



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY
BUILDING FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

8th Joint Annual Meetings of the 1st AU Specialized Technical Committee of Ministers of Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and 48th Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE CAPACITY IMPERATIVES OF AGENDA 2063

26 March 2015

10:00 – 13:00

UN Conference Centre, Addis Ababa

24 February 2015

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PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE CAPACITY IMPERATIVES OF AGENDA 2063

1. Background

In June 2012, the Heads of States and Governments of the African Union (AU) mandated the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the NEPAD Agency to develop Agenda 2063.

Agenda 2063 is an indigenous strategic framework for Africa's transformation over the next 50 years anchored in inclusive growth and sustainable development. It is a vision and call to action to fulfill African aspirations and the AU Vision of "*an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.*" It calls on all Africans, policy makers at all levels, business, religious, community, women and youth leaders, ordinary citizens to act in concert with determination and muster the needed resolve to confront the challenges facing Africa.

In developing the AU Agenda 2063, different consultative forums have been held with various stakeholders throughout the continent to ensure that the Agenda is based on peoples' aspirations. Though based on Africans' aspirations, it is to be noted that 'without capacity, there are relatively few chances that Agenda will succeed in achieving its goals'. There is therefore a need to reflect on the capacity imperatives of the Agenda 2063.

The question related to the capacity imperatives of Agenda 2063 is at play in the sense that for the continental agenda to be successfully designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated, cross-cutting capacities are needed at the individual, organizational and institutional levels; but also at the local, community, national, regional and continental levels.

It is against this backdrop that the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) has decided to draw on its experience and the existing expertise on the continent in order to discuss "*The Capacity Imperatives of Agenda 2063*". ACBF will be therefore holding a side event in the framework of the 8th Joint Annual Meetings of the 1st AU Specialized Technical Committee of Ministers of Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, and the 48th

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

The event is planned in *Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26 March 2015 at the UN Conference Centre*. This side event is intended to provide an opportunity for specialists to raise awareness on the importance of the capacity development dimension of Agenda 2063 and discuss some of the capacities that might need to be considered for the success of the Agenda.

2. Objectives

Hosted by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa Dr. Carlos Lopes, this high-level event will seek to raise awareness on the importance of capacity and demonstrate the role of capacity to support the AU Agenda 2063. The objectives are as follows:

- To raise awareness on the importance of capacity for the Agenda 2063
- To discuss key capacity imperatives crucial for Agenda 2063
- To solicit recommendations and suggestions from stakeholders and participants

3. Format of the Panel Discussion

The event will start with a presentation by ACBF of an overview of the study on the

Capacity Imperatives of the African Union's Agenda 2063, focusing on the need to look seriously at the capacity dimensions of the Agenda, the objectives of the study, the approach and the progress to date. This presentation will provide the necessary background information that will help the High Level Panel Members to give their perspectives of the capacity challenges ahead for the implementation of the Agenda and how to address them.

Expected outcomes

It is expected that the comments and inputs made by the participants will assist in further refining the Agenda 2063 Capacity needs assessment study being undertaken by ACBF and will inform the stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of the continental agenda.

4. Date and venue

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The Panel discussion will be held in Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia. It is scheduled for 26 March 2015, as a side-event of the 8th Joint Annual Meetings of the 1st AU Specialized Technical Committee of Ministers of Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, and the 48th Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

5. Participants

Participants (panelists) will include:

- **Dr. Abdalla Hamdok**, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA
- **Dr Ahmed Shide**, State Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ethiopia
- **Ambassador Febe Potgieter-Gqubule**, Special Advisor of the Chairperson of the AUC on Strategy Planning and Monitoring
- **Dr Dominique Njinkeu**, Lead Trade Facilitation Expert and the Program Coordinator of the Trade Facilitation Facility (TFF), International Trade Department, The World Bank
- **Prof. Olu Ajakaiye**, Executive Chairman, African Centre for Shared Development Capacity Building and President, Nigerian Economic Society
- **Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie**, Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation

It is expected that H.E. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC will make an opening remark while Mr. Lebogang Motlana will represent the ACBF Executive Board. The expected audience is 100 participants.

6. Format of the Meeting and mode of delivery

The Panel discussion will essentially comprise of a keynote remark, and a technical panel discussion on the capacity imperatives of Agenda 2063. The meeting will be conducted in English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

March 2015

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