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**Launch of the African Development Dynamics Report
and SHaSa II**

Draft Concept Note

Department of Economic Affairs

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1. Context

The Africa's Development Dynamics Report is first edition of the African Union Commission's Annual Economic Report, produced in collaboration with the OECD Development Centre, plays an imperative role in furthering the project to fast track the continental integration agenda and the socio-economic transformation of Africa.

This year's theme 'Growth, Jobs, and Inequalities' is central to the African Union Agenda 2063 aimed at achieving the goal of a prosperous African population requires strong, sustainable and inclusive growth that creates decent jobs and reduce inequality.

Although Africa has the second highest rate of gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the world – it should reach 3.7% in 2018 this remains below the goal fixed by African leaders of 7% annual growth over a long period. In addition, while extreme poverty has declined, it still affects 36% of Africans, or 395 million people. Lastly, the multiple inequalities of access to economic and social opportunities, particularly for women and the young are such that they hinder the effectiveness of public policy and social cohesion. The Report comprises mainly chapters on the issues of growth, jobs, and inequalities in the five geographical regions in the continent.

This report takes up the challenge by proposing ten key actions to guide development strategies and accompanies them with specific recommendations for the five regions. These ten actions focus on: sustainable *economic* development by stimulating domestic investment, diversifying exports, deepening rural-urban links and promoting green growth; inclusive *social* development, through education provision aligned with labour market needs and effective and universal social protection; and lastly, stronger *institutions* via real regional integration, better mobilisation of domestic resources and ongoing improvement of political and economic governance.

The Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) is a continent-wide effort that directly responds to Africa's challenges and supports the African integration agenda, particularly the Minimum Integration Program (MIP), which was adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in July 2009. The main purpose of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) is to enable the African Statistical System (ASS) to generate timely, reliable, and harmonized statistical information, covering all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural integration for Africa. It aims to drive forward the continental integration agenda, which is a pivotal goal of African Heads of State and Government. The document provides some background information on the African integration process and highlights priority statistical requirements for its three major dimensions, namely: (i) political integration and regional and continental governance, (ii) economic integration, and (iii) social and cultural integration. In addition, it highlights various initiatives that have been undertaken by ASS stakeholders at national, regional, continental, and international levels to foster the development of quality statistical information in Africa.

2. Rationale of the Launch

The launch of *the Africa's Development Dynamics Report* and SHaSA2 aims at fuelling debate between members of the Union, citizens, business people and researchers. It also undertakes to bring an African contribution to fair and sustainable models of development, and to play a part in the development of a new kind of international co-operation more focused on mutual learning and the co-construction of public policies that improves the well-being of the population and the prosperity of the African continent.

3. Date and Venue

The launch will take place on 11 July 2018 at the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

4. Format of the Workshop

There will be a general introduction of the report by the Director of Economic Affairs, followed by speeches from H.E. Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation Ethiopia, H.E Chairperson of the AU and the Commissioner of the Economic Affairs Department. The various presentations and discussions on the sections/chapters in the reports and SHaSA 2 will follow. The launch will end with a cocktail event in celebration of the launch and continuation of the prolific discussions.

5. PARTICIPATION

Expected participants to the launch include Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation of Ethiopia, Bureau of the STC, Bureau of the African Central Bank Association, Regional Economic Communities, and Commissioners of the AUC. The journalists from different African countries are expected to attend as well as AUC partners- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank, the African Capacity Building Foundation, International Monetary fund, Organization Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the African Union Commission.

6. CONTACTS

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