16 September 2008

Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) is an important advisory organ of the African Union (AU) made up of two elected representatives of Civil society organizations of AU member states among others. The first General Assembly of the ECOSOCC was made from 7-9 September 2008 and the Council was launched on 9 September 2008 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania presided by HE president Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, current chair of the Union and president of the United Republic of Tanzania.

In attendance were a cross-section of representatives of African civil society groupings, members of the diplomatic corps, the African Diaspora, the Deputy Chairperson of the AU commission, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, the chair of the Executive council of AU, Hon. Bernard Mbembe, the chair of the permanent representative council, Dr. Mohammed Omar Mound and representatives of other AU organs, Regional Economic Communities, partner institution such as the African Development Bank, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the former secretary general of the Organization for African Unity (OAU). The establishment of the ECOSOCC signifies the creation of people-oriented and people-driven community in the African Union. It helps the African community to have their say in the African Union issues. ETA, as a member of the General Assembly, contributes its level best for the realization of vision of the ECOSOCC in particular and that of the AU in general.