

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: Limited
28 November 2025

Original: English

Economic Commission for Africa
Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender
Sixth session
Addis Ababa, 26–28 November 2025

Agenda item 8

**Consideration and adoption of the conclusions and
recommendations of the sixth session**

Draft recommendations**I. Expert group meetings [agenda item 2]****A. Expert group meeting on subprogramme 6 – gender equality
and women’s empowerment [agenda item 2 (a)]**

1. In the light of the discussion on the expert group meeting on African women’s journey in the world of work, technology and finance, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) Members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) should:

(i) Introduce or strengthen temporary special measures, such as quotas, to enhance women’s representation in leadership, in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and in decision-making positions across all sectors;

(ii) Promote women’s access to decent work and productive employment by:

a. Strengthening policies and incentives that support the transition of women from informal to formal employment, including by providing access to credit and business development services and through inclusive workplace practices;

b. Establishing and enforcing regulations that reflect a recognition of the value of unpaid care and domestic work, and integrating the accounting for such work into national statistical systems through regular time use surveys and labour-force surveys to improve data-driven policy design;

(iii) Expand, in line with the Beijing+30 Action Agenda, access to high-quality education for women and girls and opportunities for them to develop digital skills and training in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics by:

a. Strengthening policies and infrastructure to ensure universal and affordable digital connectivity, in which the needs of rural and marginalized women and girls are prioritized;

b. Investing in gender-responsive educational systems and training programmes that promote digital literacy, competence in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and



vocational skills for women and girls, with a view to bridging digital divides and fostering the uptake of leadership positions by women and girls in the fields of technology and finance;

(iv) Accelerate women's financial inclusion by:

a. Reforming discriminatory laws and regulations to ensure equal access for women to financial services, credit, mobile money, insurance and productive assets, such as land;

b. Investing in women's financial literacy and entrepreneurship training, especially in rural areas and in the informal employment sector, while expanding access for them to tailored financial products and services;

(v) Strengthen data systems and accountability by:

a. Investing in the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of data that are disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location relating to employment and the digital and financial sectors to support evidence-based policymaking and effective monitoring of progress;

b. Establishing national gender data hubs, digital data-collection systems and inter-agency coordination mechanisms to support evidence-based policymaking;

(vi) Strengthen resource mobilization, multisectoral partnerships and regional collaboration by institutionalizing gender-responsive economic governance through gender budgeting and the integration of gender-responsive macroeconomic analysis into national planning and fiscal policies;

(vii) Ensure that all reforms relating to employment, technology and financial inclusion are systematically aligned with commitments set out in the Beijing+30 Action Agenda;

(b) ECA should:

(i) Provide targeted technical assistance to support its members in integrating gender-responsive approaches into national digital transformation strategies, financial inclusion frameworks and care economy policies by:

a. Facilitating peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of best practices through structured mechanisms at the continental level, including regional practice communities, annual gender and technology forums and documentation of examples of successful national models for digital inclusion, women's financial literacy, gender budgeting and youth employment;

b. Institutionalizing robust gender indicators, monitoring systems and accountability frameworks for tracking progress and adapting policies and programmes;

c. Developing and financing policies centred on the realities of care in Africa, including universal childcare, eldercare and time-saving social services that reduce the burden of unpaid care on women and enable their fuller participation in the labour market;

(ii) Work with the African Union and other international and regional organizations to develop a continental approach to raising the profile of the care agenda.

B. Expert group meeting on subprogramme 9 – poverty, inequality and social policy [agenda item 2 (b)]

2. In the light of the discussion on the expert group meeting on the use of new technologies to connect strategies for poverty reduction and for social protection, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- (a) Members of ECA should:
 - (i) Reduce poverty and inequality by:
 - a. Mainstreaming national multidimensional poverty indices into official national planning and budgeting processes and using the country-specific social dimensions interfaces developed by ECA for evidence-based policymaking, with a view to channelling resources towards the most disadvantaged communities and areas;
 - b. Disaggregating multidimensional and monetary poverty data by sex, age, location and disability in support of efforts to ensure that no one is left behind and that policies are inclusive;
 - (ii) Enhance inclusive social protection by:
 - a. Using vulnerability assessments and country profiles developed in partnership with ECA to legislate for and fund nationally appropriate social protection floors;
 - b. Exploring innovative financing for social protection, such as links with broader domestic revenue mobilization efforts, and leveraging digital payment systems to improve efficiency and reduce leakage;
 - c. Linking social protection databases and social registries with multidimensional poverty indices, for which national counting methodologies should be applied, in order to target beneficiaries transparently and effectively;
 - (iii) Support the implementation of legal instruments and tools relating to migration by:
 - a. Scaling up regularization mechanisms, in line with the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,¹ and expanding and diversifying regular pathways for migration;
 - b. Ratifying regional protocols on free movement, adapting them to local contexts and integrating migration, in particular climate-induced displacement, into national development and climate adaptation plans;
 - c. Implementing the toolkit on legal identity for migrants, developed by ECA, to ensure the protection of migrants' rights and facilitate migrants' contribution to development;
 - (iv) Enhance youth employment and entrepreneurship by:
 - a. Integrating skills and migration into national youth employment strategies, recognizing mobility as a reality and potential asset;
 - b. Creating an enabling environment for young entrepreneurs by introducing or enhancing youth-focused entrepreneurship policies and frameworks and youth-friendly regulatory measures;

¹ General Assembly resolution 73/195, annex.

c. Aligning national youth employment and entrepreneurship strategies with the commitments set out in the Doha Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”,² ensuring their alignment with such continental frameworks as Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and the African Youth Charter;

(v) Strengthen data collection at the local level by equipping municipalities with digital tools to generate reliable and up-to-date information that guides policymaking effectively;

(b) ECA should:

(i) Work with other regional commissions and academic institutions to develop training packages that connect national multidimensional poverty indices with national social registries for more efficient targeting of beneficiaries, scale up national and continental training initiatives on national multidimensional poverty indices to include more countries, and build a core group of national trainers to ensure sustainability and monitoring over time;

(ii) Provide technical support to its members for the development of a tailor-made social dimensions interface that links disaggregated statistics of the national multidimensional poverty indices with other statistics of national priority and with budget allocations;

(iii) Develop a standardized but adaptable framework for a “multidimensional poverty index 2.0” that incorporates overlapping shocks related to climate hazards and security events, reflecting the unique challenges of its members;

(iv) Translate lessons learned from the Development Account project on strengthening capacity for evidence-based social protection policies for responding to the triple global crisis in fuel, food and finance, carried out jointly with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, into a practical “social protection crisis response toolkit” for African policymakers;

(v) Intensify support for building social protection systems that can be automatically scaled up in the face of climate, security, economic or health shocks;

(vi) Support countries in strengthening data-collection systems for social development by providing technical assistance and digital tools that enhance the accuracy and timeliness of information generated and provided at the local level, including in rural and hard-to-reach areas;

(vii) Engage directly decision makers at the highest levels of Government to initiate discussions on social protection, in order to ensure uptake of ECA initiatives at the national level;

(viii) Provide dedicated technical support to its members and to the African Union in the development of a common, evidence-based African position for the second International Migration Review Forum, to be held in 2026;

(ix) Accelerate the roll-out of the legal identity toolkit across all African countries, in partnership with the African Union Commission and the International Organization for Migration;

² General Assembly resolution 80/5, annex.

- (x) Pioneer a “route-based approach” to migration governance, with a focus on specific corridors, such as the Horn of Africa-Yemen route or trans-Saharan routes, to ensure coordinated interventions that address the entire migration cycle from origin to destination;
- (xi) Work with the African Union and regional economic communities to integrate provisions on rights-based mobility pathways, disaster displacement risk reduction, support for climate-affected communities and access to such funds as the new loss and damage fund into continental climate adaptation plans;
- (xii) Facilitate the creation of a multi-stakeholder African youth skills and jobs pact, linking Governments, the private sector and training institutions to align skills development with market needs, including those within the African Continental Free Trade Area;
- (xiii) Deepen analysis on youth migration and “brain circulation”, providing policy options to harness the African diaspora and facilitate productive mobility;
- (xiv) Engage in activities aimed at enhancing the capacity of its members to integrate youth entrepreneurship into national development plans, with a view to optimizing the regulatory environment for young entrepreneurs and ensuring policy coherence;
- (xv) Support its members in translating the commitments made under the Doha Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”, with regard to youth employment, into actionable continental and national strategies, including by assisting its members in their efforts to develop monitoring frameworks, facilitating policy dialogues and mobilizing partnerships to advance the objectives of the Declaration in Africa;
- (xvi) Coordinate with national statistical bureaux to ensure that recent survey data, including from time use, labour-force and household surveys, are integrated into the social interface tool and other monitoring mechanisms.

3. In the light of the discussion on the expert group meeting on the current state of urbanization, development and digital transformation in Africa, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- (a) Members of ECA should:
 - (i) Invest in foundational digital infrastructure, including connectivity, public transport, energy, serviced land and data systems in order to enable technology-driven planning, service delivery, and inclusive and sustainable urban development;
 - (ii) Strengthen municipal finance and local governance by reforming intergovernmental transfers, improving land and revenue administration, and deploying innovative financing tools with a view to expanding fiscal space for resilient and equitable urban growth;
 - (iii) Adopt inclusive and displacement-sensitive urban policies, ensuring that master plans account for population inflows, while also expanding basic services and integrating measures on social protection, safety and livelihood support for vulnerable groups into plans and budgets, recognizing the needs of women, young people and informal workers;

(iv) Institutionalize harmonized and interoperable urban data systems that link geospatial, demographic and sectoral information across government layers, and use these systems to guide the development of policies on affordable housing, public transport and resilient urban development;

(b) ECA should:

(i) Engage in activities that are aimed at strengthening the capacity of its members to implement digital and data-driven urban management by supporting the development of interoperable urban data platforms and providing technical assistance on digital tools, artificial intelligence applications and evidence-based urban policies;

(ii) Support municipal finance reforms by offering guidance on expanding fiscal space, accelerating the implementation of public-private partnerships, improving revenue systems and designing innovative financing instruments;

(iii) Facilitate peer learning and knowledge exchange at the continental level on urban governance practices with regard to decent job creation, innovation, productivity and entrepreneurial development, especially for vulnerable groups;

(iv) Assist its members in implementing technology-enabled urban recovery and service delivery strategies in which the safety, livelihoods and needs of displaced persons are prioritized.

II. Reports to the Committee on Social Policy, Poverty and Gender – reporting and discussion [agenda item 5]

A. Subprogramme 9 – poverty, inequality and social policy

[agenda item 5 (a)]

4. In the light of the discussion on subprogramme 9, on poverty, inequality and social policy, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) Members of ECA should:

(i) Accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ Agenda 2063 and relevant policies aimed at fostering sustainable development by reducing poverty, addressing inequality and promoting social protection;

(ii) Foster inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities by implementing policies that expand local fiscal space, drive the creation of decent and productive jobs and improve service delivery in African cities;

(b) ECA should:

(i) Continue to undertake analytical work, provide its members with policy and advisory support and capacity-building assistance, develop tools and convene policy dialogues, all in support of national strategies to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality, with a focus on such areas as urbanization, young people, social protection, population and development, disability and migration;

(ii) Continue to support its members in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration by engaging with the International Organization for Migration, the private sector and all other stakeholders in order to leverage emerging continental opportunities and

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

technological solutions to improve policy uptake with a view to increasing resilience;

(iii) Provide, through the African Centre for Statistics, technical and capacity-building assistance to national statistical offices with a view to strengthening the collection of disaggregated subnational data and the use of national data sources to measure and analyse poverty, inequality, vulnerability and migration;

(iv) Assist its members in strengthening their knowledge and analytical capacity relating to urbanization processes and the socioeconomic dynamics of African cities to inform evidence-based policymaking and urban planning;

(v) Continue to disseminate lessons learned and best practices in relation to transforming global and regional goals into local priorities and initiatives;

(vi) Support the development and implementation of policy reforms and strategies that expand local fiscal space, improve financial performance and increase resilience;

(vii) Support its members in developing urban plans, including through the acquisition of technology for the digitization of land documents and by improving the digitalization and analysis of spatial data, as part of efforts to understand the impact of urbanization on decision-making relating to land-use planning and economic development;

(viii) Continue to produce and disseminate relevant analytical knowledge products and signpost repositories of lessons learned and national benchmarks;

(ix) Assist its members with the application of digital tools, with a view to strengthening social protection programmes for vulnerable groups, including older persons and persons with disabilities;

(x) Support its members in collecting data on climate change and its impacts.

B. Subprogramme 6 – gender equality and women’s empowerment [agenda item 5 (b)]

5. In the light of the discussion on subprogramme 6, on gender equality and women’s empowerment, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) Members of ECA should:

(i) Accelerate the effective implementation of policies and programmes for the empowerment of women and girls so as to meet global and regional commitments on gender equality;

(ii) Implement policy and legislative reforms to eliminate structural barriers that limit women’s participation in formal labour markets and commerce and their access to financial and digital products and services;

(b) ECA should:

(i) Extend technical support and advisory services to countries that are not covered by current activities, in particular support and services aimed at strengthening gender monitoring and reporting systems, closing gender gaps in financial inclusion and expanding the economic empowerment of women returnee migrants;

(ii) Support its members in institutionalizing the African Gender and Development Index within their national gender monitoring and

reporting systems, and adapt the tool to identify gender gaps in areas of national concern to inform more targeted programming;

(iii) Provide technical support to its members in mainstreaming action-oriented gender perspectives into resource mobilization and utilization strategies, including gender-responsive fiscal policies;

(iv) Provide technical assistance to its members to strengthen data collection on and analysis of women's migration, including improving the availability, reliability and use of sex-disaggregated migration data to better understand drivers and economic opportunities linked with women's migratory movements;

(v) Support further development and assessment of gender-responsive labour-market and social protection policies, especially those that promote women's entrepreneurship in agriculture, vocational training and the empowerment of young people;

(vi) Establish and maintain a structured peer learning and knowledge-sharing platform, including a repository of knowledge products and tools, to document impactful interventions that advance gender equality and enable its members to benchmark best practices;

(vii) Assist its members in strengthening their women's empowerment structures and mechanisms to institutionalize gender mainstreaming across all sectors, ensuring adequately financed policies and outcomes that fulfil international and regional commitments related to gender equality, in line with the Beijing+30 Action Agenda.

III. General discussion on the theme of the sixth session “From informal employment to sustainable livelihoods: emerging technologies as pathways for an equitable transition” [agenda item 6]

6. In the light of the discussion on the theme of the sixth session, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) Members of ECA should:

(i) Improve spatial data and digitalize land administration systems to strengthen planning, transparency and equitable land governance;

(ii) Scale up digital social protection tools, including unified registries, digital identification systems and mobile payment methods, to expand coverage for informal workers, vulnerable households and rural populations, while addressing digital literacy and infrastructure gaps;

(iii) Invest in digital literacy, in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, and in technical and vocational education and training, better aligning skills with labour-market needs;

(iv) Strengthen services for the reintegration of returnee migrants, including psychosocial support, skills recognition and access to social protection;

(v) Prioritize stronger and better-financed health systems to enhance resilience and service delivery;

(vi) Leverage mobile phones and digital platforms for business and livelihood opportunities, especially among young people, who face high levels of underemployment and unemployment;

- (b) ECA should:
 - (i) Foster digital literacy initiatives, regional peer learning on inclusive education and women's empowerment, and reforms in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and in technical and vocational education and training;
 - (ii) Expand analytical work and advisory support on digital finance, youth employment, the matching of skills with labour-market needs, and innovation systems;
 - (iii) Establish and maintain a regional knowledge repository to support benchmarking and the sharing of good practices;
 - (iv) Provide technical assistance for spatial data collection, land value mapping and digital land registries;
 - (v) Support countries in strengthening and expanding national and local finance systems for resilient, inclusive and sustainable urbanization.

IV. Briefing on the Second World Summit for Social Development [agenda item 7]

7. In the light of the discussion on the Second World Summit for Social Development, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) Members of ECA should develop integrated and targeted policies and actions to implement the Doha Political Declaration of the "World Social Summit" under the title "the Second World Summit for Social Development" and achieve social development for all, in line with the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development⁴ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;⁵

- (b) ECA should:
 - (i) Coordinate and lead a continental assessment of progress, gaps and opportunities for action relating to the implementation of the Doha Political Declaration, the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action over the two years following the Second World Summit for Social Development;
 - (ii) Assist its members with the alignment of their national development plans and policies with the Doha Political Declaration, the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action;
 - (iii) Support countries in addressing:
 - a. Poverty, underemployment and youth unemployment;
 - b. Issues relating to peace and development, which affect the promotion of social development in conflict areas;
 - c. Climate change, which drives crime, including violence;
 - d. Drug and substance abuse.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁵ *Ibid.*, annex II.