

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone 5517 700 Cables: OAU, ADDIS ABABA Fax: 251-11-5513039

COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN MINISTERS OF FINANCE (F15) MEETING

SHARM-EL-SHEIK, EGYPT

DECEMBER 3-6, 2019

[TENTATIVE PROGRAM]

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- a) Strategies for enhancing the implementation of financing of the Union Decisions are agreed upon;
- b) The working methods and rules of procedure for the Committee are known to all members and put into practice;
- c) The proposed Secretariat services to support the work of the F15 is finalised.

RETREAT OF COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
DAY ONE		
08:30 – 08:45	Registration	Get accredited and receive meeting materials

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
08:45 – 09:30	Welcome Remarks	
	Deputy Chief of Staff, BDCP	
	Key Note Address by Representative of Host Government	
	Chairperson of the meeting- Chad	Highlights the objectives of the meeting and the expected results
	House Keeping announcements	Any announcement that may be of use to participants
	FIRST SESSION	
09:30 – 11:00	Facilitator: Ministry of Finance – Egypt	
	Presentation: Participation of F15 in the preparation of the annual budget.	
	<p>A. Background</p> <p>The AU Assembly, through its Decisions <i>Assembly/AU/Dec.605(XXVII)</i> and <i>Assembly/AU/Dec.687(XXX)</i> decided to establish a Committee of Ministers of Finance <i>“to participate in the preparation of the annual budget” as follows;</i></p> <p>(i) Sub-Committees of CPC and GSCBFAM shall sit jointly with the F15¹ to examine the budget priorities and proposals;</p> <p>(ii) The Sub-Committees shall submit their recommendations to the PRC for consideration;</p> <p>(iii) The PRC shall consider the report and submit its recommendations to the Executive Council;</p>	

¹ CPC, GSCBFAM and F15T represents sub-Committee on Programs and Conferences, of General Supervision Coordination on Budgetary, Finance and Administrative Matters, and Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance’s Committee of Experts, respectively.

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
	<p>(iv) The Executive Council shall be constituted by Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance for the purpose of budget session;</p> <p>(v) The Executive Council shall, prior to its consideration of the budget, receive the recommendations of the F15 on the budget</p> <p>B. The Presentation</p> <p>The presentation will highlight how the F15 has participated in statutory AU budgetary process. It will also highlight key successes, challenges, and thoughts on the way forward.</p> <p>C. Key discussion points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the Committee been enabled to participate fully in the budget preparation process? - Are there any gaps and areas for improvement that require attention of the Commission? - Proposed recommendations for improvement of the budget process adequately reflected in the Decisions of the Policy Organs? - Is the Secretariat support adequate? 	
	Comments by the Ministry of Finance of South Africa	Responds to the presentation focusing on its own experience participating in AU Budget preparation process and its thoughts on how the process can be improved.
	Open Discussion: - All	

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
11:00 – 10:30	Tea Break	
11:30 – 13:00	<p data-bbox="454 304 1025 339">Facilitator: Ministry of Finance – Algeria</p> <p data-bbox="454 347 1406 424">Presentation: F15 responsibility for the oversight of the African Union budget- AUC</p> <p data-bbox="551 432 775 467">A. Background</p> <p data-bbox="454 475 1473 639">Through its Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.687(XXX), the Assembly decided that the Committee of fifteen Finance Ministers will “assume responsibility for the oversight of the African Union budget” as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="701 647 1473 724">i. Comparing the expenditure and the rate of results achievement; <li data-bbox="701 732 1473 809">ii. Establishing the baseline for the following financial year’s budget; <li data-bbox="701 817 1473 893">iii. Ensuring alignment between the budget and results achieved; <li data-bbox="701 901 1473 978">iv. Ensuring the link between revenue forecasts and affordability; <li data-bbox="701 986 1473 1062">v. Ensuring that the proposed budget does not pose any unsustainable risk over the long term. <p data-bbox="551 1126 775 1161">B. Presentation</p> <p data-bbox="454 1169 1473 1294">The presentation will highlight how the F15 has assumed responsibility for the oversight of the African Union budget, highlighting key successes, challenges, and thoughts on the way forward.</p> <p data-bbox="551 1342 902 1377">C.Key discussion points</p>	

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the Committee been allowed to fully play its oversight role on the AU Budget? - Are there any gaps and areas for improvement that require attention of the Commission? - Is the secretariat support provided by the Commission adequate? - Are there additional measures that need to be taken to improve Committee's oversight functions? 	
	<p>Comments by Ministry of Finance – Namibia</p> <p>Namibia will be requested to be a discussant to respond to the presentation</p>	
	<p>Open Discussion: - All</p>	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
	SESSION TWO	
14:00 – 15:00	Facilitator: Ministry of Finance – Nigeria	
	Presentation: F15 participation in the development and administration of scale of assessment for contributions and sanctions regime – AU Commission	
	<p>A. Background</p> <p>Through its Decision <i>EX.CL/Dec.1020(XXXIII)</i> the Executive Council decided to reconfigure the composition of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment to include the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15).</p>	

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
	<p>B.Presentation The presentation will highlight how the F15 has participated in the development and administration of the scale of assessment, contributions and sanctions regime, highlighting key successes, challenges, and thoughts on the way forward.</p> <p>C.Key discussion points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the Committee participated adequately in the development and administration of the scale of assessment and sanctions regime? - What role can the Committee play in the administration of the new scale of assessment, contributions and sanctions regime? - How should the Committee relate to its counterparts, the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions in the reconfigured committee? Should it be a joint sitting? How should the rules of procedure and working methods look like? - What secretariat support services are to be provided by the Commission. - Are there additional measures that need to be taken to improve Committee's involvement? 	
	<p>Comments by Ministry of Finance – Algeria</p> <p>As a discussant, Algeria will provide a response to the presentation in order to prepare space for discussion. Algeria has been the Chair of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions.</p>	
	<p>Open Discussion: - All</p>	
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Facilitator: Ministry of Finance – Chad</p>	

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
	<p>Presentation: F15 Oversight role on the Reserve Fund and development of the golden rules for financial management and accountability principles</p>	
	<p>A. Background Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) mandated the F15 to assume full responsibility for the oversight of the Reserve Fund and develop a set of golden rules establishing clear financial management and accountability principles.</p> <p>B. Presentation The presentation will highlight how the F15 has participated and played its oversight role on the Reserve Fund and the development and administration of the golden rules for financial management and accountability principles, highlighting key successes, challenges, and thoughts on the way forward.</p> <p>C. Key discussion points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the Committee been allowed to fully play its oversight role on the Reserve Fund? - How can the Committee be adequately be briefed on the implementation of the golden rules? - What role can the Committee play in the administration of the golden rules? - Monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms on the implementation of the golden rules; - How often should the Committee receive reports on the status of the Reserve Fund and progress on implementation of the golden rules? 	

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What secretariat support services are to be provided by the Commission. 	
	<p>Comments by Ministry of Finance – Congo</p> <p>As a discussant, Congo will respond to the presentation highlighting, among others, how the AU Reserve Fund should be managed and the oversight role to be played by the Committee.</p>	
	Open Discussion: - All	
16:00 – 16:15	Tea/Coffee break	
16:15 – 17:15	Facilitator: Ministry of Finance – Ghana	
	Presentation: F15 Involvement in the implementation of Kigali Decision on Financing of the Union (Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII)), including the 0.2% levy – by AUC	
	<p>A. Background</p> <p>The Assembly, through its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII) decided to institute and implement a 0.2% levy on all eligible imported goods into the continent to finance the African Union operational, Program and Peace Support Operations Budgets starting from the year 2017.</p> <p>It also decided in the same Decision that the amounts collected from the levy shall be automatically paid by the national administration into an account opened for the African Union with the Central Banks of each Member State for transmission to the African Union in accordance with each Member State's assessed contribution</p>	

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
	<p>In addition, the Assembly, through its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.641(XXVIII) requested the F15 to address concerns raised by Member States in implementing the 0.2% levy.</p> <p>B. Presentation The presentation will make the meeting appreciate the level of implementation of the Kigali Decision on financing the Union. Focuses on progress achieved so far, challenges encountered, and mitigation measures.</p> <p>C. Discussion Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can the F15 be involved in the implementation of Kigali Decision on Financing of the Union? - Key secretariat activities towards the implementation of the Decision; - Enforcement mechanisms. 	
	<p>Reponse by the Ministry of Finance of Rwanda</p> <p>As a discussant, Rwanda will share its experience in implementing the Kigali Decision on Financing the Union.</p>	
	Discussions- All	
	END OF DAY 1	
DAY TWO	SESSION THREE	
09:00 – 10:00	Facilitator: F15 Chairperson	
	Presentation: Revised Terms of Reference for the F15.	

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
	Based on the Decisions and discussions above, the Commission will review and amend the draft Terms of Reference for the F15. These will be presented for consideration by the Committee.	
	Open Discussion	
10:00 – 11:00	Facilitator: F15 Chairperson	
	Presentation: Draft Rules of Procedure for the F15	
	Based on the Decisions and discussions above, the Commission will propose draft Rules of Procedure for the F15 for consideration by the Committee.	
	Open Discussion	
11:00 – 11:15	Tea/Break	
11:15 – 12:30	Facilitator: F15 Chairperson	
	Presentation: Proposed Secretariat Services to support the work of the F15	
	Pursuant to Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.733(XXXII) in which the Commission was mandated to <i>“Strengthen the Secretariat of the Financing of the Union with a view to providing adequate support to the F15 and Member States”</i> and based on the Decisions and the proposed Terms of Reference for the F15, the Commission will propose detailed Secretariat Services to be provided by the Commission.	
12:30- 13:00	Preparation of Agenda for Ministerial Meeting	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/TASK	REMARKS
DAY THREE	SESSION FOUR	
09:00 – 13:00	Report Writing and Translation	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 17:00	Report Writing and Translation	
18:30 – 19:30	Facilitator: F15 Chairperson	
	Consideration of the report	
	F15 Receive and Brief Ministers	

DAY FOUR	MINISTERIAL MEETING	
	OPEN SESSION	
09:00 – 09:15	Registration and Accreditation	
09:15 – 10:15	Official Opening	
	- Minister of Finance – Tchad	Welcomes all and introduces the high table
	- Chairperson of African Union Commission	
	- Minister of Finance – Egypt	Officially declares the meeting open
	- Minister of Finance – Tchad	Highlights the Objectives of the Meeting and invites delegates to a group photo.
	GROUP PHOTO	
	Media Briefing	The media have an opportunity to interact with F15 Chairperson, Minister of Finance (Egypt) and AU Commission Chairperson
10:15 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break	

	CLOSED SESSION	Media is not allowed
10:30 – 12:00	Consideration of the Report of Committee of Technical Experts	The F15 considers recommendations of its Committee of Expert's report.
	Open Discussion	General discussion on matters raised in the report.
12:00 – 13:00	Report on Budget and Financial Reforms, including an Update on implementation of Golden Rules	
	- AU Commission	
	Open Discussion	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 15:45	F15 Working Methods	
	a) Revised Terms of Reference	
	b) Rules of Procedure of the F15	
	c) Proposed strengthened Secretariat Support to the work of F15	
	Open Discussion	
15:45 – 16:00	Tea/Coffee break	
	OPEN SESSION	Media is allowed
16:00 – 16:30	Closing Remarks	
	- AU Commission Chairperson	
	- Minister of Finance – Egypt	Vote of thanks
	- Minister of Finance – Tchad (F15 Chairperson)	Vote of thanks, announces the date of next meeting and declares the meeting closed.
16:30 – 16:45	Media Briefing	The media have an opportunity to interact with F15 Chairperson, Minister of Finance (Egypt) and AU Commission Chairperson

