

**Economic and Social Council**

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**Economic Commission for Africa  
Conference of African Ministers of Finance,  
Planning and Economic Development**

Fifty-seventh session

Addis Ababa, 17 and 18 March 2025

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

**Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda  
and programme of work****Draft programme of work****Monday, 17 March**

7.30–9 a.m.\*\*

Engagement with ministers of finance by the Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Hanan Morsy

9.30–10.30 a.m.

**Opening of the ministerial segment** (agenda item 1)

National anthem

Master of Ceremonies, international broadcaster and founder of Moon Landing Media, Lerato Natasha Mbele

Remarks by the Chair of the outgoing Bureau, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion of Zimbabwe, Mthuli Ncube

Remarks by the Secretary-General of the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area, Wamkele Mene

Remarks by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf

Remarks by the Executive Secretary, ECA, Claver Gatete

Official address by the President of Ethiopia, Taye Atskeselassie Amde

10.30–11 a.m.

Group photo, ministerial tour of knowledge fair and coffee break

11–11.15 a.m.

**Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work** (agenda item 2)

\* E/ECA/CM/57/1.

\*\* All times are East African Time (UTC+3).



11.15 a.m.–12.15 p.m.	<p><b>Dialogue on the theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa</b> (agenda item 3)</p> <p><b>Keynote address: 2025 Adebayo Adedeji Memorial Lecture</b></p> <p>Former Vice-President of Nigeria, Oluyemi Osinbajo</p>
12.15–1 p.m.	<p><b>Launch of the <i>Economic Report on Africa, 2025</i></b></p> <p>Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA, Stephen Karingi</p> <p><b>High-level discussion</b></p>
1–2.30 p.m.	Lunch break
2.30–3.15 p.m.	<p><b>Dialogue on the theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa</b> (agenda item 3) (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p>Remarks by the Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy</p> <p><b>High-level discussion</b></p>
3.15–4.15 p.m.	<p><b>High-level round-table discussions</b> (agenda item 4)</p> <p><b>Round table 1: the nexus between the African Continental Free Trade Area and infrastructure development</b></p> <p>Chair: Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director, Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infrastructure Division, ECA, Robert Lisinge</li> <li>• State Minister of Infrastructure, Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure Development, Ethiopia, Yetemgeta Asrat Maru</li> <li>• Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema</li> <li>• Director, Infrastructure and Urban Development Department, African Development Bank, Mike Salawou</li> <li>• Former Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Management Board, Ethiopian Airlines, Girma Wake</li> <li>• Chief Executive Officer, Maritime Trade and Logistics, Mekonnen Abera</li> </ul>
4.15–4.30 p.m.	Coffee break
4.30–6 p.m.	<p><b>High-level round-table discussions</b> (agenda item 4) (<i>continued</i>)</p>

**Round table 2: promoting cross-border instant payment systems and digital inclusivity in Africa**

Chair: Chief Executive Officer, AfricaNenda, Robert Ochola

Panellists:

- Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy
- Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, Kenya, Lee Kinyanjui
- First Deputy Governor, Central Bank of The Gambia, Abdoulie Sireh Jallow
- Director General and Chief Executive Officer, Smart Africa, Lacina Koné
- Chief Executive Officer, Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System, Premier Oiwoh
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Pan-African Payment and Settlement System, John Bosco Sebabi

6 p.m.

Reception at the Skylight Hotel (hosted by the Government of Ethiopia)

**Tuesday, 18 March**

9–10 a.m.

Presentation on the forthcoming ECA report on optimizing information and communications technology-related tax regimes for economic growth and job creation in Africa

10–11 a.m.

**High-level round-table discussions** (agenda item 4) (*continued*)

**Round table 3: special economic zones as drivers of the development of regional value chains in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area**

Chair: Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA, Stephen Karingi

Panellists:

- Minister of Industry and Trade, Morocco, Ryad Mezzour
- Secretary-General, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Fatima el-Sheikh
- President and Chief Executive Officer, African Centre for Economic Transformation, Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi

11–11.15 a.m.

Coffee break

11.15 a.m.–1.15 p.m.	<b>Consideration of recommendations and adoption of resolutions</b> (agenda item 5) Chair: Chair of the Bureau
1.15–2.45 p.m.	Lunch break
2.45–3.45 p.m.	<b>Consideration and adoption of the ministerial statement</b> (agenda item 6) Chair: Chair of the Bureau
3.45–4.30 p.m.	<b>Other matters</b> (agenda item 7)
4.30–5 p.m.	<b>Closing of the ministerial segment and the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa</b> (agenda item 8) Statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Secretary, ECA, Claver Gatete</li><li>• Chair of the Bureau</li></ul>
5–6 p.m.	Press conference
6 p.m.	Cocktail reception

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