

**1997/6. Programme of work and priorities of the
Economic Commission for Africa for the
biennium 1998–1999**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/203 of 11 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions on programme planning,

Recalling also resolution 809 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on the new strategic directions for the Commission,⁴¹ and endorsing in particular the new orientations of the Commission as outlined in the document entitled “Serving Africa better: strategic directions for the Economic Commission for Africa”,⁴² as well as in the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001,⁴³

Taking note of the programme of work of the Commission for 1997 as revised in compliance with paragraph 5 of resolution 809 (XXXI), in which the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa was requested to revise, in close collaboration with the Bureau of the Commission, the programme of work for the biennium 1996–1997,

Having examined the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998–1999,⁴³

— *Taking note* of the new programme structure, which is characterized by congruence between organizational and programme structures, a reduction in the number of subprogrammes and the clustering of closely related activities under a single subprogramme to foster synergy and achieve greater efficiency and impact in the delivery of services,

Convinced that the proposals contained in the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998–1999 will make a significant contribution to the economic and social development of Africa,

1. *Endorses* the programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 1998–1999⁴³ as amended;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in making his proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, to give special consideration to the development needs of the African region by providing the Commission with adequate resources to enable it to carry out fully the reforms already embarked upon;

3. *Calls upon* the General Assembly and its Second and Fifth Committees to ensure that adequate resources are made available to the Commission for the implementation of its programme of work;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure that the implementation of the programme of work is guided by the same principles that have underpinned reform and renewal at the Commission: professional excellence, cost-effectiveness in product management and programme delivery and effective partnerships with African regional organizations, the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral and bilateral donors in support of the development of Africa;

5. *Commends* the secretariat of the Commission for the innovative approach it adopted in designing its programme of work and the activities therein.

*34th plenary meeting
18 July 1997*

⁴¹ E/ECA/CM.22/2.

⁴² E/ECA/CM.22/3.

⁴³ E/ECA/CM.23/10.