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**8th Ordinary Session of the Specialized
Technical Committee on Finance,
Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and
Integration Experts' Meeting
29 September-01 October 2025**

Eco/STC/FMAEPI(VIII)/EXP/REPORT

DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS

I. Introduction

1. The meeting of Experts of the African Union (AU) 8th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration was held from 29 September to 01 October 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vusi Dlamini, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance of the Kingdom of Eswatini, and Chairperson of the Incoming Experts Bureau of the STC.

A. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Member States: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Benin, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were represented: Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Community of Sahel–Saharan States (CEN–SAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA).

4. Also present were representatives from the African Development Bank, the African Peer Review Mechanism, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA), the African-Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), the Association of African Central Banks (AACB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), the Tax Justice Network Africa, AFROSAI-E, World Bank, World Health Organisation (WHO), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and technical Directorates of the African Union Commission (AUC).

B. Opening of the Meeting

5. The outgoing Chairperson, Dr. El Moustapha Sidi Mohammed, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Economy and Finance of Mauritania welcomed delegates to the 8th STC in Johannesburg, commending Africa's commitment to Agenda 2063 and thanking South Africa and the AU Commission for their support. He highlighted Africa's pressing challenges: debt, limited fiscal space, post-COVID impacts, climate shocks, unemployment, weak health systems, and the need for inclusive growth, emphasizing the role of experts in providing Ministers with evidence-based recommendations. He outlined four priorities: strengthening policy coordination across sectors; closing the health financing gap by innovative measures and tackling illicit financial flows; leveraging Africa's new G20 seat to push for fairer global finance; and unifying Africa's voice on tax, debt, and resource mobilization through support of the UN Tax Convention and AU debt mechanisms. He concluded with a call for ambitious, practical solutions to build a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient Africa.

6. In her remarks, Dr. Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, UNECA expressed gratitude for the invitation, underscoring the importance of collaboration between the AUC and UNECA to achieve the UN SDGs and Agenda 2063. She stressed the urgency of reforming Africa's health financing architecture for sustainability, efficiency, and equity. Dr. Morsy highlighted the need to reduce reliance on external resources through stronger domestic resource mobilization, progressive taxation, and regional integration. She also called for greater public-private partnership engagement and advocating for debt optimization that integrates health financing needs. In conclusion, she emphasized the importance of close coordination and joint leadership to close Africa's health financing gap, reaffirming that the United Nations stands ready to support member states in this endeavor.

7. Mr. Yusuf Daya, Director AU/AfCFTA Relations and Trade Policy, Afreximbank stated that health is fundamental to Africa's transformation and essential for achieving competitive industries and sustainable integration under Agenda 2063 and AfCFTA. He highlighted Afreximbank's proactive COVID-19 response, including the Pandemic Trade Impact Mitigation Facility and securing health supplies with the AU and Africa CDC. Afreximbank has committed over US\$1 billion to build resilience through investments in advanced healthcare and local manufacturing. He stressed that South Africa's G20 Presidency offers a key opportunity for Africa to impact the global agenda, especially regarding health financing. He concluded by calling for partnerships to enhance local innovation and productivity for a robust and prosperous Africa.

8. Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum, Director of Infrastructure, Industrialisation, Trade and Regional Integration, AUDA-NEPAD on behalf of H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO, AUDA-NEPAD stressed Africa's urgent need for economic sovereignty. He highlighted challenges like global inflation, debt, declining aid, and massive illicit financial flows. He emphasized the transformative potential of AfCFTA and continental frameworks, stating that the main hurdle is not strategy, but implementation and financing. He called for empowering African financial institutions, mobilizing domestic capital, and reforming central banks to prioritize growth over just inflation control. He commended the launch of the African Union Development Fund as a milestone for financial sovereignty. He urged decisive action on monetary policy, regional integration, and combating capital flight. The message is clear: Africa must finance its own transformation to achieve true independence and realize Agenda 2063.

9. In her remarks, H.E. Francisca Tatchouop Belobe, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals, AUC emphasized health's central role in driving economic development, calling for sustainable financing beyond external aid. She recalled the seventh STC's focus on harmonized macroeconomic policies as a foundation for the continent's future. She highlighted urgent challenges: a geopolitical climate, rising debt, restricted financial access, and declining international aid, particularly for health. While acknowledging Africa's resilience, she stressed that health expenditure still falls short of the Abuja target, leaving populations vulnerable. In conclusion, she urged urgent and decisive action, reaffirming health as fundamental to sustainable development. She called on member states to mobilize domestic resources, strengthen tax collection, adopt innovative financing, and improve budget allocation.

10. Mr. Themba Zulu, Chief Director, Africa Economic Integration, National Treasury of South Africa on behalf of the South African National Treasury, welcomed delegates, noting the significance of hosting the STC during the country's G20 presidency. He stressed the need for collective African solutions on critical issues like debt management,

economic resilience, and financial stability, especially amidst geopolitical risks. Mr. Zulu highlighted Africa's pressing health challenges, including insufficient financing falling short of the Abuja target. He called for enhanced resource mobilization, fiscal resilience, and inclusive growth, citing the COVID-19 Response Fund's transformation into an equity fund as a key innovation. Critical factors impacting trade were discussed, including the urgency of advancing AfCFTA and concerns over the potential expiry of AGOA in September 2025. Finally, he urged swift action, reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to elevating African priorities, and expressed gratitude to the AU for providing a platform to collectively design the continent's future.

II. Election of the Bureau

11. The Incoming Bureau STC was elected as follows:

Chairperson (Southern Africa)	Kingdom of Eswatini
1st Vice- Chairperson (East Africa)	United Republic of Tanzania
2nd Vice- Chairperson (Central Africa)	Republic of Equatorial Guinea
3rd Vice- Chairperson (West Africa)	Republic of The Gambia
Rapporteur (North Africa)	Islamic Republic of Mauritania

12. The Outgoing Bureau was constituted as follows:

Chairperson (North Africa)	Islamic Republic of Mauritania
1st Vice-Chairperson (Southern Africa)	Kingdom of Eswatini
2nd Vice- Chairperson (East Africa)	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
3rd Vice- Chairperson (Central Africa)	Democratic Republic of Congo
Rapporteur (West Africa)	Republic of Ghana

III. Adoption of the Draft Agenda and Programme of Work

13. The Draft Agenda and Programme of Work were considered and adopted as follows with the deletion of the two agenda items: (1) the Model Law on Factoring from the African Capacity Building Foundation and the African Export-Import Bank, and (2) the Framework on Criteria for Admitting AU Specialized Agencies and Institutions: The STC recalled that the Model Law on Factoring submitted by Afreximbank and the ACBF has been considered during the 7th STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration that took place in Tunisia in 2024, therefore experts recommended the item be removed from the agenda and be submitted to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs for consideration. The criteria for admitting AU Specialised Agencies should be considered by the relevant organs and the outcome submitted for update.

- 1) Opening ceremony
- 2) Election of the Bureau of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration
- 3) Consideration and Adoption of the draft Agenda and Programme of Work

4) Presentations and Discussions on:

- a) The theme of the STC: “Bridging Africa’s Health Financing Gap in a Changing Geo Economic Context: Challenges and Potential Solutions”
- b) Status of Regional Integration in Africa and the impact of the US tariffs on Africa
- c) African Union and South Africa at the G20: Key Priorities towards a successful South African G20 Presidency
- d) Update on the implementation of the African Union Financial Institutions (AUFIs):
 - African Union Commission on Update on the Implementation of the AUFIs
 - African Union Commission on the Study on Technical Issues Surrounding the Implementation of AUFIs
 - African Securities Exchanges Association on the Implementation of the African Exchanges Linkage Project
- e) Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization in Africa: Consideration of the Report of the Fourth STC Subcommittee on Tax and Illicit Financial Flows
- f) Enhancing Debt Management in Africa: Consideration of the Outcome Documents of the African Union Debt Conference
 - Lome Declaration
 - Common African Position on Debt
 - African Debt Monitoring Mechanism
- g) Update on the Implementation of Key Flanking Programmes
 - Operationalisation of the African Credit Rating Agency
 - African Union Commission on the Africa Virtual Investment Platform
 - AfricaNenda on the Payment Services Directive for Africa (PSDA) Initiative
 - African Export-Import Bank on the Africa Entity Identifier
- h) Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Experts Meeting
- i) Consideration of the Draft Agenda and Programme of the Ministers’ Meeting and the draft Ministerial Declaration
- j) Date and venue for the Next Meeting
- k) Any Other Business
- l) Closing of the Meeting

IV. Account of proceedings

A. Presentation on the theme of the STC: “Bridging Africa’s Health Financing Gap in a Changing Geo Economic Context: Challenges and Potential Solutions”

Presentation

14. A representative from the AUC, Dr. Patrick Ndzana Olomo, Ag. Director, Economic Development, Integration and Trade, presented on the theme "Bridging Africa's Health Financing Gap" amid a changing global economy. He noted that Africa's post-COVID average growth of 4% is resilient but still lags the Agenda 2063 target of 7%. Challenges like illicit financial flows, debt and low institutional capacity persist. However, opportunities exist in the AfCFTA, digital transformation, and green energy to mobilise additional health financing. He concluded by highlighting key policy priorities: strengthening state capacity for macroeconomic stability, investing in human capital, deepening regional integration, and driving industrialization to generate decent jobs.

Discussion

15. The experts stressed the critical role of coordination between Ministries of Finance and Health to close the financing gap. They emphasized accelerating shared economic growth to generate revenue and reduce the opportunity cost of health spending. A pressing need was highlighted to tackle illicit financial flows and strengthen capacity-building in Member States. Experts called for efficiency in health spending, encouraging pooled regional procurement and balancing health targets with broader development goals. They advocated for inclusive Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM), avoiding regressive taxation, and diversifying DRM through economic diversification. Finally, they called for debt-for-health swaps to ease debt burdens and urged the AUC to continue advocating for global financial reforms—particularly improving the Common Framework on debt within the G20.

Recommendations

16. In the light of the discussion, Experts recommended as follows:

- (i) Member States were encouraged to implement an annual incremental increase in budget allocation to the health sector, with the goal of achieving and sustaining the 15% Abuja Declaration target, with performance monitored against the Africa Scorecard;
- (ii) Member States were encouraged to implement Innovative Health Taxes, with emphasis to champion the introduction of health taxes on harmful products to increase revenue and reduce resultant expenditure on health;
- (iii) Member States were further encouraged to leverage AUDA-NEPAD Programme for Investment and Financing in Africa's Health (PIFAH) for development and preparation of priority investment projects towards the transformation of Africa's health economy. This will assist in scaling up local vaccine, pharmaceutical, and medical product manufacturing in line with the African Union's 24 Priority Medical Products and Roadmap Report, supported by pooled procurement mechanisms to ensure market demand and achieve health sovereignty;
- (iv) We urge the AUC and RECs to support AU Member States in negotiating on the issues of global health financing, debt restructuring and climate finance;
- (v) The AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, Africa CDC and other relevant stakeholders should support Member States to improve health sector Public Financial Management (PFM) by shifting to result-oriented, with measurable criteria, strengthening human and institutional capacity and modern information systems within Ministries of Health;
- (vi) Urge Member States to prioritize and allocate funding for public Primary Health Care (PHC) and human resources for health through the costed provision of an Essential Health Benefit Package to reduce Out-of-Pocket (OOP) payments;
- (vii) Urge AAMFI to provide the technical and financial support needed to the AU Epidemic Fund to achieve its objective;
- (viii) The AUC, UNECA, AfDB, AAMFI and AUDA-NEPAD through PIFAH are urged to support Member States efforts in piloting and scaling-up innovative financing

instruments, including blended finance models that combine public, private, and philanthropic capital for critical infrastructure such as digital health and Debt-for-Health Swaps.

B. Status of Regional Integration in Africa and the impact of the US tariffs on Africa

17. A representative of the AUC, Dr. Jean-Denis Gabikini, Head of Integration and Trade Division presented the African Integration Report 2025 (AIR 2025), adopted in Malabo. He stressed that African regional integration is a strategic priority driven by the Pan-African vision for unity and prosperity. Given pressing challenges, pandemics, insecurity, climate change, and geopolitical tensions, accelerated implementation of frameworks like the AfCFTA, PIDA, and Agenda 2063 is urgently needed. The AIR 2025, developed with support from UNECA and AfDB, is a crucial tool. It uses the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index to assess the progress, achievements, shortcomings, and areas for improvement of Regional Economic Communities and Member States in their integration efforts.

18. In the second presentation, Dr. Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, UNECA highlighted a joint study by UNECA, AUC, and AfDB on the impact of recent U.S. tariffs. Though the U.S. accounts for only 4.9% of Africa's trade, some countries and sectors (agrifood, textiles) are significantly affected. Since April 2025, U.S. tariffs on African exports have increased to an average of 6.2%. 30 African countries now face higher US tariffs on their exports than on their imports from the US. Consequently, there is need to create alternative market opportunities and accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA in order to mitigate these losses and strengthen Africa's integration.

Discussion

19. In the ensuing discussion, the experts emphasized the need to create platforms to share lessons and negotiation experiences to better manage sectoral impacts of trade tariffs. They stressed that integration must provide tangible benefits for citizens, such as improved cross-border trade, affordable roaming, and harmonized regulations for e-commerce and fintech. Innovative financing is needed to support regional infrastructure and value chains. Concerning tariffs, experts raised concerns about the future of AGOA. They called for monitoring mechanisms, stronger support from regional financial institutions, and coordinated negotiating teams to maintain preferential access and explore alternative markets. They reiterated the urgency of accelerating AfCFTA implementation and advancing initiatives like the African passport to enhance regional resilience and integration.

Recommendations

20. In the light of the discussion, Experts made the following recommendations:

- a) The AUC, UNECA and AfDB should continue to provide capacity building to Member States to implement initiatives aimed at promoting integrated value chains, infrastructure development and digital connectivity to link production hubs and enhance intra-African trade;

- b) The AUC, UNECA and AfDB should support Member States in enabling access to finance, skills, and regional markets for SMEs to enhance economic resilience with a view to achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development across the continent;
- c) Member States were encouraged to pursue new trade partnerships globally, with the African Union coordinating market access strategies to reduce overdependence on a single market, mitigate external shocks and enhance trade resilience;
- d) Member States were further encouraged to fast-track the implementation of the AfCFTA, with a view to removing trade barriers, promoting the African Single Market and industrial growth across Africa;
- e) The AUC was urged to lead a unified negotiation front on behalf of all Member States to secure equitable trade terms to leverage Africa's collective bargaining power to safeguard strategic sectors; and
- f) The AUC, UNECA, AfDB should support Member States to design measures for at-risk sectors through funding, training, and policy incentives with the view to create jobs, regional trade and competitiveness in global markets.

C. African Union and South Africa at the G20: Key Priorities towards a successful South African G20 Presidency

Presentation

21. Under this Agenda item, Dr Duncan Pieterse, DG South Africa National Treasury, on behalf of the South African presidency of the G20 presented on their major priorities, specifically within the Finance Track. He highlighted several key aspects of the G20 priorities set during the South African presidency, outlining the broader initiatives introduced at the G20 and the efforts of various working groups, including the G20 Africa Experts Panel, which provides strategic advice by exploring and defining strategies that advance Africa's collective interest through increased voice, effective representation and achievement of a reformed and inclusive global economic policy within the G20. Other working groups under South Africa's G20 within the Finance Track; include the international financial architecture working group, infrastructure working group, sustainable finance working group, international taxation working group, and the Joint Finance and Health Taskforce. He emphasized the need for reforms to the global financial architecture and the importance of monitoring declining development financing. Dr. Pieterse also addressed advancing debt sustainability through the G20 Common Framework and promoting transformational regional infrastructure projects. Furthermore, he underscored the significance of sustainable finance for low-carbon transitions, strengthening international taxation, and improving financial inclusion, including preparedness for future pandemics. In conclusion, he acknowledged the active support of the African Union Commission (AUC) in ensuring that Africa's priorities are reflected in the G20 agenda.

Discussion

22. In the ensuing discussions, Member States welcomed the South African Presidency presentation and efforts to secure Africa's interests in the G20. Noted the strong collaboration between the AU and the South African Presidency in defining and defending Africa's priorities in the G20. Highlighted the importance of the outcome of the Lomé Debt Conference held from 12 to 14 May 2025 in Lome, Togo and the second African Climate

Summit held from 8 to 10 September 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in strengthening Africa's negotiating positions in key issues including debt sustainability, reforms in credit rating methodologies, climate finance, global financial safety nets, and Multilateral Development Banks reforms to access concessional financing. The discussion emphasised support for the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation to Africa's voice in global financial discussions.

Recommendations

23. Following the discussion, Experts recommended as follows:

- a) Member States commended South Africa for a successful G20 Presidency on African soil and encouraged the AU and the Presidency to strengthen their collaboration with a view to securing a good outcome at the G20 Leaders' Summit in November 2025;
- b) Member States further encouraged the South African Presidency and the AU to finalise the G20 Africa Engagement Framework to sustain the legacy of the South African Presidency beyond 2025 with a view to reducing the cost of capital for Africa countries, increasing access to concessional financing and address the impediments to Africa's growth;
- c) Member States encouraged the AU and South Africa to intensify advocacy efforts aimed at strengthening the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, building on ongoing efforts, rendering it more predictable, timely, orderly and coordinated, including by building on lessons learned from individual country cases;
- d) Member States called upon South Africa and the AU to advocate for accessible climate and sustainable finance by promoting affordable financing for low-carbon transitions, scaling up investment in green infrastructure, and enhancing climate resilience across African economies;
- e) Member States further encouraged the AU and South Africa to pursue reforms of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to ensure they are adequately resourced and capable of channeling IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) effectively towards concessional financing for Africa's development and transformational regional projects; and
- f) Member States urged the AU and South Africa to continue advancing Africa's position on international tax reforms towards a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation with a view to strengthening domestic revenue mobilization and addressing tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) and illicit financial flows.

D. Update on the implementation of the African Union Financial Institutions (AUFIs)

Presentation

24. The representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) delivered presentations on the status of implementation of the African Union Financial Institutions (AUFIs), the study on technical issues surrounding the implementation of the AUFIs, and the progress of the African

Discussion

25. In the ensuing discussions, experts raised concerns on the content of the technical study highlighting the lack of clarity, timelines, and deep analysis on capitalization considering the changes in the AU membership. Key issues identified included the necessity for revised and detailed financial frameworks for all AUFIs, not just the African Investment Bank but all the institutions, and the inclusion of realistic timelines, challenges related to ratification, and governance structures. Member States also emphasized the importance of transparency, the involvement of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU policy organs, and alignment with Assembly Decisions.

Recommendations

26. The Experts made the following recommendations:

- a) The AUC should revise the technical study to make it more practical, as opposed to its current theoretical state and provide updates on financial implications, governance frameworks, and realistic implementation timelines for all AUFIs, not just the AIB;
- b) The AUC should ensure that the technical study provide clarification on legal references, institutional overlaps with African Monetary Institute (AMI), African Financing Stability Mechanism (AFSM), and Member State contributions;
- c) The AUC, under the leadership of the AU Champion on financial institutions, should advocate and raise awareness efforts at national levels to generate political will and ensure citizen engagement;
- d) The AUC was requested to delete a sentence on political instability as a reason contributing to the delay of the operationalization of AUFIs such as the African Investment Bank;
- e) The AUC should include detailed capital contribution mechanisms, including blended financing models and mobilization roadmaps in the study and simulation models showing different financial scenarios, to leverage the AACB and benefit from its technical committees, working groups and taskforce, which are already established to contribute to the work of AMI; and
- f) The AUC, AAMFI and other stakeholders should step up support to the AU Champion on AUFIs to strengthen its role and leadership for coordinated advocacy campaigns;

E. Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization in Africa: Consideration of the Report of the Fourth STC Subcommittee on Tax and Illicit Financial Flows

Presentation

27. Representatives from the AUC, ATAF, TJNA and ACBF presented the outcomes of the Fourth STC Sub-Committee on Tax and Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) held from 5 to 9 May 2025 in Lusaka, Zambia, the continental progress on Tax matters, the rolling out of the Anti-IFFs Policy Tracker Tool as well as the conclusions of the International Conference

on Taxation of the Digital Economy (ICTDE 2025) held from 15 to 16 April 2025 in Dakar, Senegal.

Discussion

28. In the ensuing discussion, Experts welcomed the presentations and reaffirmed commitment to tax reforms, combating Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), and boosting Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM). They welcomed AUC/partner initiatives like the tax treaty model, AMATM implementation, and digital taxation tools (SEP/DST). They also supported the UN Tax Cooperation Convention and Anti-IFFs Policy Tracker. Experts called for a unified approach to digital taxation, emphasizing harmonization of tax administration digitization, coordinating BEPS implementation, and improving IFF data collection.

Recommendations

29. The Experts made the following recommendations:

- a) Member States adopted the report of the STC Subcommittee on Tax and IFFs with amendments and the International Conference on Taxation of the Digital Economy;
- b) Member States are called upon to broaden tax bases, reduce exemptions, harmonise incentives, reform their tax treaty policy and carry out other transformative tax policy reforms including through working with the AUC, ATAF, TJNA, UNECA, ACBF and other relevant stakeholders to support designing and implementing robust rules for the taxation of the digital economy, digitalization of tax administration and rules to effectively address IFFs, Base Erosion and Profit Shifting;
- c) Member States are encouraged to collaborate with AUC, ATAF, TJNA, UNECA, ACBF and other stakeholders to implement AU tax and IFF strategies. This includes promoting transparency, establishing beneficial ownership registrars, adopting continental instruments for mutual administrative assistance, expanding the Anti-IFFs Policy Tracker, and strengthening asset recovery mechanisms;
- d) Member States are urged to collaborate with the AUC, ATAF, AfDB, ACBF, UNECA and relevant stakeholders to enhance the capacity of officials. This includes facilitating a continent-wide peer learning mechanism and strengthening expertise in transfer pricing, auditing, digital economy, and natural resource taxation;
- e) AUC, ATAF, TJNA, ACBF and UNECA are encouraged to continue supporting African experts engaged in negotiations across various global platforms, including the United Nations, the OECD Inclusive Framework, and the G20;
- f) Member States are encouraged to implement tax and fiscal reforms necessary for the AfCFTA, including broadening the tax treaty network and coordinating or harmonizing tax policies;
- g) AUC and ATAF are called upon to collaborate in ensuring that the Joint Technical Committee on tax works harmoniously with the STC Sub-committee on tax and IFFs, providing technical solutions to Africa's tax-related issues;

- h) The AUC, ACBF, ATAF, TJNA were encouraged to strengthen their collaboration to develop a continental strategy on the taxation of the digital economy.

F. Enhancing Debt Management in Africa: Consideration of the Lome Declaration and Draft Common African Position on Debt as Outcome Documents of the African Union Debt Conference

Presentation

30. A representative of the AUC delivered presentations on the Declaration of the African Union Conference on Debt, the Common African Position on Debt and the Virtual African Debt Monitoring Mechanism (ADMM).

Discussion

31. In the ensuing discussion, the experts welcomed the Lomé Declaration, which calls for the Common African Position (CAP) on Debt and the Virtual African Debt Monitoring Mechanism. Some delegations sought clarity on procedural and legal matters and requested additional time to submit further input on the CAP on Debt. Additionally, delegates emphasized the need for the CAP on Debt to be supported by a concrete implementation strategy, advocating for specific, measurable actions such as enhancing debt negotiation capacity and establishing ethical standards and a comparative analysis with other frameworks to strengthen its content. Experts expressed broad support for the ADMM as a crucial tool aimed at enhancing data reliability, transparency, and coordination among Member States.

Recommendations

32. In the light of the discussion, Experts made the following recommendations:

- a) Member States requested that the revised CAP on Debt be submitted for further consideration before submission of the same to the AU Policy Organs;
- b) Member States requested the AUC to define clear implementation timelines, roles, and responsibilities to ensure that the CAP on Debt is actionable and not merely aspirational;
- c) Call upon the AUC to establish and operationalize the African Debt Monitoring Mechanism (ADMM) within the ETTIM Department as a virtual platform with no legal, structural and financial burden to Member States, with the financial and technical support of AAMFI.

G. Update on the Implementation of Key Flanking Programmes

Presentation

33. On this agenda item, the AUC, APRM, AfricaNenda, and Afreximbank delivered presentations on key initiatives and ongoing programs aimed at supporting the successful implementation of the agenda 2063.

- (i) Dr. Misheck Mutize Lead Expert on credit ratings agencies, APRM updated Experts on the African Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA). He underscored that following a transparent bidding process, Mauritius was selected as the primary registration jurisdiction. He noted that efforts are ongoing for the identification of secondary jurisdictions/regional subsidiaries. By late 2025, AfCRA will have an established head office and structure, preparing to issue first ratings in 2026.
- (ii) Dr. Patrick Ndzana Olomo, Ag. Director, Economic Development, Integration and Trade, presented the African Virtual Investment Platform (AVIP), noting that objectives are to strengthen data, promote dialogue, mobilize investment, and reinforce capacity. Progress includes consultation and the launch of the AVIP during the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union. Next steps involve a data collection pilot across five regions by late 2025, establishing governance structures, and capacity building.
- (iii) Mrs Sabine Mensah, Deputy CEO AfricaNenda, presented the progress on the Payment Services Directive for Africa (PSDA) initiative, endorsed in July 2024 to harmonize cross-border payments. Key steps include stakeholder consultations and commissioning a feasibility study in June 2025. Next is forming a task force and completing the study by November 2025, aiming for Heads of State endorsement in 2026.
- (iv) Mr. Yusuf Daya, Director AU/AfCFTA Relations and Trade Policy, Afreximbank (Afreximbank) presented the Africa Entity Identifier (AEI), providing unique digital identity for African entities. The AUC secured AEI's mention in FATF Recommendation 16 for cross-border payments. The meeting welcomed the initiative, noting ongoing discussions to embed the AEI under the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol.

Discussion

34. In the ensuing discussion, Experts welcomed the presentations.

Recommendations

35. In the light of the discussion, Experts recommended as follows:

Update on the African Credit Rating Agency

- a) Member States welcomed the announcement of Mauritius as the primary jurisdiction of AfCRA;
- b) Member States interested in registering as AfCRA subsidiaries were encouraged to submit their Expression of Interest to the APRM for consideration by the transaction advisor;

African virtual Investment Platform

- a) Member States were encouraged to express their interest in joining the pilot phase of the AVIP;
- b) Member States emphasized the need for strong collaborative governance with clear mechanisms, and for the integration of data on national priority sectors while taking into account regional specificities;

- c) AUC should develop a clear roadmap for data integration, supported by systems for quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation;
- d) The Platform should ensure regular and transparent communication with investors and promote the measurement of investment impact; and
- e) The AUC and OECD were urged to accelerate the operationalization of the AVIP to support Member States improving their investments profiles to attract more financial resources.

Payment Service Directive for Africa (PSDA)

- a) The AUC and AfricaNenda Foundation were encouraged to continue consultation with key stakeholders on the PSDA, particularly the AACB and report progress to the next STC; and
- b) The AUC and AfricaNenda Foundation were further encouraged to complete the ongoing feasibility study on the PSDA and report progress in the next STC.

African Entity Identifier (AEI)

- a) Member States welcomed the AEI initiative and noted that discussions were ongoing to embed the AEI under the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol; and
- b) Member States are urged to accelerate integration of AEI with national ID systems and financial infrastructure, including credit registries, mobile money platforms, and digital payment systems, to expand adoption among SMEs and enhance Africa's credibility in global markets.

V. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Experts Meeting

- 36. The report of the meeting of Experts was adopted with amendments.

VI. Consideration of the Draft Agenda and Programme of the Ministers' Meeting

- 37. The Experts considered and adopted the draft agenda and programme of work of the ministerial segment.

VII. Date and venue for the Next Meeting

- 38. This agenda item was not discussed.

VIII. Any other business

- 39. There were no discussions under this agenda item

IX. Closing of the Meeting

- 40. Remarks were delivered by Dr. Patrick Ndzana Olomo and the Chairperson, the Experts Bureau of the STC.
- 41. In his closing remarks, Dr Patrick Ndzana Olomo, Ag. Director, Economic

Development, Integration and Trade, underlined the importance of STC as a useful policy dialogue platform for knowledge and experience sharing towards designing optimal solutions for the achievement of economic and social transformation in Africa. He concluded by thanking Experts for their active participation during the sessions and for the recommendations formulated.

42. In his closing remarks, Mr. Vusi Dlamini, Chairperson of the Experts Bureau of STC, noted the importance of the theme of STC and commended Experts for the constructive deliberations. He underscored that the meeting had provided a unique opportunity to identify the actions that would catalyze Africa's transformation. In conclusion, he thanked all participants for their fruitful and lively contributions to the debates.