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**Economic Commission for Africa  
Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender**

Fifth session

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

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

1. The Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was preceded by the following former committees:

- (a) Committee on Women in Development (1979–2013);
- (b) Committee on Social Development (2009–2013);
- (c) Committee on Gender and Social Development (2013–2019).

2. In 2019, following a reform of ECA in line with a wider reform of the United Nations Secretariat, the Committee on Gender and Social Development was renamed the Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender. However, the session numbering of the Committee on Gender and Social Development was maintained.

3. In 2023, the fifth session of the Committee will be held on 2 and 3 November 2023 under the theme, “Building new social contracts in Africa: choices to fulfil development aspirations”.

4. The role of the Committee on Gender and Social Development – the former name of the Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender – was defined in para. 18A.45 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 (A/68/6 (Sect. 18)), which reads as follows:

**Functional and sectoral subsidiary organs of the Commission***Committee on Gender and Social Development*

The role of the Committee on Gender and 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 development, including the global and

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\* E/ECA/CSPPG/5/1.



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.

5. The Bureau of the Committee serves to:
- (a) Provide guidance and expert opinion on the priorities and activities of ECA;
  - (b) Review the past activities and future programmes of ECA;
  - (c) Provide recommendations to strengthen ECA programmes to better serve its members and the regional economic communities;
  - (d) Provide policy guidance to ensure that ECA activities are relevant to meeting the region's development needs and addressing its critical development challenges;
  - (e) Advise on priorities for the implementation and review of the regional and international policy agendas in relation to the work of ECA;
  - (f) Provide direction on ECA partnerships with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and development partners.
6. The present note serves as an input for the election of the Bureau of the Committee. Membership of previous bureaux of related committees are listed in tables 1–6 for consideration by members in the election process.

Table 1  
**Committee on Women and Development, Bureau membership, 1979–2013**

<i>Period</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

Table 2  
Committee on Social Development, Bureau membership, 2009–2013

<i>Period</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

Table 3  
First session of the Committee of Gender and Social Development, Bureau membership, 2015–2017

<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

Table 4  
Second session of the Committee of Gender and Social Development, Bureau membership, 2017–2019

<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

Table 5  
Third session of the Committee of Social Policy, Poverty and Gender, Bureau membership, 2019–2021

<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

Table 6  
Fourth session of the Committee of Social Policy, Poverty and Gender, Bureau membership, 2021–2023

<i>Period</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>First Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Second Vice-Chair</i>	<i>First rapporteur</i>	<i>Second rapporteur</i>
2021–2023	Tunisia	Somalia	Malawi	Mali	Equatorial Guinea

7. The following countries, grouped by subregion, have never been represented on any of the above-mentioned Committees:

- (a) East Africa:
  - (i) Djibouti;
  - (ii) Eritrea;
  - (iii) Seychelles;
- (b) West Africa:
  - (i) Cabo Verde;
  - (ii) Guinea-Bissau;
  - (iii) Liberia;
- (c) Southern Africa: Angola;
- (d) North Africa: Libya;
- (e) Central Africa: All countries have been represented.