session  
Online, 17 and 18 November 2021Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Election of the Bureau**

## Information note on the Bureau of the Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender

The **Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender** of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) carries out the functions of the following disbanded ECA Committees:

- (a) Committee on Women and Development (1979–2013);
- (b) Committee on Social Development (2009–2013);
- (c) Committee on Gender and Social Development (2015–2017).

In 2019, pursuant to reforms to the organizational structure of ECA, carried out within the context of the wider United Nations reform process, the Committee on Gender and Social Development was renamed the Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender. Despite the change in the Committee's name, the session numbering of the Committee on Gender and Social Development was maintained.

The fourth session of the Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender will take place on 17 and 18 November 2021 under the theme "Building forward better towards an inclusive and resilient future".

The role of the Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender derives from para. 18A.45 of the United Nations General Assembly (2013), Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, Part V, Regional cooperation for development, Section 18, Economic and social development in Africa, A/68/6 (Sect. 18), which reads as follows:

### **"2. Functional and sectoral subsidiary organs of the Commission**

#### *Committee on Gender and Social Development*

18A.45 The role of the Committee on Social Development, as an advisory forum of experts and policymakers, is to provide guidance to the Commission in its work of promoting equitable and inclusive human and social development in Africa, with particular focus on gender, employment, population and youth development, social protection and urbanization. The Committee reviews follow-up activities pertaining to global conferences and regional action programmes in the areas of social

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\* E/ECA/CSPPG/4/1.



development, including the global and regional platforms for action on the advancement of women. It also reviews major trends and issues of regional interest regarding human and social development. The Committee meets biennially”.

More specifically, the Bureau of the Committee:

- (a) Provides guidance and expert opinion on the priorities and activities of ECA;
- (b) Reviews past activities and future programmes of ECA;
- (c) Provides recommendations for strengthening ECA programmes to better serve member States and regional economic communities;
- (d) Provides policy guidance to ensure that ECA activities are relevant to development needs in Africa and address the continent’s critical development challenges;
- (e) Advises on priorities for the implementation and review of regional and international policy agendas in relation to the work of ECA and;
- (f) Provides direction on the partnership of ECA with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other development partners.

This information note is being circulated to provide input in connection with the election of the incoming Bureau of the Committee, which will serve a two-year term (2021–2023). The election of the incoming Bureau will take place prior to the start of the fourth session of the Committee. To facilitate the election process, the membership of previous Bureaus is shared below for consideration by member States.

**Membership of the Bureau of the Committee on Women and Development, 1979–2013**

| <i>Term</i> | <i>President</i>                 | <i>First Vice-President</i> | <i>Second Vice-President</i> | <i>First Rapporteur</i>  | <i>Second Rapporteur</i>         |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1979–1980   | Cameroon                         | Zambia                      | Morocco                      | Senegal                  | Rwanda                           |
| 1981–1982   | Cameroon                         | Gambia                      | Rwanda                       | Tunisia                  | Lesotho                          |
| 1983–1984   | Guinea                           | Swaziland                   | Congo                        | Zaire                    | Morocco                          |
| 1985–1986   | Burundi                          | United Republic of Tanzania | Congo                        | Togo                     | Morocco                          |
| 1987–1988   | Ghana                            | Tunisia                     | Zimbabwe                     | Rwanda                   | Equatorial Guinea                |
| 1989–1991   | Ghana                            | Tunisia                     | Zimbabwe                     | Rwanda                   | Equatorial Guinea                |
| 1992–1995   | Nigeria                          | Central African Republic    | Rwanda                       | Uganda                   | Algeria                          |
| 1996–1998   | Tunisia                          | Rwanda                      | Ethiopia                     | Côte d'Ivoire            | Cameroon                         |
| 1999–2002   | Zimbabwe                         | Cameroon                    | Nigeria                      | Morocco                  | United Republic of Tanzania      |
| 2002–2004   | Egypt                            | Burundi                     | Ghana                        | Lesotho                  | Gabon                            |
| 2004–2007   | Senegal                          | Uganda                      | Cameroon                     | Tunisia                  | Botswana                         |
| 2007–2009   | Senegal                          | Uganda                      | Cameroon                     | Tunisia                  | Namibia                          |
| 2009–2011   | Gambia                           | Zimbabwe                    | Mauritania                   | Equatorial Guinea        | Uganda                           |
| 2011–2013   | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Morocco                     | Mauritius                    | Sao Tome and Principe    | Gambia                           |
| 2013–       | South Africa                     | Sierra Leone                | Tunisia                      | Central African Republic | Democratic Republic of the Congo |

**Membership of the Bureau of the Committee on Social Development, 2009–2013**

| <i>Term</i> | <i>President</i> | <i>First Vice-President</i> | <i>Second Vice-President</i>     | <i>First Rapporteur</i>  | <i>Second Rapporteur</i> |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2009–2011   | Uganda           | Algeria                     | Zimbabwe                         | Benin                    | Chad                     |
| 2012–2013   | Egypt            | Zambia                      | Niger                            | Central African Republic | Comoros                  |
| 2013–       | Botswana         | Nigeria                     | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Burundi                  | Sudan                    |

**Membership of the Bureau of the Committee on Gender and Social Development, elected at its first session (2015–2017 biennium)**

| <i>Period</i> | <i>Chair</i> | <i>First Vice-Chair</i>          | <i>Second Vice-Chair</i> | <i>First Rapporteur</i> | <i>Second Rapporteur</i> |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2015–2017     | Malawi       | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Mauritania               | Mali                    | South Sudan              |

**Membership of the Bureau of the Committee on Gender and Social Development, elected at its second session (2017–2019 biennium)**

| <i>Period</i> | <i>Chair</i> | <i>First Vice-Chair</i> | <i>Second Vice-Chair</i> | <i>First Rapporteur</i> | <i>Second Rapporteur</i> |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2017–2019     | Madagascar   | Burkina Faso            | Mozambique               | Chad                    | Tunisia                  |

**Membership of the Bureau of the Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender, elected at the third session of the Committee (2019-2021 biennium)**

| <i>Period</i> | <i>Chair</i> | <i>First Vice-Chair</i> | <i>Second Vice-Chair</i> | <i>First Rapporteur</i> | <i>Second Rapporteur</i> |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2019–2021     | Egypt        | Lesotho                 | Nigeria                  | Kenya                   | Central African Republic |

**Below are the countries from the five African subregions that have not yet served as members of the Bureau of any of the aforementioned Committees:**

**East Africa**

Djibouti

Eritrea

Seychelles

Somalia

**West Africa**

Cabo Verde

Guinea-Bissau

Liberia

**Southern Africa**

Angola

**North Africa**

Libya

**Central Africa**

All countries have served as members of one or more of the aforementioned Committees.