# Key Outcomes of the 7th Annual General Meeting of the Public Sector Economists Forum

The chairperson of the forum, Mr Paul Court presented the Annual Chairperson’s report for 2015, after which followed a discussion of the pertinent issues for the forum in 2016, the nomination of a new chairperson and the confirmation of the venue for the next congress. The chairperson’s report will be provided separately but the key resolutions of the AGM are summarized below:

***Membership***

1. Members reiterated that the forum was open to all economists in the public sector but that the steering committee will be made up of representatives of provincial treasuries and economic development departments and metros.
2. It was agreed that the DTI needed to be roped into the forum as representatives of national government along with National Treasury and EDD
3. Provincial departments were responsible for inviting metro economists within their province to the forum

***Funding***

1. The issue of membership fees was rejected by the forum as it was noted that this would create administrative burdens on the forum and that it would violate PFMA and MFMA regulations.
2. Instead it was resolved to pursue stronger partnerships with National Treasury and the Government Technical Advisory Centre, and to assess the potential for obtaining contributions from them.

***Research***

1. It was agreed that the PSEF was not an academic association and that producing a peer reviewed journal was not possible given the funding and HR constraints. Nevertheless, papers presented at the Congress could be compiled into an informal journal-type document.
2. Members agreed to make their department’s regular economic publications available on the PSEF website in order to create a comprehensive research repository. This includes PEROs; SEROs; MEROs and quarterly publications
3. Members agreed to share their research agendas on the PSEF website. This will necessitate the design of a specific research agenda page on the website.

***Networking***

1. A linkedin group for the PSEF should be developed which members can list on their linkedin profiles
2. PSEF members should be added to the GTAC ‘Whatsup’ newsletter distribution list

***Steering Committee Meetings***

1. It was resolved that the number of steering committee meetings per year be cut to two during the year, with the third taking place at the Congress, prior to the AGM. The time allocated to steering committee meetings (barring the last one) should, however, be increased from half a day to just short of a full day and include presentations on the thematic areas for the year.
2. It was suggested that steering committee members be allocated certain portfolios pertaining to the PSEF which they would be responsible for driving and for which they would need to report back every meeting. The new chairperson will be required to inform the allocation of these roles at the first steer comm in 2016.
3. The forum noted the need for consistency in attendance from steer comm members at meetings during the year

***Chairpersonship***

1. The forum decided that it was beneficial to de-link the chairpersonship and the hosting of the congress.
2. Mr Malele Mogoane, Chief Economist from North West Treasury was elected as the chairperson of the forum for 2016
3. The issue of a deputy chair (to ensure better continuity) was extensively discussed at the forum but ultimately it was decided that the steering committee should provide the continuity

***Next Congress***

1. The forum resolved to adopt a convention of selecting the next congress venue a year in advance at the preceding annual congress
2. North West was chosen as the hosting province for the annual congress in 2016

***Outgoing chairperson’s closing remarks***

1. The chairpersons annual report will be made available on the website
2. The chairperson will update the TOR and Vision of the Forum using the content of a recent interview with GTAC on the PSEF