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**Economic Commission for Africa  
Conference of African Ministers of Finance,  
Planning and Economic Development**  
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**Recent organizational changes in the secretariat of the  
Economic Commission for Africa****Note by the Executive Secretary****I. Background**

1. Internal and external consultations have been conducted as part of efforts to improve the programmatic efficiency and organizational effectiveness of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in line with the vision of the Secretary-General to provide better support to States Members of the United Nations in order to achieve better results, including the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The consultations have led to necessary cost-neutral adjustments that have been designed to enhance impact.

2. Following the adoption of the 2025 programme plan and budget of ECA, including the new subprogramme 3, on technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development, the new subprogramme 5, on climate, food security and natural resources, green and blue economy, and the renamed subprogramme 1, on macroeconomic policy, finance and governance, by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission, there was a need to reconfigure the relevant divisions and sections within the ECA secretariat.

3. The purpose of the present note is to inform the Committee of Experts and the Conference of Ministers during the current session of the Commission about recent developments that necessitated minor organizational changes. The adjustments are intended:

(a) To develop existing capacity while providing a framework for future growth and contributions to the overall objectives of ECA;

(b) To enhance the coherence, profile and visibility of cooperation between ECA and the African Union Development Agency;

(c) To foster optimal and more effective collaboration with the African Union, adapt to regional reform processes and better support their implementation;

(d) To reconfigure the programmatic structure of the ECA subprogrammes focused on technology, infrastructure development, financing, climate change and natural resources management;



(e) To ensure that interventions made by ECA and the support that it provides to its members are more impactful, with a view to accelerating the development and transformation of the continent.

## **II. Highlights of the organizational changes**

### **A. Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division**

4. In view of the extensive consultations conducted within ECA and ongoing efforts to realign its organizational structure and staff composition to ensure that they are fit for purpose, some minor organizational changes have been made to the Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division. The primary function of the Division is to foster a culture of accountability, transparency and quality control and the application of lessons learned across all areas in which ECA works. In addition, it aims to promote organizational coherence, both vertically and horizontally, in order to achieve optimal and high-quality performance within the organization.

5. The Division was previously organized into three sections: the Corporate Policy and Planning Section, the Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Section and the System-wide Coherence and Quality Assurance Section. The System-wide Coherence and Quality Assurance Section has now been reorganized into two separate sections: the System-wide Coherence Section and the Quality Assurance, Risk Management and Compliance Section.

6. The System-wide Coherence Section has been strengthened and retains all its core functions, which include: facilitating the implementation of United Nations development system reforms, including by working with the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa and entities of the United Nations system, such as the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; facilitating strong working and results-oriented relationships with important regional partners, in particular the African Union and its agencies, including the African Union Development Agency, and the African Development Bank; and ensuring coherence and effective coordination in the work of ECA at the national, regional and global levels.

7. The establishment of the new Quality Assurance, Risk Management and Compliance Section is a strategic initiative designed to enhance operational integrity and effectiveness in alignment with the United Nations reform agenda. The Section addresses evolving programmatic and efficiency needs by ensuring that the programmes, operations and outputs of ECA meet the highest standards of quality and adhere to stringent compliance requirements, and that their associated risks are managed effectively. Given that ECA plays a pivotal role in shaping the African development agenda, this proactive approach will help to ensure that improved programmatic efficiency, accountability and organizational effectiveness remain central to the United Nations reform agenda. The integration of those functions into a cohesive section underscores the commitment of ECA to operational excellence and the alignment of the organization with the reforms of the Secretary-General, which are aimed at enhancing programmatic efficiency and organizational effectiveness. The changes will ensure the rational use of resources while maintaining the integrity of the functions that are inherently interlinked.

### **B. Private Sector Development and Finance Division**

8. The sections that comprised the Private Sector Development and Finance Division have been redistributed to other divisions. The work of ECA on private sector development

remains pivotal, however, and will be integrated into all subprogrammes as a cross-cutting priority.

### **C. Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infrastructure Development Division**

9. A new division called the Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infrastructure Development Division has been established, comprising the pre-existing Green Economy Innovations and Technologies Section and the Energy, Infrastructure and Services Section. In the new Division, those Sections are now called the Emerging and Frontier Technologies, Innovation and Digital Transformation Section and the Connectivity and Infrastructure Development Section, respectively. The Division will work to advance inclusive growth, sustainable development and economic transformation in Africa through science, technology, innovation, improved connectivity and logistics, and infrastructure development.

### **D. Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resources Division**

10. The Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division has been reorganized to become the Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resources Division, comprising the following sections: the African Climate Policy Centre, the Natural Resources and Green and Blue Economy Section and the Land and Agricultural Transformation Section. The Division will work on enhancing climate resilience, achieving food security and advancing inclusive and sustainable development by harnessing the potential of land, natural resources and the green and blue economies to achieve sustainable development.

### **E. Macroeconomic Policy, Finance and Governance Division**

11. The Macroeconomic and Governance Division has been reorganized to become the Macroeconomic Policy, Finance and Governance Division, comprising the following sections: the Macroeconomic Analysis Section, the Development Planning Section, the Institutions and Economic Governance Section and the Finance and Domestic Resource Mobilization Section. The Division will work on achieving structural transformation and inclusive growth in Africa through strengthened and effective development planning, macroeconomic policy analysis, enhanced economic governance and management, and innovative public and private sector financing.

### **F. Update to the objective of subprogramme 7, Subregional activities for development, component 1, Subregional activities in North Africa**

12. Taking into account the need for structural transformation and balanced development in North Africa, and acknowledging the limitations and challenges faced by the subregion in focusing solely on employment, in particular of women and young people, the objective of subprogramme 7, component 1, has been more closely aligned with the broader agenda and deliverables of ECA.

13. In the work performed as part of that component, emphasis has been placed on the importance of macroeconomic policies, development financing, regional integration, economic diversification and industrialization, which are part of the strategic pillars of ECA, and the need for better recognition of migrant workers' economic contributions. As a result,

the objective of the component that was established in the 2025 programme plan, namely “to enhance the employment creation environment in North Africa through strengthened economic diversification, fiscal management and regional integration and achieve better recognition of migrant workers’ economic contributions”, has been updated in the 2026 programme plan to the following: “to advance inclusive growth and sustainable development in North Africa through strengthened economic diversification, fiscal management, regional integration and a better recognition of migrant workers’ economic contributions”.

### **III. Conclusion and next steps**

14. Considering the ongoing nature of the reform process, the secretariat of ECA will continue to lead, working jointly with other entities of the United Nations system, the roll-out in Africa of the recommendations made by the Secretary-General on advancing regional reform. The work of ECA will continue to be guided by the implementation of the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, which will contribute to strengthened partnerships and coordination among the entities of the United Nations system and the African Union Commission, for the collective achievement of the African development agenda. ECA will persist in its proactive efforts to support the reform agenda of the United Nations and will play a crucial role in shaping African development priorities.

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