



MILESTONE: ECOSOCC BEGINS WORK ON THE BUILDING OF ECOSOCC NATIONAL CHAPTERS

The 2nd Permanent General Assembly of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) has reached another milestone in the process of the institutional development and consolidation of the Organ. It has commenced the process of building ECOSOCC National Chapters as a framework for accountability of elected members, as well as a conduit for disseminating information and mobilizing support for AU programs and activities as mandated by Executive Council Decision EX/CL/Dec. 869 (XXVI) of 23-27 January 2015 and Dec. EX/CL 924 (XXVI) of June 2015 that “Encouraged the ECOSOCC in its efforts, in collaboration with the Commission and Member States to mobilize all national and regional CSOs and grassroots Organizations to facilitate their constant interaction as well as the establishment of National Chapters of ECOSOCC within Member States, to achieve a people-centred Union in line with Agenda 2003 framework.”

Following this the 1st Ordinary Session of the 2nd Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC held in Cairo in February/March 2015 and subsequent sessions of its Executive Organ, the Standing Committee of ECOSOCC, held in Khartoum in May 2015 adopted decisions and guidelines for the process of building National ECOSOCC Chapters.

Consequently, the Deputy Presiding Officers of the various regions and the Members of the Standing Committee in the various Member States began the process of using the guidelines to facilitate the establishment of National Chapters.

Three Interim National Chapters (INECs) have now been established in Mauritius, Seychelles and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). Each of the Interim Chapters have elected Sectoral Cluster Chairs to work with the corresponding heads in the Standing Committee. (See attachments), the African Union Commission and other AU organs.

It is important to observe that the processes are being closely coordinated with various Member States as required by Executive Council Decision EX.CL/924 (XXVII). Please

find attached examples of the Mauritius INEC which met with H.E. Ameenah Gurib Fakim, GCSK, CSK, President of the Republic of Mauritius on Tuesday 15 September 2015. The list of the Cluster Heads for Mauritius and SADR are also attached.

The establishment of INECS in Mauritius, Seychelles and SADR sets the stage for other Member States in which strenuous efforts are ongoing. The establishment of National INECs establishes the foundation for subsequent frameworks. For instance, Mauritius has launched a 1st and 2nd call for Cluster memberships and will carry out an induction course for National Chapter Members. Staffing for cluster membership will continue in November 2015 and the official launch of INEC Mauritius is scheduled to take place in March 2016.