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with GDP contracting by 6.8%, the number of employed persons falling



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averages of 5.7 percent and 4.7 percent in the same year (WESP 2021). Developed countries are projected to grow at 4.0 percent following a 5.6 percent contraction in 2020. Factors constraining growth trajectories across regions are expected to worsen if Africa does not receive massive multilateral support needed to put the world economy on the path of an inclusive and resilient recovery. Recurrent expenditures coupled with declining revenues have contributed to worsen fiscal deficits and elevate debt vulnerabilities.

The Africa region also experienced a deepening of previous existing inequalities across health, education and gender. Out-of-pocket expenditure remains the single largest component (36 percent) of total healthcare expenditure on average, which slows down poverty reduction and exacerbates inequalities. Over 70 percent of the informal sector remains

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4. showcase how the Regional Commissions, building on their convening and advocacy power, normative capacity and the knowledge of the countries they serve, continue to work toward tackling inequalities/ global asymmetries, thus helping to lay the basis for sustainable long term recovery in the regions

### III. FORMAT

Opening remarks will be delivered by the Chair of the General Assembly Second Committee Ms. Vanessa Frazier, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN, followed by the Executive Secretaries of the five UN Regional Commissions. Each will make presentations (10 mins each). Then there will be interactive rounds of discussion with members of the Committee. The Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office will moderate the discussion.

### IV. PROGRAMME

- 10:00 Opening remarks, Chair Second Committee, E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN.
- 10:05 Welcoming remarks, Moderator, Ms. Rosa Malango, Director, Regional Commissions New York Office.
- 10:10 Presentations by the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions:
- Executive Secretary ESCAP and USG Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana;
  - Executive Secretary CA and USG Ms. Vera Songwe;
  - Executive Secretary UNECE and USG Ms. Olga Algayerova;
  - Executive Secretary EAC and USG Ms. Alicia Cerna;
  - Executive Secretary SEWA and USG Ms. Rola Dashti (Coordinator of the five Regional Commissions).
- 11:00 Round of interventions from the floor.
- 12:00 Responses from the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions.
- 12:50 Concluding remarks by the Moderator.
- 12:55

