

AFRICAN UNION

DECLARATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS



BOOK ONE

Virginia Morris



**“Education is the most powerful weapon
we can use to change the world.”**

Nelson Mandela

The quest for Pan-Africanism culminated in the establishment of the Organization of African Unity by the 32 African States that had achieved independence as of 25 May 1963. The historic decision to establish an organization to promote the goals of African unity and the aspirations of the African peoples was taken in the Africa Hall located at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The photograph on the cover is of the stained glass window in the foyer of the Africa Hall. It was designed by the Ethiopian Artist, Maître Afework Tekle. The artwork is divided into three parts which reflect “Africa Then”, “Africa Then and Now”, and “Africa Now and in the Future”.

Graphic design provided by Sean Bacon.

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africanlawseries@gmail.com

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* Editor's note: This decision refers to the Extraordinary Summit held in Sirte, Libya, in September 2005 to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the Sirte Declaration providing for the establishment of the African Union and to discuss issues such as the establishment of an African peacekeeping force and the creation of the United States of Africa. The African Union website does not contain any documents resulting from this summit.

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Foreword

Hon. Justice Ben Kioko

During my tenure at the African Union Commission which encompasses the inception of the African Union (AU) in 2002, I served as The Legal Counsel and Director of the unified central legal service for the African Union (AU), its organs and institutions up to 2012 where I had overall responsibility for overseeing the provision of legal services AU system wide.

Within that context, I initiated among others, the cooperation arrangement on matters of mutual interest between my department and the Office of the Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel for the United Nations (UN) following an official visit I made to Ms. Patricia O'Brien in New York and hosting her in a return visit to the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

In the implementation of that agreement, I worked with Ms. Virginia Morris to establish the permanent Regional Course in International Law for Africa conducted by the United Nations (UN) with the support of the African Union (AU). I found Ms. Morris to be passionate and totally committed to the teaching, training and dissemination of international law, a passion and commitment that she evidently still retains today. I am pleased that the collaboration between the two institutions continues with the organization of the March 2023 permanent Regional Course in International Law for Africa.

This publication chronicles the work of the AU Assembly since its establishment under the Constitutive Act of the African Union in 2002. The importance of the decisions of the Assembly as the supreme organ of the African Union¹ and the highest law, policy and decision-making body of the Union cannot be overemphasized. The Assembly plays the leading role in implementing the overarching objectives of strengthening Pan-Africanism as well as political, socio-economic integration and development of the continent. It is the conscience of the African peoples, the guarantor of the fundamental rights and freedoms of all Africans, and the voice of Africa in the international community. Considering the somewhat consultative process that the formulation of decisions takes from studies and inputs by experts and stakeholders, Permanent Representatives, sectoral ministers and thereafter the Executive Council and the Assembly, the decisions could be said to reflect the collective will and thinking of African leaders on the immediate, medium and long-term future of the continent.

As is evident from the decisions and declarations contained in this publication, the Assembly has since its establishment, consistently addressed the wide-ranging challenges facing the continent. Some of the decisions highlight a critical self-assessment with the admission that while the colonial legacy has had an enduring impact on Africa's political and socio-economic development, many of the challenges Africa currently faces are mainly due to internal dynamics notably, *inter alia*, unconstitutional changes of governments, lack of internal democracy, non-respect of the rule of law and human rights, marginalisation, lack of tolerance, bad governance, mismanagement of public resources and corruption, non-inclusivity in the management of public affairs as well as inadequate financing of important sectors such as health and agriculture.

As of February 2023, the Assembly had adopted 48 treaties under the aegis of the AU, covering areas such as peace and security, economic and social development, agriculture and environmental management, health and social welfare, education, science and technology, youth development, civil society and diaspora, and energy and infrastructure. Many of these decisions have established new treaty bodies or strengthened existing institutional structures and programmes of the African Union. For some of the treaties, where their own implementation bodies were not set up, it was envisaged that the existing institutions were sufficient to address any complaints that may arise. This is the case, for example, for the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

¹ Constitutive Act of the African Union, Article 6, paragraph 2.

Relating to the Rights of Women,² the African Youth Charter,³ and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG).⁴

It is instructive to note that the range and depth of the decisions as well as the repetitive nature of the issues addressed, betrays the huge challenge of lack of implementation of the decisions, primarily by Member States. It is baffling that Member States' representatives, often at the highest levels, meet and adopt decisions, frameworks and Common African Positions to address the pressing issues they all agree upon, and after that take no action to implement them. For example, in June 2003, by Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.7 (II), the Heads of State and Government resolved "to IMPLEMENT, as a matter of urgency, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and flagship projects and evolving Action Plans for agricultural development, at the national, regional and continental levels and committed themselves to allocating at least 10% of national budgetary resources for their implementation within five years". However, by February 2022, almost twenty years later, no Member States had achieved this target.⁵ Needless to say, this challenge of non-implementation cuts across the majority of the decisions adopted by the AU and its judicial and quasi-judicial organs and institutions.

The initiative by Ms. Morris to publish the decisions of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government (AU Assembly), gives me the honour and privilege to continue the cooperation that has been strengthened and exists to date and to support the teaching and dissemination of international law. Undoubtedly, the publication will be a valuable resource for policy makers, scholars and lay persons who are interested in researching, studying, teaching, or understanding the historical development of African Union law and policy in Africa.

Moreover, the placement of this publication on the website of the African Institute of International Law will not only greatly enhance its dissemination throughout Africa but also reaffirm the Assembly's support for the establishment of the Institute and recognition of *"the importance of the role that the Institute will play in building the capacity of African faculties of law and African lawyers in dealing with various aspects of international and African Union law"*.⁶

Hon. Justice Ben Kioko
Judge, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

Arusha, February 2023

² Assembly/AU/Dec.19 (II).

³ Assembly/AU/Dec.121 (VII).

⁴ Assembly/AU/Dec.147 (VIII).

⁵ The Third CAADP Biennial Review Report, submitted to the AU Assembly in February 2022, on the implementation of the Malabo Declaration (Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XXIII) of June 2014) on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The Report indicates that although some progress had been made only one State had come somewhat close to reaching the target 10%.

⁶ Assembly/AU/Dec.405 (XVIII).

Preface

International law and African law are the essential foundation for achieving the objectives of African unity and the aspirations of the African peoples. The Charter of the Organization of African Unity recognized: the inalienable right of all people to control their own destiny; the fact that freedom, equality, justice and dignity are essential objectives for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African peoples; the responsibility to harness the human resources of the African continent for the total advancement of the African peoples in all spheres of human endeavour; a common determination to promote understanding among African peoples and cooperation among African States in response to the aspirations of the African peoples for brotherhood and solidarity, in a larger unity transcending ethnic and national differences; the need to establish and maintain conditions for peace and security to translate this determination into a dynamic force in the cause of human progress; and that the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provide a solid foundation for peaceful and positive cooperation among States.⁷

The Constitutive Act of the African Union recognized that the Organization of African Unity had played a determining and invaluable role in the liberation of the continent, the affirmation of a common identity and the process of attainment of the unity of the continent and had provided a unique framework for collective action in Africa and its relations with the rest of the world. The Constitutive Act of the African Union recognizes the need: to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society to strengthen solidarity and cohesion among the African peoples guided by the common vision of a united and strong Africa; to promote peace, security and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of its development and integration agenda; to promote and protect human and peoples' rights, consolidate democratic institutions and culture, and to ensure good governance and the rule of law.⁸

The Constitutive Act of the African Union sets forth the following objectives to meet the needs of Africa: to achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa; to encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; to promote peace, security and stability on the continent; to promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance; to promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments; to establish the necessary conditions to enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations; to promote sustainable development as well as the integration of African economies; to promote cooperation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of the African peoples; and to advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields.⁹ The African Union is guided by the following principles in performing its functions to achieve those objectives: peaceful resolution of conflicts among Member States of the African Union; peaceful coexistence of Member States and their right to live in peace and security; promotion of gender equality; and respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance.¹⁰

This publication was prepared for academic purposes to promote a better knowledge of African law and thereby further the objectives of African unity and the aspirations of the African peoples. It contains the declarations, resolutions and decisions adopted by the African Union at its ordinary and extraordinary sessions held from 2002 to 2022. These documents reflect the continuing transformation of the vision of Pan-Africanism to the reality of a united Africa sharing a common destiny and working together to build a better future for all of the peoples of

⁷ Charter of the Organization of African Unity, preamble.

⁸ Constitutive Act of the African Union, preamble.

⁹ Article 3.

¹⁰ Article 4.

Africa. The legal materials reproduced in this publication contain technical corrections and editorial changes.¹¹ The original text of most of the documents may be found on the African Union website.¹²

The author would like to express appreciation for the cooperation and assistance provided by the African Union during the preparation of this publication.

¹¹ The United Nations editorial guidelines have been used to address minor inconsistencies in the use of the English language such as spelling, capitalization and punctuation. *United Nations Editorial Manual* (Sales No. E.83.I.16), United Nations Editorial Manual online (<http://dd.dgacm.org/editorialmanual>), and the *Oxford Dictionary* online (British and World English) (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>). The French versions of the documents have also been consulted for guidance and clarification as needed.

¹² African Union website, <https://au.int/en/treaties>.

FIRST ORDINARY SESSION

**Durban, South Africa
9 to 10 July 2002**

Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (I)

Decision on the Interim Period

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Lusaka Decision AHG/Dec.160 (XXXVII);

2. *Decides:*

- (i) To adopt the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and the Statute of the Commission;
- (ii) That the transition period shall come to an end with the convening of the Inaugural Session of the Assembly;
- (iii) To provide for an interim period with effect from 9 July 2002 for a duration of one (1) year after which the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly shall appoint the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson as well as the Commissioners through the Executive Council;
- (iv) To designate the Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretaries-General and the staff of the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as the Interim Commission in accordance with Article 33, paragraph 4, of the Constitutive Act;
- (v) That the Secretary-General shall be the Interim Chairperson of the Commission and the Assistant Secretaries-General shall be acting Commissioners and to authorize him to allocate the portfolios as appropriate;
- (vi) To authorize the Interim Commission to complete its proposals on the structure of the Commission for submission to Member States and undertake all the necessary measures to facilitate the election and appointment of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and the Commissioners in July 2003;
- (vii) To authorize the Interim Chairperson to prepare the financial implications of the structure of the Commission and undertake the necessary consultations with Member States prior to submitting them to the Executive Council and ultimately to the Assembly in July 2003;
- (viii) To authorize the Interim Chairperson to continue implementing the other activities identified in the Secretary-General's report relating to the Lusaka Decision;
- (ix) To authorize also the Interim Commission to continue with the process of transferring the assets and liabilities of the OAU to the African Union;
- (x) To urge those countries which have not yet ratified the Constitutive Act to do so expeditiously; and to reiterate its appeal to all Member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Protocol on the Pan-African Parliament;
- (xi) That the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child shall henceforth operate within the framework of the African Union; and
- (xii) To congratulate and express its appreciation to the Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretaries-General and the staff of the General Secretariat on the excellent work done and their dedication and commitment to the cause of the African Union which has made the launching of the African Union possible.

Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (I)

**Decision on the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. AHG/234 (XXXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision AHG/Dec.160 (XXXVII) of the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, to incorporate the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution as one of the organs of the African Union, in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act and to request the Secretary-General to undertake a review of the structures, procedures and working methods of the Central Organ, including the possibility of changing its name;
2. *Takes note* of Decision AHG/Dec.184 (XXXVIII) on the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, adopted by the Seventy-sixth Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 June to 6 July 2002;
3. *Adopts* the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and calls upon all Member States to sign and ratify the Protocol so as to ensure its early entry into force;
4. *Decides* in the interim that, pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol, the Cairo Declaration on the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution shall remain valid.

Assembly/AU/Dec.3 (I)

**Decision on the Proposed Amendments to Articles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union
(Doc. AHG/238 (XXXVIII))**

The Assembly,

Having considered the proposal by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on amendments to articles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union,

Decides as follows:

1. The interim Chairperson of the Commission will circulate the Libyan amendments to all Member States;
2. All the proposals for amendment will first be examined by the Executive Council in accordance with Article 32 of the Act and submitted for consideration by an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly to be held in six (6) months' time.

Assembly/AU/Dec.4 (I)

Decision on the Situation in Madagascar

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Article 4, subparagraph (p), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union on the condemnation and rejection of unconstitutional changes of government;
2. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the Algiers Decision and the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government during their ordinary sessions held in July 1999 and July 2000, respectively;

3. *Commends* President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, the outgoing Chairman of the OAU, President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal and the other Heads of State who facilitated the Dakar I Agreement of 18 April 2002, and who proposed the Dakar II Settlement Plan for Madagascar, as well as the Secretary-General of the OAU and the Personal Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for their efforts;
4. *Endorses* the communiqué on the situation in Madagascar adopted by the Central Organ meeting, held at the Summit level, in Addis Ababa, on 21 June 2002;
5. *Encourages* Mr. Marc Ravalomanana and all the Malagasy parties to pursue efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation and cohesion and promoting a peaceful solution to the crisis;
6. *Encourages further* Mr. Marc Ravalomanana and other Malagasy parties concerned to organize, as soon as possible, elections* as recommended in the communiqué adopted by the Central Organ meeting at the Summit level held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 21 June 2002. These elections must be transparent and free and organized with the assistance of the African Union and the United Nations;
7. *Requests* the current Chairman of the African Union and the Interim Chairperson of the Commission to assist the Malagasy parties in seeking a peaceful and constitutional solution to the crisis in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.5 (I)

**Decision on a Common African Defence and Security Policy
(Doc. Ass/AU/3 (I) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

Welcoming the initiative of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, Leader of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the establishment of a single African army,

1. *Stresses* the need for a common African defence and security policy in the context of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
2. *Requests* the Chairman of the Assembly to establish a group of experts to examine all aspects related to the establishment of a common African defence and security and submit recommendations for the consideration of the next ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (I)

Declaration on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

1. *We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the Organization of African Unity*, meeting at the Thirty-eighth Session of our Assembly in Durban, South Africa, on 8 July 2002;
2. *Recalling* our decision regarding the then New African Initiative taken at the Thirty-seventh Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in Lusaka, Zambia, from 9 to 11 July 2001 (AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVII));
3. *Noting with appreciation* the report provided to us by the Chairperson of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, H.E. President O. Obasanjo of

* Reservations expressed by Senegal, which proposes the organization of legislative elections.

the Federal Republic of Nigeria, describing the developments in the NEPAD process over the course of the past year;

4. *Further noting* the document submitted to us by H.E. President Obasanjo entitled “Towards the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) – Summary of Progress Report and Initial Action Plan” (hereinafter referred to as “Progress Report and Initial Action Plan”), elaborating the first phase for the implementation of NEPAD;

5. *Further noting* the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance submitted by H.E. President Obasanjo, which seeks to foster a strong statement of reaffirmation by African leaders of their commitment to the principles and core values of democracy and good political, economic and corporate governance;

6. *Further noting* the document submitted by H.E. President Obasanjo on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which is an instrument that will be voluntarily acceded to by Member States of the African Union for the purpose of self-monitoring, and which aims to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that will lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional integration on the continent;

7. *Emphasizing* the long-term nature of the NEPAD programme and our determination to use all available resources to ensure its successful implementation;

8. *Endorse* the Progress Report and Initial Action Plan and recommend that Member States wishing to do so, should submit written comments to the Chairman of HSIC;

9. *Call for* the detailed documents relating to each priority area of the Progress Report and Initial Action Plan to be distributed to all Member States of the African Union;

10. *Urge* that the programmes in each priority area be urgently implemented and that each Member State provide assistance in the further development and implementation of these programmes and in the continued popularization of NEPAD among all sectors of society on the African continent;

11. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the principles and core values contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;

12. *Encourage* all Member States of the African Union to adopt the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance and accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism;

13. *Mandate* the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of NEPAD and its Steering Committee to continue the vital task of further elaborating the NEPAD Framework and ensuring the implementation of the NEPAD Initial Action Plan until reviewed at the Second Assembly of the African Union in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2003;

14. *Decide* to increase the number of the members of the Implementation Committee by one per region of the African Union, thus bringing the total number of members of the Committee to twenty;

15. *Call upon* the international community to provide continued and enhanced support for our efforts to regenerate the continent.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (I)

**The Durban Declaration in Tribute to the Organization of African Unity on
the Occasion of the Launching of the African Union**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Assembly of the African Union, meeting in our inaugural session in Durban, South Africa, have adopted the following declaration in tribute to the Organization of African Unity.

1. Thirty-nine years ago, the Heads of State and Government of the then independent African countries gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to found the Organization of African Unity.
2. The main objectives for establishing the organization were, inter alia, to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid; to promote unity and solidarity among African States; to coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; for the defence of sovereignty, territorial integrity and consolidation of the independence of African States, as well as promoting international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations.
3. The common identity and unity of purpose engendered by the OAU, became a dynamic force at the service of the African people in the pursuit of the struggle for the total emancipation of the African continent in the political, economic and social fields. Nowhere has that dynamic force proved more decisive than in the African struggle for decolonization. Through the OAU Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, the continent worked and spoke as one with undivided determination in forging an international consensus in support of the liberation struggle. Today, we celebrate a fully decolonized Africa and apartheid has been consigned to the ignominy of history.
4. Pursuant to one of the major objectives of its Charter, the OAU has strived to address Africa's problem of poverty and underdevelopment and adopted strategies in this regard, including the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos which continue to be the blue print for Africa's integration and development.
5. In June 1991, the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community was signed and is now in force. The Treaty seeks to build the African Economic Community through a common market built on the Regional Economic Communities. Today, Regional Economic Communities are consolidating and proving to be engines for integration. ECCAS, SADC, COMESA, UMA, ECOWAS, IGAD and CENSAD are making great effort at economic development and integration as well as at promoting peace through conflict resolution in their region. We remain committed to continental and global cooperation including the strengthening of Afro-Arab cooperation.
6. In the political realm, the OAU Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World of 1990, underscored Africa's resolve to seize the initiative, to determine its destiny and to address the challenges to peace, democracy and security. The Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution that was established in 1993 was a practical expression of that determination to begin in earnest, the task of promoting peace and stability in Africa.
7. Through the Mechanism, the OAU has managed to address constructively many of the conflicts which have and continue to afflict our continent. The Mechanism has made a fundamental difference, not only in its political significance of our determination to strive for peace, but more so in the practical framework it has provided for the continent to address conflicts and conflict situations.
8. The OAU has been on the vanguard in the promotion of the observance of human and peoples' rights. The OAU Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Grand Bay Declaration and Plan of Action on Human Rights are among the instruments adopted by the Organization to promote human rights. Underlying these instruments is a determination to ensure that Africa responds to the challenge of observing, promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law.
9. The OAU has also responded to the yearning of the African people for greater political freedoms inherent in democratic government. To this effect, it was at the forefront in galvanizing governments around a new determination to progressively place the people at the centre of decision-making. The Charter on Popular Participation adopted in 1990 was a testimony to this new determination.

10. Today, Africa is firmly on the road to democratization. In our Algiers decision on unconstitutional changes of government and our Lomé Declaration on the Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government adopted in 1999 and 2000, respectively, we reiterated our determination to see Africa governed on the basis of democracy and by governments emanating from the will of the people expressed through transparent, free and fair elections.

11. Similarly, in our 2000 Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation, we agreed on fundamental principles to govern our cooperation in security, and development and in the promotion of democracy and good governance on the continent.

12. Through the OAU, Africa has been able to respond to the many other challenges it faces. Whether in the protection of the environment, in fighting international terrorism, in combating the scourge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria and tuberculosis or dealing with humanitarian issues such as refugees and displaced persons, landmines, small and light weapons among others, Africa has found collective action through the OAU.

13. We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting in the inaugural session of the Assembly of our African Union, honour the founding leaders of the OAU and pay tribute to their tenacity, resilience and commitment to African unity. They stood firm in the face of the divisive manipulations of the detractors of Africa and fought for the integrity of Africa and the human dignity of all the peoples of the continent. In the same vein, we pay tribute to all the Secretaries-General and all the men and women who served the OAU with dedication and commitment.

14. As we hail the achievements of the OAU, we rededicate ourselves more resolutely to its principles and objectives and to the ideals of freedom, unity and development which the founding leaders sought to achieve in establishing the Organization thirty-nine years ago. As we bid farewell to the OAU, we rededicate ourselves to its memory as a pioneer, a liberator, a unifier, an organizer, and the soul of our continent. We pledge to strive more resolutely in pursuing the ultimate goals of the OAU and in furthering the cause of Africa and its people under the African Union.

15. We reiterate our continuing commitment to the objectives of the African Union which was initiated at the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and as embodied in our 9 September 1999 Sirte Declaration. We further rededicate ourselves to the objectives on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as a programme of the African Union for strengthening inter-African cooperation and integration in a globalizing world and to overcome the prevalence of poverty and strive for a better quality of life for all the peoples of Africa.

16. We commit ourselves to urgently establish all institutional structures to advance the agenda of the African Union and call on all Member States to honour their political and financial commitments and to take all the necessary actions to give unwavering support to all the Union's initiatives aimed at promoting peace, security, stability, sustainable development, democracy and human rights on our continent.

17. In order to ensure the involvement of our peoples and their civil society organizations in the activities of the Union, we recommit ourselves to the early establishment of the Pan-African Parliament and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) as envisaged in the Constitutive Act of our Union.

18. We welcome and recognize the important contribution of the youth, women, business community, parliamentary representatives and civil society and call upon these stakeholders to continue participating fully as partners in the regeneration of the African continent through the programmes of the African Union. We reaffirm, in particular, the pivotal role of women in all levels of society and recognize that the objectives of the African Union cannot be achieved without the full involvement and participation of women at all levels and structures of the Union.

19. We note the importance of continuing to cooperate with Africa's partners as well as regional and continental organizations in the furtherance of the objectives of the African Union.

20. As we enter a new era in the history of our continent, we commit ourselves to the principles and objectives that we set out in the Constitutive Act of our Union in order to ensure that our peoples live in peace and prosperity. We also rededicate ourselves to implementing all programmes, policies and decisions of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (I)

**Declaration on the Proclamation by the African Union of a Capacity-Building Decade in Africa
(Doc. Ass/AU/3 (I) Add.1)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in Durban, South Africa, from 9 to 10 July 2002,

Recognizing the vital importance of capacity-building for our countries and having taken and continuing to take measures to make capacity-building a clear and intersectoral priority of our development policies, strategies and programmes,

Conscious of the efforts deployed by the international community to promote the strengthening and/or consolidation of the capacities of various sectors in Africa,

Bearing in mind the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of African Unity of 25 May 1963, particularly its Articles I, II and III,

Considering the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community of 3 June 1991, and the various other decisions, declarations, resolutions and joint declarations aimed at promoting the economic, social and cultural integration of our continent,

Recalling the Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999 adopted by the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government,

Recalling also the adoption of the Constitutive Act of the African Union by the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Lomé, Togo, from 10 to 12 July 2001, as subsequently ratified by two thirds of Member States,

Also bearing in mind the New African Initiative (now renamed NEPAD) adopted in July 2001 and mindful of the determination of Africans to eradicate poverty and to commit their countries, individually and collectively, to sustainable growth and development, while taking an active part in the world economy and in decision-making forums,

Cognizant of the enormous capacity needs in the public and private sectors, as well as in the civil society of our respective countries, which constitute a major impediment to participatory development,

Taking note of the emergence of new actors on the political, social and economic scene of our respective countries, whose participation would be crucial in the reduction of poverty, promotion of sustainable development and strengthening of good governance,

Mindful of the fact that capacity-building constitutes a vital link that is missing in the implementation of effective development strategies in Africa,

Convinced that capacity-building in our respective countries and within the regional organizations will guarantee peace and security, and make it possible to attain high growth rates,

Anxious to preserve our attachment to the development and utilization of the continent's human resources for the general well-being of our peoples in all areas of human endeavour,

Also cognizant of the need for all African States and international organizations operating in Africa to strengthen coordination and harmonization of their activities and enhance development for the benefit of our Member States,

Noting that efforts so far made in the area of subregional and regional cooperation have produced encouraging results as far as the continent's socio-economic development is concerned,

Considering the tremendous results already achieved by multilateral institutions, particularly African-based institutions, notably the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in the area of socio-economic policy analysis development and development management on the continent,

Desirous to pursue such efforts, as evidenced by the establishment of the African Development Forum which brings together all the stakeholders with a view to reaching a consensus on Africa's development policies and priorities; the creation of the Joint African Institute whose role is to train officials from Member States in financial and economic matters, as well as in other development matters; and the implementation of the Capacity-Building Partnership in Africa (PACT) which offers a new framework for the provision by the international community for additional resources for capacity-building on the continent,

Also considering that these efforts will be critical in the promotion of tripartite dialogue and national coordination between the public and private sectors, and the civil society; will help strengthen capacities for regional cooperation and integration; and facilitate integration of African countries in the world economy,

Recognizing further the need for African countries to take ownership of their development policies, strategies and programmes, and to pursue an effective partnership between Africa and the international community,

Hereby:

Decide to proclaim 2002—2011 the "Decade for Capacity-Building in Africa" and solemnly:

Affirm our determination to ensure that local capacity-building features prominently in the development policies of our respective countries;

Agree to demonstrate greater commitment to capacity-building on the continent by pooling our resources and capacities, and allowing our people to take ownership of their development process;

Further agree to promote the multilateral organizations, particularly those based in Africa, namely the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF) whose task is to strengthen and develop capacities on the continent;

Call on the international community to respond positively to this Declaration by supporting financially and otherwise our capacity-building efforts; and

Mandate the Council of Ministers to review, each year, the progress made in the implementation of this Declaration with a view to ensuring the success of the Decade for Capacity-Building in Africa.

FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3 February 2003**

Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union

The Member States of the African Union States Parties to the Constitutive Act of the African Union,

Have agreed to adopt amendments to the Constitutive Act as follows:

Article 1
Definitions

In this Protocol, the following expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder unless otherwise specified:

“Act” means the Constitutive Act;

“Assembly” means the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Assembly;

“Court” means the Court of Justice of the Union and Court of Justice has the same meaning;

“Union” means the African Union;

Article 2
Preamble

In the first paragraph of the Preamble to the Constitutive Act, the replacement of the words “founding fathers” with “founders”.

Article 3
Objectives

In Article 3 of the Act (Objectives), the insertion of three new subparagraphs (i), (p) and (q) with consequential renumbering of subparagraphs:

The objectives of the Union shall be to:

.....

(i) Ensure the effective participation of women in decision-making, particularly in the political, economic and socio-cultural areas;

.....

(p) Develop and promote common policies on trade, defence and foreign relations to ensure the defence of the continent and the strengthening of its negotiating positions;

(q) Invite and encourage the full participation of the African diaspora as an important part of our continent, in the building of the African Union.

Article 4
Principles

FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION (2003)

In Article 4 of the Act (Principles), the expansion of subparagraph (h) and the insertion of two new subparagraphs (q) and (r):

.....

(h) The right of the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity as well as a serious threat to legitimate order to restore peace and stability to the Member State of the Union upon the recommendation of the Peace and Security Council;

.....

(q) Restraint by any Member State from entering into any treaty or alliance that is incompatible with the principles and objectives of the Union;

(r) Prohibition of any Member State from allowing the use of its territory as a base for subversion against another Member State.

Article 5 Organs of the Union

In Article 5 of the Act (Organs of the Union), the insertion of a new subparagraph (f) with consequential renumbering of subsequent subparagraphs:

.....

(f) The Peace and Security Council

.....

Article 6 The Assembly

In Article 6 of the Act (The Assembly) and wherever else it occurs in the Act, the substitution of the word “Chairman” with “Chairperson”; the deletion of the second sentence of subparagraph 3 and the insertion of new paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7.

.....

3. The Assembly shall meet at least once a year in ordinary session.

4. At the initiative of the Chairperson after due consultation with all Member States, or at the request of any Member State and upon approval by two-thirds majority of Member States, the Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session.

5. The Assembly shall elect its Chairperson from among the Heads of State or Government at the beginning of each ordinary session and on the basis of rotation for a period of one year renewable.

6. The Chairperson shall be assisted by a Bureau chosen by the Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

7. Where the Assembly meets at the Headquarters, an election of the Chairperson shall be held taking into account the principle of rotation.

Article 7

Functions of the Chairperson of the Assembly

The insertion in the Act of a new Article 7 (bis):

1. The Chairperson shall represent the Union, during his/her tenure with a view to promoting the objectives and principles of the African Union as stipulated in Articles 3 and 4 of the Act. He/she shall also, with the collaboration of the Chairperson of the Commission, carry out the functions of the Assembly set out in Article 9, paragraph 1 (e) and (g), of the Act.
2. The Chairperson may convene the meeting of the other organs through their chairpersons or chief executives and in accordance with their respective rules of procedure.

Article 8

The Executive Council

In Article 10 of the Act (The Executive Council), the insertion of a new paragraph 3:

.....

3. The Chairperson of the Executive Council shall be assisted by a Bureau chosen by the Executive Council on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

Article 9

Peace and Security Council

The insertion in the Act of a new Article 20 (bis):

1. There is hereby established, a Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the Union, which shall be the standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.
2. The functions, powers, composition and organization of the PSC shall be determined by the Assembly and set out in a protocol relating thereto.

Article 10

The Permanent Representatives Committee

In Article 21 of the Act (The Permanent Representatives Committee) the insertion of a new paragraph 3:

.....

3. The Chairperson of the Permanent Representatives Committee shall be assisted by a Bureau chosen on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

Article 11

Official Languages

In Article 25 of the Act (Working Languages), replace the title “Working Languages” by “Official Languages” and substitute the existing provision with:

1. The official languages of the Union and all its institutions shall be Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Kiswahili and any other African language.

2. The Executive Council shall determine the process and practical modalities for the use of official languages as working languages.

Article 12
Cessation of Membership

Article 31 of the Act (Cessation of Membership) is deleted.

Article 13
Entry into Force

This Protocol shall enter into force thirty days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification by a two-thirds majority of the Member States.*

* Editor's note: The Protocol was adopted by the First Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3 February 2003, and by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Maputo, Mozambique, on 11 July 2003. See Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.26 (II) below.

SECOND ORDINARY SESSION

**Maputo, Mozambique
10 to 12 July 2003**

Assembly/AU/Dec.6 (II)

Decision on Madagascar

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Decision of the Central Organ meeting at its ordinary session at the level of Heads of State and Government, in Addis Ababa on 3 February 2003, recommending the recognition of Mr. Marc Ravalomanana as the legitimate President of Madagascar;
2. *Endorses* this recommendation and decides that Madagascar should resume its seat within the African Union;
3. *Encourages* the Government of Madagascar to continue its policy of national reconciliation.

Assembly/AU/Dec.7 (II)

**Decision on the Budget for the Period January to August 2003 and
the Budget for the Period September to December 2003**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. *Approves* the budget for the period January to August 2003 fixed at US\$ 22,600,000.00;
3. *Approves* the budget for the period September to December 2003 fixed at US\$ 13,000,000.00.

Assembly/AU/Dec.8 (II)

**Decision on the Programme Budget for the Financial Year 2004
(Doc. EX.CL/26 (III) Rev.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Approves* the programme-budget for the financial year 2004 (January to December 2004) fixed at US\$ 43,000,000.00;
3. *Authorizes* the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and the Commissioners, who have just been elected, to readjust the programme-budget for the financial year 2004 within the limits of 43 million US Dollars in order to include their priorities in terms of human resources and programmes;
4. *Authorizes* the Executive Council to approve, on behalf of the Assembly, the programme-budget thus readjusted, at its Fourth Ordinary Session to be held in February/March 2004.

Assembly/AU/Dec.9 (II)

**Decision on the Revised 1968 African Convention (Algiers Convention) on
the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
(Doc. EX.CL/50 (III))**

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* the Interim Chairperson of the Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) for their endeavour to update the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention) to take into account recent developments in the African environment and natural resources scenes, while bringing the Convention to the level and standard of current multilateral environmental agreements;
2. *Further commends* the Governments of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Nigeria, parties to the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, (Algiers Convention) for their initiative to bring about the revision of the Convention;
3. *Approves* the revised 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention);
4. *Calls upon* all Member States to sign and ratify the revised Convention in order to bring it into force as early as possible;
5. *Further calls upon* the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to ensure that the revised Convention is sufficiently popularized to facilitate its implementation;
6. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant agencies of the United Nations system, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other relevant international non-governmental organizations to collaborate with the Commission and Member States of the African Union to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Assembly/AU/Dec.10 (II)

**Decision on the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of
the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (II) Add. 3)**

The Assembly,

Concerned about the rapid degrading of the African environment as a result of adverse global changes,

Recalling the environmental aspects of the Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000,

Recalling the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a programme of the African Union (AU) by the African Heads of State and Government in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001,

Recalling the relevant decision on the New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme (NEPAD) by the Group of the Eight major industrialized countries (G8) and other partners,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 and its chapter 8 on sustainable development for Africa,

Considering the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development adopted on 16 September 2002 by the General Assembly, at a high-level plenary meeting,

Considering the results of the Conference on the Role of the Private Sector in Financing the New Partnership for Africa's Development held in Dakar in April 2003,

Considering the decision of the Second Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Maputo from 9 to 10 June 2003 to forward the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD for consideration by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union and the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council to be held in Maputo, Mozambique from 4 to 12 July 2003,

1. *Notes* the outcome of the Second Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 9 to 10 June 2003, which adopted the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
2. *Appreciates* the support extended by partners, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility in the development of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
3. *Endorses* the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
4. *Invites* the Commission of the African Union, the NEPAD Secretariat, the UNEP and other partners to pursue their cooperation in order to give effective support to all Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the implementation of the NEPAD Environmental Action Plan;
5. *Also invites* bilateral and multilateral partners to actively participate in the donors' conference on the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to be held in Algiers, in December 2003;
6. *Further invites* the African Ministerial Conference on Environment and the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, the development banks including the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Environment Programme, to play a leading role in mobilizing additional financial resources for the implementation of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and its associated projects.

Assembly/AU/Dec.11 (II)

**Decision on the Sixteenth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (II))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Sixteenth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and commends it for the excellent work accomplished during the past year;
2. *Requests* all the organs concerned to take the necessary measures to provide, pursuant to Article 41 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the requisite human, financial, and material resources for its smooth functioning and submit a report thereon to the Third Session;
3. *Requests* the ACHPR, to continue, in concert with the Commission of the African Union, to enhance interaction and coordination with the different organs of the African Union in order to strengthen the African Mechanism for the Promotion and Protection of Human and Peoples' Rights and report to Council at its next session;
4. *Authorizes* the publication of the Sixteenth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights pursuant to Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

5. *Mandates* the Executive Council to consider the Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and to submit a report to it.

Assembly/AU/Dec.12 (II)

**Decision on the Proclamation of the 2004 International Year for Physical Education
and Sports in the Service of Development and Peace
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (II) Add. 7)**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Republic of Tunisia aimed at proclaiming 2004 the "International Year for Physical Education and Sports in the Service of Development and Peace";
2. *Underscores* the fact that physical education and sports are two crucial factors in promoting peace and development and facilitating the fight against social inequalities and fostering dialogue and interaction;
3. *Reaffirms* the importance of physical education and sports as factors of physical and mental well-being and social promotion;
4. *Decides* to support the draft resolution entitled "International Year for Physical Education and Sports in the Service of Development and Peace: 2004", which will be submitted for adoption both by the thirty-second UNESCO General Assembly (29 September to 17 October 2003) and the fifty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly (September to November 2003);
5. *Requests* all Member States to support this draft resolution.

Assembly/AU/Dec.13 (II)

**Decision on the African Defence and Security Policy
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (II))**

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* the efforts deployed by the outgoing Chairperson of the Union, President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, to implement the Durban Decision on the establishment of the Common African Defence and Security Policy; and the document prepared towards that end, namely the draft Framework for a Common African Defence and Security Policy;
2. *Takes note* of the said draft Framework, as reviewed by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Sun City, South Africa, from 21 to 24 May 2003;
3. *Takes note further* of the comments made by Heads of State and Government during the debate, which constituted contributions to the ongoing discussion of the matter;
4. *Requests* the Commission to conduct further consultations with all stakeholders including ministers responsible for defence and security and legal experts with the view to finalizing the Common African Defence and Security Policy in time for consideration by the next session of the Assembly; or at an extraordinary session of the Assembly to be convened by the current Chairperson if deemed necessary.

Assembly/AU/Dec.14 (II)

Decision on the Elaboration of a Code of Conduct on Terrorism

(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (II) Add. 11)

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of H.E. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, calling for an international conference to draw up a Code of Conduct on Counterterrorism;
2. *Welcomes also* the continuous efforts made by the African Union to combat terrorism and reaffirms the commitment made by AU in this field, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct on Inter-African Relations adopted by the OAU Summit held in Tunis in June 1994, the 1999 Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Dakar Declaration of October 2001;
3. *Underscores* the urgency of a concerted common action by the international community in pursuance of the fight against terrorism based on a global approach to peace to address the root causes of the new challenges to the security of States and individuals;
4. *Considers* that today it is imperative to establish a Code of Conduct geared towards combating terrorism and promoting humanitarian and moral values based on solidarity, tolerance and the rejection of any form of discrimination, injustice, extremism and hatred as well as fostering mutual respect for the sovereignty of States;
5. *Recognizes* that the importance of such a Code should facilitate and promote negotiations on the drafting of a Global Convention on Terrorism, given the voluntary accession by all Member States which would make it possible to identify areas of convergence;
6. *Recalls* paragraph 112 of the Final Declaration of the Thirteenth Summit of Non-Aligned Countries held in Kuala Lumpur, backing Tunisia's proposal to draft under the auspices of the United Nations, a Counterterrorism Code of Conduct;
7. *Appeals* to all Member States of the United Nations and international organizations to support this initiative and possibly contribute to its concretization when it is tabled before the United Nations General Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.15 (II)

Decision on Terrorism in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses concern* over the increasing threat posed by international terrorism, in particular the expanding terrorist networks and the impact of such activities on the security situation and the socioeconomic development of the continent;
2. *Welcomes* the entry into force, on 6 December 2002, of the Algiers 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and urges all Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority;
3. *Endorses* the Plan of Action and the recommendations of the Intergovernmental High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, held in Algiers, from 11 to 14 September 2002;
4. *Requests* the Commission to take the steps required for the implementation of the Plan of Action and, in this regard, takes note of the initial steps taken, in conjunction with the Government of Algeria, on the establishment of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism;

5. *Further requests* the Commission, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the draft Protocol to the Algiers Convention for submission to the next session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.16 (II)

**Decision on the Operationalization of the Protocol Relating to the
Establishment of the Peace and Security Council**

The Assembly,

1. *Underscores* the urgency of the entry into force of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the importance it attaches to the establishment of this key organ as a body responsible for conflict prevention, management and resolution;
2. *Commends* Member States that have already deposited their instruments of ratification of the Protocol, namely: South Africa, Algeria, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Mozambique, Libya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Ghana, Sudan and Rwanda, and welcomes the announcement by some other Member States indicating that they have already ratified the Protocol and are preparing to deposit their instruments of ratification;
3. *Urges* all the countries that have not yet done so, to speed up the process of signing and ratifying the Protocol;
4. *Commends* the Commission for its initiatives to facilitate the operationalization of the Protocol once it has entered into force, particularly with regard to the preparation of the Rules of Procedure of the Peace and Security Council and the document on the operational modalities of the Panel of the Wise, as well as the establishment of the African Standby Force and the Military Staff Committee;
5. *Takes note* of the framework document for the establishment of the African Standby Force and the Military Staff Committee adopted by the Third Session of African Chiefs of Defence Staff held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 15 and 16 May 2003;
6. *Requests* the Commission to convene a meeting of continental experts to consider the Rules and Procedure of the Peace and Security Council and the Modalities of Operation of the Panel of the Wise in order to make recommendations to the Executive Council in March 2004;
7. *Invites* the Commission to continue initiatives already begun on these different issues and take the necessary steps to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding on the relations between the AU and the Regional Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Mechanisms and the establishment of the Early Warning System provided for under the Protocol;
8. *Pursuant* to Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and in the event where the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council enters into force before its next session, authorizes the Executive Council to take the necessary measures for the operationalization of the said Protocol, including the election of members of the Peace and Security Council and the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the organ.

Assembly/AU/Dec.17 (II)

**Decision on the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community
Relating to the Pan-African Parliament**

The Assembly,

SECOND ORDINARY SESSION (2003)

1. *Notes with appreciation* the conclusions of the meeting of African Parliaments held in Cape Town, South Africa from 30 June to 1 July 2003 and encourages the Steering Committee set up in pursuance of the Decision taken by the Assembly in Durban, South Africa in July 2002, to pursue its endeavours aimed at speeding up the process of ratification of the Protocol by Member States;
2. *Underscores* the urgency of the entry into force of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament and the importance of setting up this organ which will ensure the effective and full participation of African peoples in the development and integration of the continent;
3. *Commends* Member States which have already deposited the instruments of ratification of the Protocol;
4. *Urges* all countries which have not already done so, to speed up the process of signing and ratifying the Protocol by 31 December 2003, if possible, to enable the Protocol to enter into force, and the Parliament to meet before 31 January 2004;
5. *Requests* the Commission to pursue the efforts already initiated to obtain very rapidly the requisite number of ratifications for the entry into force of the Protocol, thereby making this instrument operational;
6. *Notes* that the Protocol will come into force 30 days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification by a simple majority of the Member States;
7. *Mandates* the Chairperson of the Union, in consultation with the Commission, to determine the beginning of the first term of office of the Pan-African Parliament in terms of Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Protocol as soon as the Protocol comes into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.18 (II)

Decision on the Report of the Interim Chairperson on the Conference on Elections, Democracy and Good Governance (Doc. EX.CL/35 (III))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Conference;
2. *Commends* the Government of South Africa for hosting the Conference;
3. *Welcomes* the communiqué of the Conference on Elections, Democracy and Good Governance held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 7 to 10 April 2003;
4. *Underscores* the importance and role of democracy and good governance in economic and social development and reaffirms the commitments of the Union in this respect;
5. *Directs* the Commission to transmit to Member States the communiqué and the other conclusions of the Pretoria Conference for consideration and comments;
6. *Encourages* Member States to study and implement the provisions of the communiqué and conclusions of the Conference.

Assembly/AU/Dec.19 (II)

Decision on the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

Relating to the Rights of Women

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. *Adopts* the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights Relating to the Rights of Women;
3. *Appeals* to all Member States to sign and ratify this important instrument in order to ensure its speedy entry into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.20 (II)

**Decision on the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union
on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (II) Add. 1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the offer of President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso to host an Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa;
2. *Decides* to convene this Extraordinary Summit in the year 2004 and invites all Member States to participate actively in the Summit;
3. *Requests* the AU Commission to make the necessary arrangements, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the ILO and other partners and stakeholders to convene the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.21 (II)

**Decision on the Establishment by the European Union of a
Peace Support Operation Facility for the African Union**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its Durban Decision of July 2002 on the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) and the ongoing efforts for its early entry into force and operationalization, as well as the active involvement of the AU in the search for lasting solutions to the various conflicts facing the continent;
2. *Acknowledges* that the proliferation of conflicts in Africa and associated violence constitute a major impediment in the attainment of sustainable development and growth, as well as the efforts towards poverty reduction. In particular, the Assembly underlines that the persistence of conflicts and the lack of resources to implement African initiatives prevent the continent from taking full advantage of development cooperation, particularly the assistance offered by its development partners;
3. *Expresses its determination* to address the scourge of conflicts in Africa in a collective, comprehensive and decisive manner, within the framework of the AU and its relevant organs, and with the full support of the wider international community;

4. *Welcomes* the dynamic and reinforcing partnership that is developing between the AU and the European Union (EU) in promoting peace, security and stability in Africa, as a crucial area of cooperation and dialogue, and expresses its profound gratitude to the EU for the assistance rendered so far to the AU, especially in support of its peace and security agenda;

5. *Requests* the EU to examine the possibility of setting up a Peace Support Operation Facility (PSOF), to fund peace support and peacekeeping operations conducted under the authority of the AU, thereby enhancing the capacity of the Union to fully play its role in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. Such a facility should be based on the principle of solidarity among African countries and should be financed from resources allocated to each of them under the existing cooperation agreements with the EU, initially supplemented by an equivalent amount of unallocated European Development Fund (EDF) resources;

6. *Further requests* the AU Commission to liaise with the EU Commission to work out the modalities and functioning of such Facility which should be sustainable and replenished whenever necessary.

Assembly/AU/Dec.22 (II)

Decision on the Implementation of the Durban Decision on the Interim Period

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the various Reports of the Interim Chairperson of the Commission on the implementation of the Durban Decision on the Interim Period;

2. *Also takes note* of Decision No. EX.CL/Dec.5 (III) of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Sun City and Decision No. EX.CL/Dec.34 (III), on the Structure and Conditions of Service of the Staff of the Commission taken by the Third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Maputo, Mozambique;

3. *Commends* the Interim Chairperson, the Interim Commissioners and the entire staff of the Commission for the excellent results achieved in the implementation of the Durban Decision;

4. *Approves* the structure and conditions of service of staff and all the related Executive Council recommendations as contained in the above decisions;

5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission, in collaboration with Member States, to take all appropriate measures to implement the said decisions.

Assembly/AU/Dec.23 (II)

**Decision on the Appointment of Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/57 (III))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election by the Executive Council of members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

2. *Appoints* the following persons as members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:

(a) Ms. Sanji Monageng (Botswana);

(b) Mr. Mohamed Abdellahi Ould Babana (Mauritania);

- (c) Mr. Bahame Tom Mukirya Nyanduga (Tanzania);
- 3. *Congratulates* the newly elected members of the Commission;
- 4. *Encourages* the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to spare no effort in pursuing its mandate in the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa.

Assembly AU/Dec.24 (II)

**Decision on the Appointment of Members of the African Committee
of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/58 (III))**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Takes note* of the election by the Executive Council of members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
- 2. *Appoints* the following persons as members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:
 - (a) Professor Peter Onyekwere Ebigbo (Nigeria);
 - (b) Dr. Asseffa Bequele (Ethiopia);
 - (c) Mr. Jean Baptiste Zoungrana (Burkina Faso);
 - (d) Ms. Nakpa Polo (Togo);
- 3. *Congratulates* the newly elected members of the Committee;
- 4. *Encourages* the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to spare no effort in pursuing its mandate in the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the African child.

Assembly/AU/Dec.25 (II)

**Decision on the Draft Protocol of the Court of Justice of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/59 (III))**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
- 2. *Adopts* the Protocol of the Court of Justice of the African Union;
- 3. *Appeals* to all Member States to sign and ratify this important instrument in order to ensure its speedy entry into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.26 (II)

**Decision on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (II) Add. 10)**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Protocol on the amendments to the Constitutive Act;
2. *Appeals* to all Member States to sign and ratify this important instrument in order to ensure its speedy entry into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.27 (II)

Decision on the Draft Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. *Adopts* the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption;
3. *Appeals* to all Member States to sign and ratify this important instrument in order to ensure its speedy entry into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.28 (II)

Decision on the Appointment of AU Commissioners

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election by the Executive Council of the AU Commissioners;
2. *Appoints* the following persons as members of the Commission of the African Union:
 - (a) Ambassador Said Djinnit (Algeria) – Peace and Security Portfolio;
 - (b) Mrs. Julia Dolly Joiner (Gambia) – Political Affairs Portfolio;
 - (c) Mr. Bernard Zoba (Congo) – Infrastructure and Energy Portfolio;
 - (d) Ms. Philomena B. Gawanas (Namibia) – Social Affairs Portfolio;
 - (e) Mrs. Saida Agrebi (Tunisia) – Human Resources, Science and Technology Portfolio;
 - (f) Ms. Elizabeth Tankeu (Cameroon) – Trade and Industry Portfolio;
 - (g) Ms. Rosebud Kurwijila (Tanzania) – Rural Economy and Agriculture Portfolio;
3. *Congratulates* the newly elected Commissioners of the African Union;
4. *Decides* that the Commissioner for Economic Affairs Portfolio be elected in February 2004 for male candidates from Southern Region;
5. *Authorizes* the Executive Council to elect and appoint the Commissioner for Economic Affairs Portfolio during its Fourth Ordinary Session and to report to the Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly;

6. *Decides* that the elected Commissioners who did not take the oath of office during the Assembly do so before the Chairperson of the Commission.

Assembly/AU/Dec.29 (II)

Decision on Promoting the Development of Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa

The Assembly,

Aware of the rapid rate of urbanization prevailing on the African continent which is the highest in the world,

Concerned that if left unchecked, rapid urbanization is leading to the urbanization of poverty on the African continent with attendant problems that have condemned the majority of urban dwellers to unemployment, food insecurity, and life under squalid conditions in slums and other unplanned neighborhoods without basic services such as decent housing, water and sanitation, and the high risk this implies to their health and safety,

Recalling the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, adopted by the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly, for an integrated review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (Istanbul +5), held in New York, from 5 to 9 June 2001,

Recalling further paragraph 18 of the Johannesburg Declaration endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in September 2002, in which shelter was placed alongside other priority sectors including water, sanitation, education, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB),

Determined to reap the potential benefits of cities and towns as centres of economic growth and places of opportunity and prosperity for all African people in the course of economic development and structural transformation,

1. *Commends* the efforts being made by various African governments and their people in overcoming the challenges posed by rapid urbanization;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) to continue rendering support to the Commission of the African Union in the implementation of the current decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.30 (II)

**Decision on the Establishment of a Council on the Future of the Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (II) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the presentation made by President Aboudoulaye Wade of Senegal on the establishment of a Council on the Future of the Union;
2. *Congratulates* President Aboudoulaye Wade on this initiative;
3. *Approves* the principle of the establishment of such a Council;
4. *Mandates* the Chairperson of the Commission to work out the modalities for the implementation of this initiative and submit to its next session proposals regarding the status, mandate, functioning and composition of this Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.31 (II)

**Decision on the Review of the Scale of Assessment of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/40 (III))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.32 (II)

Decision on 9 September as the Day of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal of the Leader of the Libyan Revolution Colonel Muamar Khaddafi to consider 9 September as the Day of the African Union instead of 2 March;
2. *Congratulates* the Leader of the Libyan Revolution for his proposal;
3. *Approves and declares* 9 September as the Day of the African Union;
4. *Calls upon* all Member States to take all necessary measures to commemorate the Day of the African Union on 9 September of every year.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (II)

Declaration on the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Second Ordinary Session in Maputo, Mozambique,

Having considered the Report of the Conference of Ministers of Trade of AU Member States held in Mauritius, in June 2003, the Mauritius Ministerial Declaration on the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO and its annex, the "African Common Position" on the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 10 to 14 September 2003; as well as the Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council on this issue,

Recalling the high expectations raised by the adoption of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and its subsequent work programme,

Recognizing the efforts deployed by the negotiators from our Member States in the various bodies of the WTO,

Noting that the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO is scheduled to take place in Cancun, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September 2003,

Deeply concerned about the general lack of progress in the ongoing Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, as evidenced by the missed deadlines in respect of key issues of importance to African countries in the negotiations,

1. *Endorse* the Mauritius Declaration on the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO and its annex: the African Common Position on the WTO issues;

2. *Deplore* the lack of substantial progress registered in the negotiations on agriculture, TRIPS and public health, special and differential treatment, and implementation-related issues;
3. *Strongly urge* WTO members to fulfil the commitments undertaken in Doha, as contained in the mandate for the agricultural negotiations, including through less than full reciprocity in tariff reduction commitments, having due regard to the principle of special and differential treatment;
4. *Express* our full solidarity with our Member States that are affected by subsidies on cotton provided by developed countries and strongly support actions initiated by some of them in the WTO to urgently remedy the negative consequences of those subsidies that affect millions of Africa's farmers;
5. *Strongly welcome* proposals on preferences as contained in the Harbinson text and call upon the WTO Members to address the issue of erosion of preferences;
6. *Affirm* that the objectives of the negotiations on non-agricultural market access are to facilitate the development and industrialization processes in our countries; to that end, the modalities for the actual negotiations must reflect these goals appropriately by addressing tariff peaks and tariff escalation, taking fully into account the special needs and interests of developing and least-developed countries;
7. *Reiterate* that our subregional and regional integration organizations are pillars of the African Economic Community (AEC), and are essential for the promotion of Africa's socio-economic development and serve as the dynamic building blocks of our effective integration into the Multilateral Trading System (MTS);
8. *Call for* development-friendly WTO disciplines, arising from the Doha work programme pertaining to the clarification and improvement of the WTO disciplines applied to regional trade agreements;
9. *Express grave concern* about the lack of transparency and inclusiveness in the WTO negotiations and decision-making processes. To that end, call for measures to ensure the effective participation of our countries in the processes leading to the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun and beyond;
10. *Regret* the deadlock over the issue of granting observer status to the African Union in the WTO and, in this regard, call upon all other WTO Member States to support us in our effort to secure observer status for the African Union;
11. *Mandate* the Chairperson of the Assembly in consultation with the Commission to set up a negotiating team, having due regard to regional representation and headed by an experienced person, to negotiate on behalf of all Member States the fundamental issues that are being negotiated in the WTO;
12. *Call on* the relevant international civil society organizations to provide all necessary support to advocate and promote Africa's concerns to ensure a just and fair global trading system.

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (II)

Declaration on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in Maputo, Mozambique from 10 to 12 July 2003 in our Second Ordinary Session,

Having considered the Report of the Ministerial Subcommittee on Trade under the Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration; the Mauritius Declaration on Preparations for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations; and the Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council on this issue,

Reaffirming our determination to take up the multifaceted challenges that confront our continent and people in the light of the social, economic and political changes taking place in the world,

Determined to promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to our continent and peoples,

Concerned over the slow evolution of Phase I of the EPA negotiations and the persistent divergence of views between the EU and ACP in the context of and the preparations underway for the commencement of Phase II of the negotiations which is scheduled for September 2003,

Noting that some Regional Economic Communities have indicated to the European Union their readiness to negotiate the EPAs, as from September 2003,

Aware of the various activities undertaken by some of the Member States within the context of the Regional Economic Communities in preparation for Phase II of the negotiations,

1. *Reaffirm* the negotiating Guidelines of the ACP and the need to preserve the unity and solidarity of the Group;
2. *Endorse* the Mauritius Declaration on Preparations for EPA negotiations and the report of the Third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council on this issue;
3. *Regret* the deadlock and lack of progress registered in Phase I of the EPA negotiations and urge quickening of the pace of the negotiations;
4. *Reiterate* that Phase I of the ACP-EU negotiations should be expeditiously concluded with an agreement covering the principles, objectives and cross-cutting issues in EPAs as provided for in the Guidelines;
5. *Further reaffirm* the unity and solidarity of Africa throughout the EPA negotiations;
6. *Further reiterate* that the development dimensions, with emphasis on the provision of additional resources for the removal of production, supply and trade constraints, must be adequately addressed in the negotiations to make EPAs truly development-oriented;
7. *Direct* African negotiators to ensure that EPAs are compatible with the objectives and principles of the Constitutive Act, the Abuja Treaty and the African Union Programme-NEPAD;
8. *Mandate* the Commission to coordinate, monitor and harmonize the efforts of the concerned RECs and Member States in the negotiations of EPAs with the EU; and establish an appropriate mechanism for cooperation and coordination between the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) in Addis Ababa, the African Groups of ambassadors and negotiators in Brussels and Geneva, as well as with the capitals of concerned Member States;
9. *Call on* all Member States of the AU and EU to intensify cooperation in WTO to achieve development-friendly rules in that Organization in order to promote the sustainable development of African/ACP States, contribute to poverty eradication and facilitate the smooth integration of African countries into the world economy, with due regard to their political choices and development priorities so as to enable our continent to respond to the challenges of globalization;
10. *Further direct* the Commission to work towards the establishment of a joint AU/EU Monitoring Mechanism to include the various African regional negotiating groups/RECs with a view to:
 - (a) Monitoring the entire process of the EPAs;

- (b) Facilitating the implementation of the regional integration programmes under the ACP/EU Cotonou Agreement, the Ninth EDF, including capacity-building programmes; and
- (c) Ensuring the coherence of these programmes with the priorities and objectives of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (II)

Maputo Declaration on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Second Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, from 10 to 12 July 2003, devoted a special session to review and debate the current status of the HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria and other related infectious diseases (ORID) on our continent.

We held a video conference with relevant experts and international agencies concerned with the prevention and fight against these diseases, to exchange views and discuss further concrete actions which should be taken to curtail their spread in our countries.

In this regard, we:

Remain deeply concerned about the continuing spread of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and ORID, despite the efforts that Member States have exerted to operationalize the commitments made at the Abuja Summits on Rollback Malaria (April 2000) and on HIV/AIDS, TB and ORID (April 2001),

Commend the role being played by the African Union (AU), in collaboration with UNAIDS and its co-sponsoring United Nations agencies, the ECA and other international institutions in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of these Declarations and Plans of Action. We urge that these efforts be further developed and strengthened until the scourges are brought under effective control,

Have analyzed the progress achieved so far in the prevention and fight against HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and ORID, which are the major causes of morbidity and mortality and constrain the socio-economic development of our region, accentuating poverty, disrupting family and social fabric and putting millions of our people in despair. We acknowledge the successes achieved in some subregions in reducing HIV incidence. We note that this was possible because of political commitment, resource mobilization, collective social action and a high level of awareness among our citizens in face of these threats. We urge that these positive steps and measures be intensified in all our States to achieve greater success against these diseases,

Note that the majority of those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS on our continent are women, children and young people; especially the poor who have limited access to effective care and support. This reflects their vulnerability particularly in societies marked by gender inequality, where the burden of care for the sick and for the children orphaned by AIDS falls overwhelmingly on women. In this connection, we recognize the need to redouble efforts in giving particular attention to women and young people's participation and access to information, life skills and services,

Also recognize the inclusion of the HIV/AIDS as a cross-cutting issue in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the establishment of other initiatives such as AIDS Watch Africa (AWA), the Commission for HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa (CHGA) and the Millennium Development Goals, all of which represent milestones of progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We acknowledge the progress made in some of our countries in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into relevant development frameworks such as Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers (PRSPs). We urge that these efforts be sustained, strengthened and extended to all countries,

Note that many Member States have mobilized internal resources and taken bold leadership steps to confront HIV/AIDS and other health challenges. We also acknowledge the response by the international community to the

efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and ORID. The establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), provided a renewed impetus to the programmes and interventions that Member States designed to combat these diseases. However, considering the gravity of the impact of these diseases which have together already been declared an emergency, we note that in a relatively short period of time the GFATM has made significant financial commitments to concrete programs to fight these diseases in Africa and disbursements are already underway. However, we underscore the need for major new and sustainable financing (3 billion US dollars by the end of 2004) for the Fund from donor nations. These will ensure that resources made available to fight the diseases rise to a new and more realistic level given the scale of the epidemics,

Recognize that health systems in our region need to be strengthened, adequately equipped and financed to provide quality and effective care against diseases and particularly against HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and ORID in view of their devastating effects on society,

Reaffirm our commitment to achieving the goals we set concerning health sector financing in our States and recommit ourselves to meet the target of 15 per cent of the national budget to be allocated to health. We reiterate our readiness to mobilize more internal resources for this struggle, in partnership with the private sector, civil society and all other stakeholders. We are convinced that the scaling up of health interventions for HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and ORID prevention, care, treatment and support can significantly contribute to the overall reduction of morbidity and mortality and to the improvement of the quality of life of those infected and affected by these diseases,

Warmly welcome the recent announcement by President George W. Bush of the United States of America, to provide US\$ 15 billion within the next five years for the combating of HIV/AIDS in Africa. We express the hope that the funds will be released in due time to enable the realization of the set goals and objectives. We call on the United States Government to appropriate US\$ 3 billion in 2004, a significant amount of which should be allocated to the Global Fund,

Are aware that provision of quality care, support and treatment to HIV/AIDS patients are important aspects of prevention and control, and require coordination and harmonization of policies, strategies and programmes to obtain maximum efficiency and cost-effectiveness. We are convinced that HIV/AIDS care, support and treatment are essential components of prevention and control and can help address the stigma and discrimination associated with this disease and thus significantly contribute to the reduction of its spread and to the survival of those infected and affected,

Recognize the urgent need to alleviate the impact of the HIV/AIDS on the lives of orphans and their long-term development prospects. In this regard, appropriate policies including legal and programmatic frameworks, as well as essential services for the most vulnerable children, should be adopted and applied at all levels. The challenge is to keep parents alive through effective treatment and prevention as a first vital step,

We, therefore, solemnly:

1. *Reaffirm* the commitments enshrined in the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Rollback Malaria, and the Abuja Declaration and Framework Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS, TB and ORID and reiterate our commitment to intensify and consolidate efforts for their implementation;
2. *Urge* the international community to honour their pledges by disbursing the funds needed to fully execute the programmes for prevention, care, support and treatment of HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and ORID, especially through the Global Fund, the World Bank Multi-Country AIDS Programmes and other initiatives, including removing conditionalities associated with debt relief and others that contribute to constraining health sector spending;
3. *Also urge* the Global Fund and recipients of its funding, to work together to develop simpler and expeditious mechanisms to ensure that these large additional financial flows are quickly and easily available to

institutions in Africa that can utilize them effectively in the fight against the diseases. We further urge the Global Fund, UNAIDS family and the recipient countries to work together to ensure the realization of our common objectives;

4. *Express our determination* to ensure that all opportunities for scaling up treatment for HIV/AIDS are pursued energetically and creatively, and in this connection, seek diverse and effective partnerships with international donors, civil society, business sector and people living with HIV/AIDS, in order to extend effective care, support and treatment to the maximum number of people, particularly women, orphaned children and others made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, in conformity with the principles of equal access and gender equity;

5. *Commit ourselves* to promote partnerships with the private sector and relevant United Nations specialized agencies, pharmaceutical companies and other partners to increase local and regional capacity for production and distribution of affordable generic pharmaceuticals for the management of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and ORID – the diseases with the highest impact on Africa's socio-economic development;

6. *Resolve* to continue to support the implementation of the Plan of Action for the AU Decade for African Traditional Medicine (2000 to 2010), especially research in the area of treatment for HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and ORID;

7. *Request* the Commission in collaboration with UNAIDS and its joint United Nations co-sponsoring agencies, ECA and other partners, to coordinate and intensify efforts among Member States, monitor implementation of this Declaration and report regularly to our Assembly.

We believe that malaria, HIV/AIDs, TB and ORID can, must and will be defeated!

Assembly/AU/Decl.7 (II)

Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), assembled in Maputo at the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly, from 10 to 12 July 2003,

Concerned that 30 per cent of the population of Africa is chronically and severely undernourished; that the continent has become a net importer of food; and that it is currently the largest recipient of food aid in the world,

Convinced of the need for Africa to utilize its full potential to increase its food and agricultural production so as to guarantee sustainable food security and ensure economic prosperity for its peoples,

Noting with satisfaction the collaborative effort of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and FAO on the one hand, the governments of Member States and other partners on the other, in the preparation of the Comprehensive Africa's Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP),

Recalling the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government, in their capacity as Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities in Abuja, Nigeria, December 2002,

Convinced of the need to address the root causes of the agricultural crises in Africa, aggravated in particular by inadequate funding, the lack of adequate water control and management, poor rural infrastructure and neglect of agricultural research, as well as the threat of HIV/AIDS,

Recognizing that it is Africa's responsibility to reinvigorate its food and agriculture sector for the economic prosperity and welfare of its people,

Resolve to:

1. *Revitalize* the agricultural sector including livestock, forestry and fisheries through special policies and strategies targeted at small scale and traditional farmers in rural areas and the creation of enabling conditions for private sector participation, with emphasis on human capacity development and the removal of constraints to agricultural production and marketing, including soil fertility, poor water management, inadequate infrastructure, pests and diseases;
2. *Implement*, as a matter of urgency, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and flagship projects and evolving action plans for agricultural development, at the national, regional and continental levels. To this end, we agree to adopt sound policies for agricultural and rural development, and commit ourselves to allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources for their implementation within five years;
3. *Call upon* the African Union Commission, the Steering Committee of NEPAD, the FAO and other partners to continue their cooperation providing effective support to African countries and the RECs in the implementation of the CAADP;
4. *Engage* in consultations at national and regional levels with civil society organizations and other key stakeholders, including the small-scale and traditional farmers, private sector, women and youth associations, etc., aimed at promoting their active participation in all aspects of agricultural and food production;
5. *Ensure*, through collaborative efforts at the national and regional levels, the preparation of bankable projects under CAADP for the mobilization of resources for investment in agricultural growth and rural development;
6. *Ensure* the establishment of regional food reserve systems, including food stocks, linked to Africa's own production, and the development of policies and strategies under the African Union and the RECs, to fight hunger and poverty in Africa;
7. *Accelerate* the process of establishing the African Investment Bank, as provided for in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which should give priority to investment in agricultural production;
8. *Intensify* cooperation with our development partners to address the effect of their subsidies, to ensure their support to market access for Africa's exports, and to realize the African Union's vision of a prosperous and viable agricultural sector as envisaged under the NEPAD framework and Millennium Development Goals.

Assembly/AU/Decl.8 (II)

Declaration on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting at the Second Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, from 10 to 12 July 2003,

Recalling our decision regarding the then New African Initiative, now the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), taken at the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia, (AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVII)) where we adopted the Strategic Policy Framework and a new vision for the revival and development of Africa,

Recalling further our decision on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) made at the Inaugural Session of the African Union Assembly in Durban, South Africa, from 8 to 10 July 2002 (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (I)), mandating the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) and its supporting structures to ensure the implementation of the NEPAD Initial Action,

Reiterating our commitment to the principles and objectives set out in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and our common conviction that peace, security, democracy, good governance, political and social stability as well as sound economic policies are essential conditions for the sustainable socio-economic development of the African continent,

Re-emphasizing our common resolve to eradicate poverty, confront underdevelopment and arrest the marginalization of the African continent,

Noting that the challenges and problems that prompted us to develop NEPAD as the socio-economic development programme of the African Union aimed at regenerating and reviving the African continent, have not changed,

Noting with appreciation the progress report presented to us by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, H.E. President O. Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, describing the developments in the NEPAD programmes and activities since our last meeting in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa,

Noting also the progress made in the areas of agriculture, especially in the preparation of detailed and costed country and region-specific agriculture projects for implementation under the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and also in the implementation of infrastructure high priority projects in energy, transport, water and sanitation, and information and communication technology (ICT) identified under the revised NEPAD Infrastructure Short-Term Action Plan (STAP), as well as progress in developing the Medium to Long-Term Infrastructure Action Plan,

Recognizing the high-level political will and involvement of African Heads of State and Government in creating conditions for sustainable development and implementing Africa's socio-economic development programmes and the crucial role played by the HSGIC and its supporting structures in ensuring the implementation of the NEPAD programmes,

Recognizing further that the primary purpose of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices leading to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration,

Taking cognizance of the need for the formal integration of NEPAD into the African Union structures and processes and the need to sustain the momentum, genuine interest, support and solidarity created by NEPAD,

Noting with appreciation the strong support of the international community, especially as expressed in the United Nations General Assembly declaration (A/RES/57/2) and resolution on the NEPAD (A/RES/57/7) affirming the United Nations system's support for the implementation of the NEPAD and recommending that the NEPAD be used as the framework for supporting Africa's development by the international community, including the United Nations system,

Welcoming the United Nations General Assembly resolution on "Strengthening of the United Nations: An Agenda for Change" (A/RES/57/300) wherein, among others, the Assembly endorsed the decision of the Secretary-General to establish the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA) with the responsibilities to coordinate the United Nations support to Africa, guide reporting on Africa and coordinate global advocacy in support of NEPAD,

Noting with satisfaction the work-in-progress in the Five Clusters of United Nations agencies established by the United Nations system with a view to operationalizing the renewed interaction, collaboration and cooperation with Africa on the established Clusters (Infrastructure Development: Water and Sanitation, Energy, Transport, and ICTs; Governance, Peace and Security; Agriculture, Trade and Market Access; Environment, Population and Urbanization; and Human Resource Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS),

Welcoming further the continued support by the international community and the structured engagement and dialogue by the African leaders with the leaders of the Group of Eight most industrialized countries (G8) at their last summit held from 1 to 3 June 2003 in Evian, France, where the implementation of NEPAD as well as the G8 Africa Action Plan were reviewed and, among others, the issues of international trade and debt relief for African countries were highlighted to G8 leaders,

Noting with encouragement the building of linkages by NEPAD, on behalf of the African Union, with other partners, initiatives and organizations such as the European Union, Nordic countries, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process (TICAD), Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Community of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) among others,

Re-emphasizing the long term nature of the NEPAD programme and our determination to use all available resources to ensure its successful implementation and to sustain the interest and momentum created by the NEPAD process on the African continent and internationally and the need to retain the leadership and coordination role of the HSGIC, as a subcommittee of our Assembly, dedicated to the implementation of NEPAD,

Recognizing the need to provide sustainable financing for the NEPAD programmes:

Progress Report

1. *Endorse* the progress report and commend the HSGIC and its supporting structures for their coordination and catalytic role in facilitating the implementation of NEPAD priority programmes and projects across the African regions and more specifically through cooperation and collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);

African Peer Review Mechanism

2. *Welcome* the progress made with respect to the APRM in particular the accession of a number of Member States of the African Union to the APRM as well as the appointment of the Panel of Eminent Persons and encourage other Member States of the African Union to accede to the APRM as well;

Programmes Implementation

3. *Urge* that the programmes identified in each priority area, such as infrastructure and agriculture, be urgently implemented and that each region and Member State, through the RECs, provide assistance in the further development and implementation of these programmes and in the continued popularization of NEPAD among all sectors of society, including and in particular the youth, women, private sector and the civil society at large, on the African continent;
4. *Acknowledge* the linkage between the work of the Committee of African Ministers of Public Service and the programmatic thrust of NEPAD and request the incorporation of their work as an important element of the overall AU programme;
5. *Call upon* Member States and the RECs to promote and implement these priority programmes and projects as well as to develop detailed and costed action plans in the areas of health, education, culture, science and technology, environment and tourism;
6. *Decide* that the coordination of all NEPAD sectoral programmes, initiatives and related activities continue to be undertaken through the NEPAD HSGIC and its supporting structures;
7. *Encourage* the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee to explore adequate funding mechanisms for sustainable financing of NEPAD programmes and projects, including the possibility of a NEPAD Trust Fund;

Integration of NEPAD into the AU Structures and Processes

8. *Mandate* the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of NEPAD, supported by the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NEPAD Secretariat, to continue their vital work of ensuring the implementation of NEPAD programmes;
9. *Mandate* the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, in consultation with the Chairperson of the HSGIC, to operationalize the following, with the flexibilities as may be required:
 - (i) Establish appropriate linkages between the NEPAD Steering Committee with the relevant organs of the African Union including the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Executive Council in order to ensure integrated inputs into the work of the HSGIC;
 - (ii) Enter into a temporary host agreement with the Government of the Republic South Africa with a view to providing the NEPAD Secretariat with the legal status of an AU office operating outside the African Union Headquarters for a transitional period of three years as from July 2003, or until such time as the relevant structures of the African Union are fully operational, whichever comes first;
 - (iii) Formalize the working relations between the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, especially for programme coordination and harmonization;
 - (iv) Align and harmonize the conditions of service, rules of recruitment and accountability with those of the AU Commission; and
 - (v) Develop a sustainable funding mechanism for NEPAD after its complete integration into the AU structures and processes;
10. *Mandate* the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, in consultation with the Chairperson of the HSGIC, to appoint the executive head of the NEPAD Secretariat during the transitional period;
11. *Encourage* voluntary contributions from all Member States of the African Union towards the operational budget of NEPAD and its structures during the transitional period;

International Support

12. *Call upon* the international community to continue its enhanced support towards the implementation of NEPAD, and on the HSGIC to further intensify its efforts in engaging Africa's development partners in both developed and developing countries.

Assembly/AU/Decl.9 (II)

**Special Commendation to H.E. Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director General of the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

The Assembly,

Conscious of the immense contributions of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), under the dynamic and purposeful leadership of Dr. Jacques Diouf, to the development of agriculture and food production in Africa,

Appreciative of the invaluable support given by the FAO to the African Union's Programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in the formulation and elaboration of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and its action plans,

In recognition of the unreserved commitment of Dr. Jacques Diouf to the full development of the agricultural potentials of Africa, and through that, to the eradication of hunger and poverty on the continent,

Commends H.E. Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, for his commitment to, and pioneering concrete actions towards the development and improvement of agriculture, enhancement of food security and eradication of poverty in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Decl.10 (II)

Motion of Thanks to H.E. Joaquim Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique

The Assembly,

Conscious of the tremendous effort deployed by the Government and people of Mozambique to organize the First Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States of the African Union on 2 July 2003, in Maputo, Mozambique, and the excellent facilities provided for the meeting,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude and appreciation* to H.E. Joaquim Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique, his government and people for the warm African hospitality and cordial reception extended to all ministers and their delegations as well as for the excellent facilities provided and arrangements made for the meeting;
2. *Pays special tribute* to H.E. President Chissano, for his dynamic leadership and contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the African Union;
3. *Congratulates* H.E. President Chissano for his inspiring keynote address at the opening of the meeting.

Assembly/AU/Decl.11 (II)

**Special Vote of Thanks of the Assembly of the African Union to H.E. Amara Essy,
Interim Chairperson of the Commission**

The Assembly,

Considering the excellent results achieved in the implementation of the Lusaka and Durban Decisions by Mr. Amara Essy, as OAU Secretary-General and then Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union,

Considering also that these positive results made it possible to launch the key organs of the Union, namely: the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Peace and Security Council, the Commission and the African Court of Justice,

Considering also that these results made it possible to finalize amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, elect new Members of the Commission, finalize the structure, the programmes, human resource requirements and conditions of service of staff of the Commission, and adopt the new scale of assessment of the Union,

Considering further the significant progress made in the implementation of the other Durban and Lusaka decisions regarding the launch of other organs of the Union such as the Economic, Social and Cultural Council, the Specialized Technical Committees, the review of the Protocol on the Relations between the African Union and Regional Economic Communities, the extrabudgetary funding of the Union, the transfer of the assets and liabilities of the OAU to the AU, the design of the new symbols of the African Union, the revision of all OAU agreements and

treaties, the preparation of new criteria for granting AU observer status and the review of the financial rules and regulations,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts deployed to establish the Union, thereby enabling this organ to be operational soon after the Maputo Summit, in keeping with the Durban mandate,

1. *Expresses* its sincere thanks to H.E. Amara Essy for the successful and smooth transition from the OAU to the AU;
2. *Also expresses* the gratitude of all AU Member States and the people of Africa to Amara Essy for the historic work accomplished;
3. *Decides* to confer on Amara Essy on the occasion of its next ordinary session, an honorary award in recognition of the outstanding services he has rendered to Africa and, requests the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to this effect.

SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
28 February 2004**

Solemn Declaration on a Common African Defence and Security Policy

Preamble

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in our Second Extraordinary Session, in Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 28 February 2004,

1. *Guided* by the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and in the United Nations Charter, and our common vision of a united and strong Africa based on the scrupulous respect for human rights, peaceful coexistence, non-aggression, non-interference in the internal matters of Member States, mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State;
2. *Motivated* by a common political will to strengthen our collective efforts to contribute to peace, security, stability, justice and development in Africa, as well as to intensify cooperation and integration on our continent in the best interest of our peoples;
3. *Convinced* that in order to safeguard and preserve the hard-won liberties of our peoples, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our countries, our cultures, history and common values, as well as to guarantee peace, security, stability, and socio-economic development of our continent, it is imperative for us to undertake mutually reinforcing actions in the areas of defence and security;
4. *Reaffirming* our commitments under Article 4, subparagraph (d), of the Constitutive Act, and Article 3, subparagraph (e), of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which call for the establishment of a common defence policy for the African continent;
5. *Recalling* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.5 (I), which we took during the inaugural session of the Assembly of our Union held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002, in which we stressed the need for a common African defence and security policy in the context of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
6. *Reaffirming* our determination to endow the Union with the requisite capacity for decision-making in order to ensure effective political-military crisis management aimed at preserving peace and strengthening the security of the African continent in all aspects, including the elimination of conflicts;
7. *Convinced* that these commitments will provide our Union with a more enhanced and cost-effective means of maintaining peace and security on the continent;
8. *Recalling* the Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA), and particularly its interactive approach, as an invaluable tool for the Union to pursue and strengthen its agenda in the new millennium, in the areas of security, stability, development and cooperation in Africa;
9. *Stressing* the importance of the various decisions and instruments we have already adopted, with respect to the issues of peace, security and defence at the continental level, which can form the building blocks of the Common African Defence and Security Policy;
10. *Emphasizing* the need for a common understanding of defence and security as terms embracing both civilian and military aspects;
11. *Conscious* of the indivisibility of security in Africa, and particularly the fact that the defence and security of one African country is directly linked to that of other African countries, and desirous to harmonize Member States activities in these areas;

12. *Undertake* to consult among ourselves and to adopt a common position on matters relating to defence that affect or constitute a potential threat to the collective security of our continent;
13. *Hereby solemnly adopt* the Common African Defence and Security Policy and declare our commitment to uphold and give practical expression to the provisions of the Declaration;
14. *Request* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit proposals relating to the different aspects of this Declaration in order to give effect to its implementation.

Introduction

1. During the inaugural summit of the African Union held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002, the Assembly stressed the need for a common African defence and security policy in the context of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The Assembly further requested its Chairman to establish a group of experts to examine all aspects related to the establishment of such a common African defence and security policy and submit their recommendations thereon, for the consideration of its next ordinary session.
2. The need for a common African defence and security policy is inherent in the objectives of the Constitutive Act, particularly in Article 3, subparagraphs (a) to (h), as well as in Article 4, subparagraph (d), of the Act, which provides for the “establishment of a common defence policy for the African continent”.
3. Article 3, subparagraph e, of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union also provides that the objectives for which the Peace and Security Council was established shall include the development of a common defence policy for the Union, in accordance with Article 4, subparagraph (d), of the Constitutive Act. It also provides in Article 7, that one of the powers of the PSC shall be to “implement the common defence policy of the Union”.

I. Definitions and Scope

4. The adoption of a Common Defence and Security Policy for Africa is premised on a common African perception of what is required to be done collectively by African States to ensure that Africa’s common defence and security interests and goals, especially as set out in Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, are safeguarded in the face of common threats to the continent as a whole.

Defence

5. Ensuring the common defence of Africa involves working on the basis of a definition of defence which encompasses both the traditional, military and State-centric notion of the use of the armed forces of the State to protect its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the less traditional, non-military aspects which relate to the protection of the people’s political, cultural, social and economic values and ways of life. In terms of the linkage between defence at the national level and that at the regional and continental levels, it is understood, also, that each African country’s defence is inextricably linked to that of other African countries, as well as that of other regions and, by the same token, that of the African continent as a whole.

Security

6. Similarly, ensuring the common security of Africa involves working on the basis of a definition which encompasses both the traditional, State-centric, notion of the survival of the State and its protection by military means from external aggression, as well as the non-military notion which is informed by the new international environment and the high incidence of intra-State conflict. The causes of intra-State conflict necessitate a new emphasis on human security, based not only on political values but on social and economic imperatives as well. This newer, multidimensional notion of security thus embraces such issues as human rights; the right to participate fully in the process of governance; the right to equal development as well as the right to have access to resources

and the basic necessities of life; the right to protection against poverty; the right to conducive education and health conditions; the right to protection against marginalization on the basis of gender; protection against natural disasters, as well as ecological and environmental degradation. At the national level, the aim would be to safeguard the security of individuals, families, communities, and the State/national life, in the economic, political and social dimensions. This applies at the various regional levels also; and at the continental level, the principle would be underscored that the "security of each African country is inseparably linked to that of other African countries and the African continent as a whole."

Common Security Threats

7. Common security threats may be deemed to pose a danger to the common defence and security interests of the continent, as defined above, when such threats confront all, some, or one of the countries or regions of the continent. Such common security threats which thus undermine the maintenance and promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent, may be internal or external.

8. Common internal threats to Africa may include inter-State conflicts/tensions, intra-State conflicts/tensions; unstable post-conflict situations; grave humanitarian situations, as well as other circumstances:

(i) Inter-State Conflicts/Tensions:

- (a) Situations which undermine the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Member States of the AU;
- (b) Incidents involving the actual use of force or the threat of use of force between and among Member States of the AU;
- (c) Lack of respect for the principle of non-interference by one Member State in the internal affairs of another;
- (d) Aggression or threat of aggression from a country or a coalition of countries, in violation of AU principles and the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

(ii) Intra-State Conflicts/Tensions:

- (e) The existence of grave circumstances, namely war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity;
- (f) Lack of respect for the sanctity of human life, impunity, political assassination, acts of terrorism and subversive activities;
- (g) Coup d'états and unconstitutional changes of government; and situations which prevent and undermine the promotion of democratic institutions and structures, including the absence of the rule of law, equitable social order, popular participation and good governance;
- (h) Improper conduct of electoral processes;
- (i) Lack of commitment by the parties to abide by the elections conducted in line with the laws of the country;
- (j) Absence of the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights, individual and collective freedoms, equality of opportunity for all, including women, children and ethnic minorities;
- (k) Poverty and inequitable distribution of natural resources; and corruption;

- (l) Political, religious and ethnic extremism, as well as racism.

(iii) Unstable Post-Conflict Situations:

- (m) Failure to consolidate peace in the post-conflict period as a result of the absence of effective and complete post-conflict demobilization, disarmament, and re-integration and lack of sustained post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction processes.

(iv) Other Factors that Engender Insecurity:

- (n) Plight of refugees and internally displaced persons and the insecurity caused by their presence;
- (o) Use of landmines and unexploded ordinance;
- (p) Illicit proliferation, circulations and trafficking in small arms and light weapons;
- (q) Pandemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria;
- (r) Environmental degradation;
- (s) Violent and other crimes, including organized and cross-border crimes;
- (t) Human trafficking;
- (u) Drug trafficking;
- (v) Money laundering.

9. Common external threats refer to external challenges to Africa's continental security, which may endanger or have the potential, either directly or indirectly, to constrain individual and collective efforts to achieve continental security goals. Common external threats to continental security in Africa may include:

- (a) External aggression, including the invasion of an African country;
- (b) International conflicts and crises with adverse effects on African regional security;
- (c) Mercenarism;
- (d) International terrorism and terrorist activities;
- (e) The adverse effect of globalization and unfair international political and economic policies, practices and regimes;
- (f) The accumulation, stockpiling, proliferation and manufacturing of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, unconventional long-range and ballistic missiles;
- (g) Cross-border crimes such as drug and human trafficking (which may constitute a threat at the regional and national levels);
- (h) Unilateral policies aimed at isolating African countries;
- (i) Dumping of chemical and nuclear wastes in Africa.

Areas of a Common African Defence and Security Policy

10. The types of common security threats facing Africa, dictate that the Common Defence and Security Policy addresses, among others, the following areas of activity: promotion of the spirit of collective defence and a culture of peace; small arms and light weapons; peacebuilding and peacekeeping as well as post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, including demobilization, disarmament and reintegration; landmines; child soldiers; nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction; chemical weapons; HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases; terrorism; humanitarian issues; and environmental matters.

II. Principles and Values Underlying the Common African Defence and Security Policy

11. The principles and values informing the Common African Defence and Security Policy include, inter alia, the principles contained in Article 4 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. These are:

- (a) Sovereign equality and interdependence among Member States of the Union;
- (b) Respect of borders existing on achievement of independence;
- (c) Peaceful resolution of conflicts among Member States of the Union, through such appropriate means as may be decided upon by the Assembly;
- (d) Prohibition of the use of force, or threat of use of force, among Member States of the Union;
- (e) Non-interference by any Member State in the internal affairs of another;
- (f) The right of the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly, in respect of grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, as well as a serious threat to legitimate order, in order to restore peace and stability to the Member States of the Union, upon the recommendation of the Peace and Security Council;
- (g) Peaceful coexistence of Member States and their right to live in peace and security;
- (h) The right of Member States to request intervention from the Union in order to restore peace and security;
- (i) Promotion of self-reliance within the framework of the Union;
- (j) Respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance;
- (k) Promotion of social justice to ensure balanced economic development;
- (l) Respect for the sanctity of human life, condemnation and rejection of impunity and political assassination, acts of terrorism and subversive activities;
- (m) Condemnation and rejection of unconstitutional changes of governments;
- (n) Restraint by any Member State from entering into any treaty or alliance that is incompatible with the principles and objectives of the Union;
- (o) Prohibition of any Member State from allowing the use of its territory as a base for aggression and subversion against another Member State;
- (p) Promotion of gender equality.

12. Other principles and values forming the basis of the Common African Defence and Security Policy include the following:

- (i) The indivisibility of the security of African States: the security of one African country is inseparably linked to the security of other African countries, and the African continent as a whole. Accordingly, any threat or aggression on one African country is deemed to be a threat or aggression on the others, and the continent as a whole; that needs to be brought to the immediate attention of the Assembly of the Union or the Peace and Security Council for decision and action as appropriate, in conformity with the AU principles and objectives;
- (ii) The traditional African principle and value of equal burden-sharing and mutual assistance;
- (iii) The fundamental link and symbiotic relationship that exists between security, stability, human security, development and cooperation, in a manner that allows each to reinforce the other;
- (iv) African countries shall, subject to the generally accepted norms of free speech, not engage in, or allow non-State entities to engage in, any actions, that incite or intend to incite individuals or groups in the territory of other African countries to violence, which actions amount to propaganda for war or advocate hatred based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion;
- (v) The plight of African refugees and internally displaced persons shall be given due consideration;
- (vi) A close working relationship between AU and RECs must be maintained to enable correct interpretation and follow-up activities and programmes envisaged in the Common Defence and Security Policy;
- (vii) Collaborative efforts between subregional or regional organizations and the AU;
- (viii) The strengthening of links with the United Nations, whose Charter (Chapter VIII), stipulates a role for regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

III. Objectives and Goals of the Common African Defence and Security Policy

13. Based on the fact that a Common Defence and Security Policy tends to be a common feature of advanced cooperative frameworks, or of regions where integration is highly advanced, and taking into account the common historical, political, economic and international experiences which bind AU Member States together, a Common African Defence Policy is established in pursuit of a number of objectives and goals including among others, the following:

- (a) Ensure collective responses to both internal and external threats to Africa (as adumbrated above), in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act;
- (b) Enable the achievement of the objectives of the Constitutive Act, especially those relating to defence and security matters which are contained in Articles 3 and 4 therein;
- (c) Serve as a tool for the simultaneous enhancement of defence cooperation between and among African States, and the consolidation of national defence;
- (d) Eliminate suspicions and rivalry among African States, a factor that has traditionally engendered conflicts on the continent and hindered inter-State cooperation and integration in Africa;
- (e) Promote mutual trust and confidence among African States;
- (f) Provide a framework for AU Member States to cooperate in defence matters, through training of military personnel; exchange of military intelligence and information (subject to restrictions imposed by national

security); the development of military doctrine; and the building of collective capacity;

(g) Provide for transparency and clarity on national defence and security policies; as well as cost effectiveness;

(h) Allow for efficient re-allocation of resources to address the most threatening of the defence and security challenges, such as poverty and the adverse effects of globalization;

(i) Advance the cause of integration in Africa and safeguard, not only common values, but also fundamental interests and the independence and integrity of individual States, regions and the continent, as well;

(j) Enhance the AU's capacity for and coordination of, early action for conflict prevention, containment, management, resolution and elimination of conflicts, including the deployment and sustenance of peacekeeping missions and thus promote initiatives that will preserve and strengthen peace and development in Africa;

(k) Promote a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence among AU Member States and within the regions. This will foster an emphasis on the use of peaceful means of conflict resolution and the non-use of force, such as preventive diplomacy, negotiation, the use of good offices, persuasion, as well as mediation, conciliation and adjudication;

(l) Provide best practices and develop strategic capabilities through training and policy recommendations, to strengthen the defence and security sectors in Africa;

(m) Develop and enhance the collective defence and strategic capability as well as military preparedness of Member States of the AU and the continent;

(n) Enable the formulation of policies to strengthen the defence and security sectors at the national and continental levels;

(o) Facilitate the harmonization of national legislation and executive actions on defence and security matters with the Common Defence and Security Policy;

(p) Enhance the capacity of the AU to develop and promote common policies in other areas, such as foreign relations and trade, to ensure the security of the continent and the strengthening of its negotiating positions;

(q) Provide a framework to establish and operationalize the African Standby Force provided for in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

(r) Facilitate the establishment of a threat deterrence and containment capacity within the AU;

(s) Integrate and harmonize regional initiatives on defence and security issues;

(t) Encourage the conclusion and ratification of non-aggression pacts between and among African States and harmonize such agreements;

(u) Create a conducive environment for the implementation of the precepts of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and promote the acceptance of standards of human rights;

(v) Provide a framework for humanitarian action to ensure that international humanitarian law is applied during conflicts between and among African States. It will, further, provide a framework for addressing the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons at the continental, regional and national levels;

- (w) Provide a framework for the effective participation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution activities; and provide a framework for delineating the legal parameters for African civil society to function with regard to conflict prevention, management and resolution;
- (x) Provide a framework for post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction;
- (y) Provide a framework for ensuring that international environmental standards are maintained including during periods of conflict.

IV. Implementing Organs and Mechanisms of the Common African Defence and Security Policy

14. A number of defence and security frameworks existing in Africa at the continental, regional, and subregional levels, will constitute the actors or the organs for implementing the Common Defence and Security Policy for the whole African continent. At the continental level, these include the Assembly of the African Union, the Peace and Security Council provided for under the Protocol relating to it, and the peace and security mechanisms of the regional economic groupings.

(a) The Assembly

15. The Assembly of the Union is the supreme organ which deals with threats to Africa's collective defence and security. Article 9 of the Constitutive Act, which relates to the "Powers and Functions of the Assembly", endows it with the power to monitor the implementation of policies and decisions of the Union, as well as the power to ensure compliance by all Member States. In addition, that article provides for the delegation by the Assembly, of any of its powers and functions to any organ of the Union. The Peace and Security Council is the appropriate organ to which the Assembly will delegate its powers relating to defence and security.

(b) The Peace and Security Council

16. The Peace and Security Council is created by the Protocol relating to its establishment, adopted in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002. It is intended, after the ratification of this Protocol, that it be "a standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts." It is also described by the Protocol as "a collective security and early-warning arrangement to facilitate timely and efficient response to conflict and crisis situations in Africa."

17. In addition, the Protocol constitutes an effort to incorporate into a single text, the provisions of certain defence and security instruments already in existence and forming part of the general body of "legislation" and principles on which the African Union, and the Peace and Security Council in particular will be able to base its actions in the field of defence and security. Similarly, the Council is required to ensure the implementation of the new genre of security instruments such as the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and other relevant international, continental and regional instruments, adopted to combat international terrorism. Further, the Peace and Security Council has the function of promoting and encouraging the implementation of OAU/AU, United Nations and other relevant international conventions and treaties on arms control and disarmament. These specific provisions of the Protocol could also be usefully incorporated into the proposed Common African Defence and Security Policy.

18. In the Peace and Security Council Protocol, it is provided that there shall also be established, a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Peace and Security Council on all questions relating to military and security requirements, for the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa. (The Military Staff Committee, composed of the members of the Peace and Security Council, may meet at the level of Chiefs of Defence Staff or at the level of senior military officers.) The African Standby Force should also be an implementing mechanism for the decisions of the Peace and Security Council.

19. The Protocol also addresses the fundamental problem of funding and logistics, a factor which has continued to constrain peace support operations deployed by both the OAU/AU and African regional organizations.

20. The Protocol reaffirms the need to establish a Continental Early Warning System to facilitate the anticipation and prevention of conflicts. It will consist of an observation and monitoring centre to be linked to the observation and monitoring units of the subregional mechanisms.

21. There is also provision in the Protocol for the establishment of a Panel of the Wise to advise the Peace and Security Council and the Chairperson of the Commission and to pronounce themselves on issues relating to the promotion and maintenance of peace and security on the continent, particularly in the area of conflict prevention.

22. The Protocol stipulates that the Peace and Security Council shall assist in the restoration of the rule of law, the establishment and development of democratic institutions, and the preparation, organization and supervision of elections in Member States. Further, in areas of relative peace, the Peace and Security Council shall accord priority to the implementation of policy aimed at reducing degradation of social and economic conditions arising from conflict. In the area of post-conflict peacebuilding, the Peace and Security Council shall work towards the consolidation of peace agreements that have been negotiated; the establishment of conditions for political, social and economic reconstruction of the society and government institutions; the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, including those relating to child soldiers; the settlement and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons; and the provision of assistance to vulnerable persons including children, the elderly, women, and other traumatized groups in the society.

23. In an effort to enhance the AU's institutional capacity in the humanitarian field, the Peace and Security Council is required to develop its own capacity to coordinate and efficiently undertake humanitarian action.

24. The Protocol stipulates that the Peace and Security Council shall encourage non-governmental organizations, and community-based and other civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations, to participate actively in the efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability in Africa; and that when required, such organizations may be invited to address the Peace and Security Council.

(c) Commission of the African Union

25. The Commission will, among other tasks, deploy efforts and take all initiatives deemed appropriate to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts and support post-conflict and rehabilitation activities.

(d) Regional Economic Groups

26. At the regional level, the implementing organs include the conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms existing in the various regional economic organizations. These include those of ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, SADC, the East African Community, CEN-SAD, the Arab Maghreb Union and COMESA.

(e) Coordination and Harmonization Procedures for Implementing
the Common African Defence and Security Policy

(f) Coordination between the Peace and Security Council and Relevant Continental Mechanisms

27. It would be appropriate for the Peace and Security Council to be accorded the role of an umbrella organ coordinating the activities of the various other continental mechanisms which, as mentioned above, have mandates and/or strategies of their own, in the context of the Common African Defence and Security Policy. The nature of the procedures aimed at facilitating the Peace and Security Council's coordinating role is specified already in certain texts. Thus, for example, the Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council stipulates that

the Council shall seek close cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in all matters relevant to its objectives and mandate; and, further, that the Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights shall, for its part, bring to the attention of the Peace and Security Council, any information relevant to the objectives and mandate of the latter. This may be included in the Common Defence and Security Policy. Where the procedures for facilitating such coordination are not specified, they can be developed in the context of the said Common African Defence and Security Policy. Regarding the continental mechanisms, in general, the CSSDCA provisions for review conferences every two years that may be utilized to monitor the implementation of decisions.

(g) Coordination between the Peace and Security Council and Regional Mechanisms

28. Various instruments, at the regional and continental levels, have called for the coordination and harmonization of the existing regional mechanisms with the AU Mechanism. In this regard, reference can be made, for example, to Section II (e) of the CSSDCA Memorandum of Understanding on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation, which provides for a commitment to "establish a strong cooperation framework for security between the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the AU and the United Nations".

(a) Further expansion on the relationship between the RECs, regions, and regional defence arrangements and the AU Peace and Security Council, as defined by the relevant AU decisions at the meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique, and that the RECs and AU regions be synchronized and harmonized.

(b) There should be a formalization and legitimization of the role of the Defence and Security Ministers in the implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy, in accordance with Article 14, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

29. Article 16 of the AU Peace and Security Protocol has detailed provisions on the way and manner in which the relationship between the regional mechanisms and the Peace and Security Council can be structured. It articulates a basic vision in which the regional mechanisms are regarded as part of the "overall security structure" of the African Union, which has the primary responsibility for promoting peace, security and stability in Africa.

30. Accordingly, the Peace and Security Council, together with the Chairperson of the Commission, shall harmonize and coordinate the activities of the regional mechanisms and ensure that these activities are consistent with the objectives and principles of the Union; as well as work closely with the regional mechanisms to ensure effective partnership between them and the Peace and Security Council. It is stipulated that the modalities of such partnership shall be determined by the comparative advantage of each and the prevailing circumstances.

31. It is provided, further, that the Peace and Security Council shall promote initiatives aimed at anticipating and preventing conflicts as well as carrying out peacemaking and peacebuilding functions, in consultation with regional mechanisms. In undertaking these efforts, the regional mechanisms shall, through the Chairperson of the Commission, keep the Peace and Security Council fully and continuously informed of their activities and ensure that these activities are closely harmonized and coordinated with the activities of the Peace and Security Council. The Peace and Security Council shall also keep the regional mechanisms fully and continuously informed of its activities, through the Chairperson of the Commission.

32. Furthermore, the Chairperson shall convene periodic meetings, at least once a year, with the chief executives and/or the officials in charge of peace and security in the regional mechanisms, to ensure close harmonization and coordination and facilitate regular exchange of information; and the regional mechanisms shall be invited to participate in the discussion of any question brought before the Peace and Security Council, whenever a question that is being addressed by a regional mechanism is of special interest to that organization. Similarly, the Chairperson of the Commission shall be invited to participate in meetings and deliberations of regional mechanisms.

33. The Chairperson of the Commission shall also take the necessary measures to ensure the full involvement of regional mechanisms in the establishment and effective functioning of the Early Warning System and the African

Standby Force; and the AU Commission shall establish liaison offices with the regional mechanism, which shall, in turn, be encouraged to establish their own liaison offices with the Commission.

34. A memorandum of understanding based on the above provisions, shall be concluded between the AU Commission and the regional mechanisms.

35. While the Common African Defence and Security Policy will reflect the substance of Article 16 of the Peace and Security Protocol regarding the role that the AU, as the continental body, would be required to play in efforts to coordinate and harmonize subregional mechanisms, there needs to be a commitment on the part of the subregional mechanisms themselves to coordinate and harmonize their defence and security activities with those of the AU.

Review Conferences

36. In the general context of enhancing the coordination function of the Peace and Security Council, it is suggested to convene regular conferences, every six months, between the Peace and Security Council and the conflict resolution mechanisms of the various regional organizations, in order to review the state of peace and security on the whole continent. In addition, a yearly review conference involving all the conflict mechanisms of the regional mechanisms as well as the mechanisms established by the continental instruments, should be convened by the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council.

V. Relations with the United Nations and Other International Organizations

37. Within the context of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, there is a need to implement the framework for consultation, coordination and harmonization of policies as provided for in the Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council.

38. In the fulfillment of its mandate for the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa, the Peace and Security Council shall cooperate and work closely with the United Nations Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Peace and Security Council shall also cooperate and work closely with other relevant United Nations agencies in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. Where necessary, recourse will be made to the United Nations to provide the necessary financial, logistical and military support for the African Union's activities in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa, in keeping with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter on the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

39. The Peace and Security Council and the Chairperson of the Commission shall maintain close and continued interaction with the United Nations Security Council, its African members, as well as with the Secretary-General, including holding periodic meetings and regular consultations on questions of peace, security and stability in Africa.

40. Similarly, the Peace and Security Council will also cooperate and work closely with other relevant African institutions such as the African Academy for Peace and international organizations. Such organizations may be invited to address the Peace and Security Council on issues of common interest, if the latter considers that the efficient discharge of its responsibilities does so require.

The Building Blocks of a Common African Defence and Security Policy

(A) Continental Instruments and Mechanisms

1. At the continental level, there are a number of existing intergovernmental defence and security instruments, including treaties, charters, conventions, agreements, and declarations, which could inform ongoing efforts to formulate and implement a Common African Defence and Security Policy. These include:

i. The Constitutive Act of the AU

The Constitutive Act provides for the establishment of the AU and the relevant policy organs.

ii. The AU Peace and Security Council Protocol

The Protocol provides for the establishment of the Peace and Security Council as the “operational structure for the effective implementation of the decisions taken in the areas of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peace support operations and intervention, as well as peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.”

iii. The African Standby Force.

The Protocol of the Peace and Security Council provides for the establishment of an African Standby Force. The African Standby Force shall perform functions in the context of preventive deployment and peacebuilding, including post-conflict disarmament and demobilization. It shall also provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population in conflict areas (as well as support efforts to address major natural disasters).

The concept of the African Standby Force is based on brigades to be provided by the five African regions. These brigades will be established in two phases, to be completed by the year 2010 with the attendant strengthening of capabilities at both the AU and regional levels. The ASF will have military, police and civilian components and will operate on the basis of various scenarios under African Union mandates, ranging from observer missions to peacekeeping operations and intervention in conformity with the Constitutive Act.

The ASF will be established to enable the Peace and Security Council to perform its responsibilities with respect to the deployment of peace support missions and intervention pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutive Act.

iv. The Convention for the Elimination of Mercenaries in Africa.

2. This instrument was adopted at Libreville, Gabon, in July 1977, by the OAU Heads of State in response to the grave threat posed at that time by mercenarism. The Convention criminalizes “mercenarism” by providing for the culpability of States and by specifying the severest penalties, including capital punishment, in connection with the prosecution of offenders.

v. The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Treaty of Pelindaba)

3. The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, (the Treaty of Pelindaba) was adopted in 1998. The treaty bars the testing, manufacturing, researching, stockpiling, acquisition, or possession of nuclear explosives in Africa. The Treaty provides for an African Commission on Nuclear Energy, mandated, inter alia, to collate reports and exchange information on issues relating to nuclear weapons.

vi. The Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa

4. The Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa was adopted in January 1991 and came into force in May 1994. Its purpose is to protect African countries from the pollution which emanates from the transboundary movement of nuclear and hazardous wastes in Africa, substances which are hazardous to health. The Convention provides for the creation of its own mechanism, consisting of a Conference of Ministers of Environment.

vii. The Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation,

Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons

5. The Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the OAU in December 2000. In this Declaration, Member States undertake to identify, seize and destroy illicit weapons. The Declaration provides for the establishment of measures to control the circulation, possession, transfer and use of small arms and light weapons. It also stipulates the establishment at the regional level, of national coordination agencies or bodies responsible for policy guidance, research, monitoring, control and circulation of small arms and light weapons.

viii. The Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Algiers Plan

6. The Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism was adopted in July 1999 and entered into force in December 2002. The Convention provides that terrorism should be combated in all its forms and manifestations, including those in which States are involved directly or indirectly, without regard to its origin, causes and objectives. It underlines the growing links between terrorism and organized crime, including the illicit traffic of arms, drugs and money laundering. The Convention thus criminalizes terrorist acts, as defined in the text, and makes such acts punishable by appropriate penalties. It also has sections on areas of cooperation among States parties, the jurisdiction of States, extradition, extraterritorial investigations and mutual legal assistance. In March 2003, the Executive Council meeting in N'Djamena, Chad, endorsed the Plan of Action and the decision to establish the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, adopted by the High-Level Intergovernmental meeting on the prevention and combating of terrorism held in Algiers from 11 to 14 September 2002.

ix. The Kempton Park Plan of Action on a Landmine-Free Africa

7. The Kempton Park Plan of Action was adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers in Harare in May 1997. The Plan of Action reiterated Africa's commitment to the total ban on anti-personnel mines and adopted as a goal, the elimination of all anti-personnel mines as well as the establishment of Africa, as a landmine-free zone.

x. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

8. The Charter adopted in 1981, guarantees the protection of individual rights and freedoms, without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, colour, language, religion, and political or other differences. The instrument gives prominence to the concept of peoples' rights, and stresses that the satisfaction of economic, social and cultural rights is the only guarantee for the enjoyment of the traditional civil and political rights. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights sets up an African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, with a mandate to formulate the fundamental freedoms upon which African governments may base their legislation.

xi. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

9. This Protocol contains provisions for the establishment of a Court to complement the protective mandate of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (The Protocol is, however, not yet in force, not having obtained the requisite number of ratifications).

xii. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

10. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child was adopted by the OAU in July 1990. It came into force on 29 November 1999. In the Convention, States parties are required, inter alia, to take all necessary measures to prevent children from taking direct part in hostilities as child-combatants, and to refrain from recruiting them. The Charter provides for the establishment of an African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

xiii. The Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World (1990)

11. The Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World (1990) was adopted in 1990. In the Declaration, the Heads of State enunciated principles which emanated from a broader vision of defence and security on the continent.

xiv. The Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the Establishment within the OAU of a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution

12. The Declaration provides for the establishment of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

xv. The Grand Bay (Mauritius) Declaration and Plan of Action

13. The Grand Bay Declaration and Plan of Action were adopted at the end of the First OAU Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Africa, held in April 1999, in Grand Bay, Mauritius. Significantly, a substantial part of the Declaration points to a link between various aspects of human rights, on the one hand, and the promotion of peace and security, on the other. It stipulates a strategy for implementing human rights at the national, regional, continental and international levels.

xvi. The Declaration on the Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government

14. Pursuant to the Algiers decision, the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted the Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, during its Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session, in July 2000, in Lomé, Togo, which provided a framework for dealing with unconstitutional changes of government in Africa.

xvii. The Declaration and Plan of Action on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Control in Africa

15. In July 1996, the African Heads of State and Government adopted at their Summit in Yaoundé, Cameroon, the Common African Position on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Control in Africa. The Yaoundé Declaration clearly identified the problems and criminalized drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs. It also urged Member States to harmonize policies and take joint actions at the national, regional and continental levels, in order to combat the phenomenon. In 2002, the Declaration on Control of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse in Africa was also adopted at Yamoussoukro.

xviii. The Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases

16. In April 2001, the Heads of State of the OAU adopted the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. The Declaration on HIV/AIDS, as well as the Framework for Action and the Plan of Action, make mention of strategies and mechanisms for implementation.

xix. The Abuja Declaration on Rollback Malaria in Africa

17. In April 2000, the OAU Heads of State and Government adopted the Abuja Declaration on Rollback Malaria in Africa which included a Framework for Monitoring the Implementation of the Plan of Action.

xx. Declaration on the Code of Conduct on Inter- African Relations

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18. This instrument was adopted by the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Tunis, Tunisia, in June 1994, in an effort to articulate standards for the conduct of inter-State relations, both at the bilateral and continental levels.

xxi. The 1969 OAU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa

19. This instrument, which takes into account the specific nature of African refugee problems, especially as they relate to the issue of peace and security, was adopted in September 1969, by the OAU Heads of State.

xxii. The Cairo Agenda for Action (1995)

20. This instrument was adopted by the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, held in Addis Ababa in June 1995. It is aimed at relaunching Africa's economic and social development.

xxiii. The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development

21. The Charter was adopted by the Summit of the OAU in 1990. The Charter stresses that one of the key conditions for ensuring people's participation throughout the continent is the bringing to an end of all wars and armed conflicts.

xxiv. Instruments on the Rights of Women

22. These include the following: Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women; Convention on the Political Rights of Women; Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict is particularly relevant. Of relevance also is the forthcoming AU instrument on the rights of women.

xxv. The Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA)

23. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Lomé, in 2000 adopted the Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA). It is a comprehensive response to the multifaceted challenges of defence and security in Africa. The CSSDCA was launched to provide a framework for coordinating, harmonizing and promoting policies aimed at preventing, containing, and eliminating the pernicious internal and inter-State conflicts in Africa, as well as accelerating regional integration and development on the continent.

xxvi. NEPAD

24. The NEPAD programme contains important peace and security components. The Heads of State Implementation Committee established a NEPAD subcommittee on peace and security in October 2001, to direct the work of the peace and security component of NEPAD. Additionally, the NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance provides for the establishment of an African Peer Review Mechanism, (APRM), on the basis of voluntary accession. It seeks to promote adherence to and fulfilment of the commitments contained in the Declaration.

(B) Regional Instruments and Mechanisms

25. Various efforts have been made at the subregional level in Africa by what are essentially economic-oriented organizations, to establish common policies on defence and security issues; and consequently, a number of instruments have been adopted and mechanisms established at the subregional level by these organizations to

coordinate regional defence and security policies. These exist within ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, UMA, ECCAS, the EAC, CEN-SAD and COMESA.

xxvii. ECOWAS

26. Over a period of time, cooperation within ECOWAS on defence and security issues has evolved; and that body has adopted a range of policy texts, including:

- (a) The Non-Aggression Protocol, signed in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1978;
- (b) The Protocol on Mutual Defence Assistance, signed in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 1981;
- (c) The Declaration of Political Principles of the Economic Community of West African States (1991), and the Supplementary Protocol on Good Governance;
- (d) The Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1992);
- (e) The ECOWAS policy instruments on peace and security also include:
 - Declaration of a Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa (1998);
 - Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED (1998));
 - Code of Conduct for the Implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa (1999);
 - Decision Establishing National Commissions for the Control of the Proliferation and Illicit Circulation of Light Weapons (1999);
- (f) The Declaration by ECOWAS Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Child Soldiers (1999);
- (g) Protocol relating to the ECOWAS Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security, which provides for the establishment of institutions like the Authority of Heads of State, the Mediation and Security Council, the Executive Secretariat and other organs such as the Defence and Security Commission, the Council of Elders, ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group, (ECOMOG) and the Peace and Security Observation Early Warning System.

27. A special structure devoted to peace and security issues has been created within the Secretariat of ECOWAS. It has the function of initiating and supervising activities relating to the implementation of the ECOWAS Mechanism.

28. In addition, an Early Warning System secretariat composed of an observation centre in four ECOWAS capitals has been established as part of the ECOWAS Secretariat structure.

xxviii. ECCAS

29. A summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS held in Yaoundé on 25 February 1999, decided to create an organ for the prevention, and consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa, under the general superintendence of a Council of Peace and Security of Central Africa (COPAX). COPAX is required to operate at the level of Heads of State and Government. In July 1999, the Heads of State of ECCAS decided to

integrate COPAX into the structures of ECCAS, as a subregional mechanism for the settlement and prevention of conflicts in Central Africa.

30. COPAX makes provision for an early warning capability: the Central African early warning mechanism: (MARAC).

31. The Defence and Security Commission (CDS) is composed of Chiefs of Staff of national armies. It is meant to plan, organize and provide advice to the decision-making bodies of the community, in order to initiate military operations, if and when necessary. However, it is also composed of commanders-in-chief of police and gendarmerie forces from the different Member States.

32. The Central African Multinational Force (FOMAC), is the military arm of COPAX. It is a non-permanent force consisting of military contingents from Member States, with the objective of carrying out missions of peace, security and humanitarian relief.

33. A secretariat structure is also provided for in ECCAS, to oversee COPAX operations and to liaise with the political organs of ECCAS.

xxix. IGAD

34. IGAD was established in 1986 and revitalized in 1996, to coordinate the efforts of its Member States. Article 7 of the Charter of the revitalized IGAD sets as a priority objective of IGAD, the promotion of peace and stability, and the creation of mechanisms within the region, for the prevention, management and resolution of inter and intra-State conflicts through dialogue. Further, the Charter enjoins Member States, in the context of preserving peace, security and stability, to establish effective mechanisms for consultation and cooperation for peaceful settlement of disputes.

35. At its Eighth Meeting in Khartoum in November 2000, the IGAD Summit adopted a resolution, formalizing an arrangement in the form of a conflict early warning and response mechanism (CEWARN). A Protocol establishing the Mechanism, (CEWARN), was adopted in January 2002, in Khartoum, Sudan. CEWARN is based on a complementary set of national and regional structures. Policy is made at the levels of the Heads of State, the Council of Ministers, as well as the Committee of Ambassadors, while the secretariat performs administrative functions. The technical aspects are handled by the Secretariat's arm of CEWARN, as well as the national conflict early warning and response mechanisms. The optional inter-State structures and regional councils are expected to cooperate with CEWARN, while the coordinating functions are intended to be assumed by a Committee of Permanent Secretaries established under Article 9 of the protocol as well as by the Technical Committee on early warning.

xxx. SADC

36. On 17 August 1992, the States of the Southern African region signed a Declaration and the Treaty establishing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Windhoek, the Republic of Namibia. The Declaration and the Treaty, inter alia, stressed the need for cooperation in the promotion of peace and security in the region.

37. In June 1996, at an Extraordinary Summit in Gaborone, the Republic of Botswana, SADC created the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security. This represented the establishment of a regional mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution. The Summit reaffirmed that the Organ constituted an appropriate institutional framework, by which SADC Member States would coordinate their policies, strategies and activities in the areas of politics, defence and security. The Summit also agreed on the need for a Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security, which would constitute a legal regime in the political sphere.

38. In 1999, the Summit decided to undertake a review of the operations of the SADC institutions, including the Organ. In March 2001, in Windhoek, Namibia, the Summit approved the report on the review of the operations of SADC institutions and mandated that the Treaty be amended to conform to the provisions of the review report. In August 2001, the Summit signed the Agreement amending the Treaty and the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

39. In the context of the amended Treaty and the Protocol, the Chairpersonship of the Organ rotates among Member States and is chaired by a Head of State or Government who reports to the Summit. The main institutions of the Organ are the Chairperson of the Organ, the Troika, the Ministerial Committee, the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) and the Inter-State Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC). The Troika comprises the sitting Chairperson, the incoming and the outgoing Chairpersons. This enables the organization to execute tasks in between regular meetings. The Treaty and the Protocol provide that the Organ may establish other institutions as and when the need arises.

40. The SADC relevant instruments include the following:

- (i) The Treaty (as amended in 2001);
- (ii) The Protocol on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation;
- (iii) The Mutual Defence Pact;
- (iv) The Protocol on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters;
- (v) The Protocol against Corruption;
- (vi) The Protocol on Extradition;
- (vii) The Protocol on the Tribunal and Rules of Procedure;
- (viii) The Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials;
- (ix) The Protocol on Combating Illicit Drugs;
- (x) The Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement;
- (xi) The Protocol on Legal Affairs.

xxxi. East African Community (EAC)

41. The EAC has a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Defence, signed by the three Heads of State of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, in November 2001. It builds on the already established tradition of undertaking joint maneuvers and military exercises among the three countries, by providing for cooperation in military training, joint operations, technical assistance, visits, and information exchange. The EAC Memorandum of Understanding also makes provision for institutional arrangements for its implementation, including a Council on Cooperation in Defence Affairs; a Consultative Committee on Cooperation in Defence Affairs; a Sectoral Committee on Cooperation in Defence Affairs; and Defence Experts Working Groups. Provision is, further, made for financial arrangements relating to expenses arising from all joint training, operational and technical cooperation.

42. In addition, while recognizing the security implications of the major challenge of forced migration, the EAC States are moving towards the harmonization of refugee and migration policies.

43. The EAC also has a memorandum of understanding on foreign policy.

xxxii. CEN-SAD

44. The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), which comprises 18 States, has included peace and security among its priorities. To this end, it has equipped itself with a “security charter” and has put in place a “High Community Mediator”. In the same vein, CEN-SAD is in the process of providing itself with a mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution within CEN-SAD space. This mechanism, whose principle of establishment was adopted by the leaders and Heads of State, is underpinned by two protocols, namely:

- An additional protocol of cooperation and assistance in the area of defence/security;
- An additional protocol on the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

xxxiii. Arab-Maghreb Union

45. The objectives of the UMA treaty,* signed in February 1989, are, as in the case of the constitutive instruments establishing its counterpart subregional organizations, primarily economic. Yet, in spite of its overriding economic orientation, UMA, like most of the other regional groups has incorporated peace and security concerns into its activities. Indeed, common defence and non-interference in the domestic affairs of partner States are central to the UMA Treaty. UMA has established some peace and security structures. In 1991, it set up an informal body called the Council of Common Defence (CCD). The Maghreb States had envisaged UMA as a viable forum for negotiating peace, enhancing security and cooperation, and resolving existing conflicts and tensions among them.

xxxiv. COMESA

46. Since 1999, COMESA has developed a programme on peace and security, with an emphasis on conflict prevention through preventive diplomacy. This programme focuses especially on building the capacity of civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and parliament. Included within the general structures of COMESA is a special structure that deals with peace and security matters, starting with the Authority which heads that structure. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs meet once a year to consider matters relating to peace and security. There is also a committee of officials, which meets at the technical level.

* Editor’s note: Treaty instituting the Arab Maghreb Union.

THIRD ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
6 to 8 July 2004**

Assembly/AU/Dec.33 (III)

**Decision on the Vision and Mission of the African Union and the Strategic Plan,
Programme and Budget of the Commission**

The Assembly,

1. *Accepts* in principle the Vision and Mission of the African Union and the Strategic Plan of the Commission which are consistent with the main thrusts identified by us within the framework of the process initiated in Sirte, Libya, and in the formulation of the NEPAD Programme and which constitute guidelines for action for the integration of Africa;
2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Executive Council as contained in Decision EX.CL/Dec.93 (V);
3. *Commends* the Commission for the work carried out and the quality of the documents prepared;
4. *Requests* the Commission to take necessary measures to finalize the documents, taking due account of the observations and corrections made by Member States;
5. *Mandates* the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled to be held at the latest in November 2004 to adopt the prioritized programmes, to consider and adopt the programme budget for 2005 in conformity with the approved "solidarity budget".

Assembly/AU/Dec.34 (III)

**Decision on the Operationalization of the Protocol Relating to the
Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (III))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), on 26 December 2003;
2. *Approves* the measures taken by the Executive Council to operationalize the Peace and Security Council;
3. *Congratulates* the Fifteen Members of the PSC, elected by the Executive Council at its Fourth Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, from 15 to 16 March 2004;
4. *Takes note* of the activities undertaken by the PSC, between March and June, and urges all its members to strengthen their capacities to shoulder the responsibilities of their membership;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary measures to operationalize all aspects of the Protocol including, in particular, the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force and the Military Staff Committee, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the areas of peace and security, and to report to the Sixth Session of the Executive Council and the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly on the progress made in this direction;
6. *Urges* Member States, which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Protocol as soon as possible.

Assembly/AU/Dec.35 (III)

Decision on the African Standby Force (ASF) and the Military Staff Committee (MSC)

(Doc. EX.CL/110 (V))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the meeting of Ministers of Defence held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 21 January 2004;
2. *Approves* the Policy Framework Document, on the establishment of the African Standby Force (ASF) and the Military Staff Committee (MSC);
3. *Appeals* to the international cooperating partners of the AU, in particular the G8, the EU and the United Nations, as well as the bilateral partners, to provide the support required to facilitate the establishment of the ASF and the MSC. In this respect, the Assembly requests the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake the necessary consultations with all partners concerned;
4. *Endorses* the proposal by the Ministers of Defence and Security to establish, within the framework of Article 14, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act of the AU, a Specialized Technical Committee comprising Ministers responsible for Defence and Security of the AU, to work with the Peace and Security Council, in the implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy and in addressing the complex issues of peace and security on the continent;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take all steps required for the implementation of the Policy Framework Document.

Assembly/AU/Dec.36 (III)

**Decision on the Draft Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism
(Doc. EX.CL/111 (V))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism as an additional Protocol to the Convention;
2. *Requests* the Commission to take the required steps for the speedy entry into force of the Protocol to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention and the Algiers Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.37 (III)

**Declaration on Equatorial Guinea
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (III))**

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses its concern* over the recurrence of the phenomenon of mercenarism and its consequences on the security and stability of African countries;
2. *Condemns* the acts of mercenarism perpetrated against the Government of Equatorial Guinea on 7 March 2004;
3. *Commends* South Africa, Angola and Zimbabwe for their cooperation with Equatorial Guinea which made it possible to foil this destabilization attempt;

4. *Urges* all countries of the continent to take the necessary steps to combat the planning and preparation of acts of mercenarism on their territories. In this regard, the Assembly calls on Member States to promote greater exchange of information and adopt appropriate legislation against mercenarism;
5. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the African Union to combat the phenomenon of mercenarism, in compliance with the OAU Convention on the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa;
6. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this Decision to the United Nations Security Council, for the adoption by this organ of a resolution on mercenarism.

Assembly/AU/Dec.38 (III)

Decision on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

The Assembly,

1. *We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union*, meeting at the Third Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 8 July 2004;
2. *Recalling* our decision regarding the then New African Initiative, now the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), taken at the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia (AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVII));
3. *Recalling further* our decisions on the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) taken at the Inaugural Session of the African Union Assembly in Durban, South Africa, from 8 to 10 July 2002 (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (1), and at the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, from 10 to 12 July 2003 (Assembly/AU/Decl.8 (II));
4. *Noting with appreciation* the progress report presented to us by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), H.E. President O. Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, describing the developments in the NEPAD programmes and activities since our last meeting in July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique;

Progress Report

5. *Endorse* the progress report and commend the HSGIC and its supporting structures for their coordination and catalytic role in facilitating the implementation of NEPAD priority programmes and projects across the African regions and more specifically through cooperation and collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
6. *Mandate* the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of NEPAD, supported by the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NEPAD Secretariat, to continue their vital work of ensuring the implementation of NEPAD programmes;
7. *Urge* that the programmes identified in each priority area be urgently implemented and that each region and Member State, through the RECs, provide assistance and financial support in the further development and implementation of these programmes and in the continued popularization of NEPAD among all sectors of society on the African continent;

Programme Implementation

8. *Note* the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), in particular:

- The Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme (MAPP), for which the World Bank has committed to supporting by providing US\$ 500 million;
- The development of a tracking mechanism to monitor the commitment by African governments to allocate 10 per cent of national budgets to agriculture;
- The FAO is providing funding to 49 countries for medium-term investment programmes to fast track the implementation of CAADP;
- A CAADP companion on forestry, fisheries and livestock is being developed, as well as a nutrition programme;
- The review on the Food Reserve System has commenced.

9. *Further note* the progress made in the implementation of the short-term action plan for infrastructure (STAP), particularly the fact that:

- The African Development Bank (ADB) has approved financing for 9 investment projects amounting to US\$ 580 million;
- The World Bank has approved financing for STAP projects amounting to US\$ 570 million;
- The fibre-optic submarine cable on the east coast of Africa, and the e-Schools projects have reached advanced levels of implementation.

African Peer Review Mechanism

10. *Note* the significant progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), particularly the fact that nineteen Member States have now acceded to the APRM and another three have expressed interest in joining, and the fact that the country review process has started in Ghana and Rwanda and will shortly commence in Mauritius and Kenya;

11. *Call on* all Member States that have not yet done so to acceded to the APRM;

Development of Priority Sector Strategies

12. *Note with appreciation* the work done to develop the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and mandate the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat to work closely with partners, in particular the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Bank, the UNDP, and UNEP and other international organizations to develop a programme of work in this regard that will enable Member States to use the strategy as a framework for integrating disaster risk reduction into national development processes;

13. *Endorse* the Tourism Action Plan developed by the NEPAD Secretariat and adopted by the African Ministers of Tourism and the Executive Council;

14. *Call on* African Ministers of Tourism to form a Steering Committee of Ministers of Tourism to guide the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, as well as RECs and Member States in the implementation of the Tourism Action Plan;

15. *Welcome* the African Productive Capacity Initiative (APCI) and the African Productive Capacity Facility (APCF) adopted by the Sixteenth Conference of African Ministers of Industry and call on the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, with the support of development partners, particularly UNIDO, to assist Member States in the implementation of the strategy;
16. *Further welcome* the development of a NEPAD Science and Technology Strategy by the African Ministers of Science and Technology;
17. *Congratulate* UNESCO for the work that has been done in support of the human resource development aspects of the NEPAD programme;

Millennium Development Goals

18. *Note* that, at current rates of development, many African countries are unlikely to meet the Millennium Development Goals due to lack of resource flows and, therefore, resolve to undertake the necessary measures to enhance the development of expanded and integrated national development plans and related policies, as well as fast track the adoption of NEPAD programmes, including reforms and increased investments in key areas such as agriculture, infrastructure, health, human resource development and education, as a means towards achieving the MDGs;
19. *Note further* the centrality of agriculture in Africa's development and the multiple constraints associated with this sector, and reaffirm our commitment and determination to raise food production, reduce hunger and transform rural Africa by way of developing and launching Africa's Green Revolution;
20. *Welcome* the support provided by international partners and call upon the international community to significantly scale up support and resources to Member States and RECs in efforts aimed at achieving the MDGs within the framework of national development programmes;
21. *Furthermore call on* all international partners to honour their expressed commitments to supporting African development by significantly increasing their contributions under the IDA-14 replenishment process, providing grants as opposed to loans and granting accelerated and scaled-up debt relief; similarly the ADF is called upon to provide financial support to NEPAD programmes;

Integration of NEPAD into AU Structures and Processes

22. *Finally, welcome* the report presented by the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union and mandate the Chairperson to continue, in consultation with the Chairperson of the HSGIC, to operationalize the decision taken at our last Summit in Maputo relating to the integration of NEPAD into AU structures and processes.

Assembly/AU/Dec.39 (III)

Decision on the Launching and the Establishment of the Pan-African Parliament (Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (III))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Pan-African Parliament and expresses its appreciation for the measures taken by the Commission in ensuring the successful launching of the Pan-African Parliament on 18 March 2004;
2. *Congratulates* the President of the Pan-African Parliament, Honourable Ambassador Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella and the four Vice-Presidents elected at the inauguration of the Parliament and pledges its full support

for their efforts in fulfilling their mandate as provided for in the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament;

3. *Decides* that the seat of the Pan-African Parliament shall be in South Africa;
4. *Endorses* the Decision EX.CL/Dec.98 (V) of the Executive Council relating to the budget of the Pan-African Parliament for the period July to December 2004.

Assembly/AU/Dec.40 (III)

**Decision on the Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora
Dakar, Senegal, from 6 to 9 October 2004
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (III))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora;
2. *Welcomes* the preparatory work accomplished by the Commission;
3. *Commends* the President of Senegal and his African Peers who have made personal commitments to ensure the success of this all important meeting;
4. *Appeals* to all Heads of State of the continent and the countries of the diaspora to work towards the success of this Conference and, if possible, to attend personally.

Assembly/AU/Dec.41 (III)

**Decision on the Report of the Chairperson on the AU Symbols Competitions (Flag, Emblem, Anthem)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (III) Rev.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in March 2004 to retain the emblem and flag of the former OAU and adopt them as the new AU flag and emblem;
2. *Decides* to select the rearranged (revised) version of the anthem of the former OAU as the new AU anthem;
3. *Acknowledges* and thanks all those who submitted entries to the AU Symbols Competitions as well as the Panel of Judges.

Assembly/AU/Dec.42 (III)

**Decision on Aids Watch Africa (AWA) and the Implementation of the Abuja and Maputo Declarations on
Malaria, HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases in Africa**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note of:*

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- (a) The presentation by the Representative of the Chairman of AIDS Watch Africa;
- (b) The presentation by the Commissioner for Social Affairs of the AU; and
- (c) The recommendations of the Executive Council as contained in the Decision EX.CL/Dec.104 (V).

2. *Urges* Member States to ensure effective implementation of their commitments in accordance with the 2000 Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Rollback Malaria, the 2001 Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases as well as the 2003 Maputo Declaration on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases in Africa and to report on progress made;

3. *Decides* to reposition AWA's Secretariat within the Social Affairs Department of the AU Commission for a more effective coordination of AWA's roles and activities;

4. *Urges* AWA to ensure that best practices among Member States in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related infectious diseases are identified, propagated and adopted by all;

5. *Requests* the Chairman of AWA to report on progress made to the next ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.43 (III)

**Decision on the Council on the Future of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (III))**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission;
- 2. *Decides* to refer the matter to the Executive Council for further consideration with the view to making an appropriate recommendation to the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.44 (III)

**Decision on the International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa (CIEFFA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (III) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Takes note* of the presentation on the International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa (CIEFFA);
- 2. *Recalls* the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action (1993) as well as the Harare Programme of Action for the Decade for Education in Africa (1997-2006) which recommend that quality and equity be taken into account in the education of girls in national development plans;
- 3. *Further recalls* the Kampala Declaration (1996) and the Platform of Action for strengthening the power of women and girls through education;
- 4. *Welcomes* the establishment and operationalization of CIEFFA under the aegis of UNESCO, as an institution for the promotion of education of girls and women in Africa;

5. *Recognizes* the need for the African Union to endow itself with structures such as CIEFFA to attain the objectives and keep with the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, particularly its Article 3, subparagraph (k), and Article 4, subparagraph (l);
6. *Approves* the principle of making CIEFFA an institution for the entire continent under the aegis of the African Union;
7. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission, in close collaboration with the Director General of UNESCO and other partners interested in the mission and objectives of CIEFFA, to take all the necessary measures to carry out the requisite studies on the operational modalities of the future CIEFFA under the aegis of the AU; these institutional and technical studies should also include proposals for the revision and adoption of the Statute of the Centre as well as details on its legal status;
8. *Lastly, requests* the Chairperson to submit a report of the said studies to its next session, for a final decision to be taken.

Assembly/AU/Dec.45 (III)

Decision on the Seats of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal submitted by the Great Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
2. *Decides* that the AU Commission is an integral part of the Headquarters of the Union as stipulated in Article 24 of the Constitutive Act;
3. *Decides* that the organs of the Union should be located in different regions of Africa on the basis of the principle of geographical distribution;
4. *Further decides* that the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Court of Justice should be integrated into one court;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson to work out the modalities on implementing paragraph 4 above and submit a report to our next ordinary session.

Assembly/AU/Dec.46 (III)

**Decision on the Final Report of the Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (V) Add.6)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report, entitled "A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All" by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization established by the International Labour Organization, Co-Chaired by President Benjamin William Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania and President Tarja Halonen of Finland;
2. *Acknowledges* that Africa, through NEPAD, recognizes that the continued marginalization of Africa from the benefits of the globalization process and the social exclusion of the vast majority of its peoples constitute a serious threat to global stability;

3. *Also acknowledges* the imperative for concerted effort at the national, regional and global level to reform and to recreate a fair and inclusive process of globalization;
4. *Welcomes* the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization as an important contribution to the necessary adjustments required for the realization of the vision of the AU, including NEPAD, and the Millennium Development Goals and for strengthening policy coherence as well as the spirit of globalization for people;
5. *Requests* that the Report be given wide study and support in the regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, as a document articulating some of the concerns for the development of Africa and her people and invites African States to consider supporting some of its recommendations as a common position in furtherance of the collective interests of Africa;
6. *Decides* that the Report constitutes part of the agenda for consideration by the Extraordinary African Union Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation to be held in Ouagadougou from 7 to 9 September 2004.

Assembly/AU/Dec.47 (III)

Decision on Draft Programme Budget for the 2005 Financial Year

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Mandates* the Executive Council to consider and adopt the programme budget for the 2005 financial year during its extraordinary session scheduled for November 2004;
3. *Endorses* the proposal by the Executive Council for the establishment of a high-level permanent committee of budgetary and financial experts and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to examine the matter in detail and submit appropriate recommendations thereon to the next session of the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.48 (III)

Decision on the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. *Adopts* the draft Statute of ECOSOCC;
3. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take urgent measures for the launching and operationalization of ECOSOCC;
4. *Further requests* the Executive Council to take appropriate measures to define, at the earliest opportunity, the meaning of the African diaspora.

Assembly/AU/Dec.49 (III)

**Decision on the Seventeenth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/109 (V))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Seventeenth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
2. *Requests* all the organs concerned to take the necessary steps to provide the Commission with the human, financial and material resources needed for its smooth functioning in keeping with Article 41 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and submit a report thereon to the Seventh Ordinary Session;
3. *Urges* all Member States to cooperate with the ACHPR, and the various mechanisms it has put in place, and implement its decisions in compliance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
4. *Notes* that some ACHPR reports on the State parties are presented without their observations; and invites ACHPR to ensure that in future its mission reports are submitted together with the comments of the State parties concerned and to indicate the steps taken in this regard during the presentation of its annual activity report;
5. *Suspends* the publication of the Seventeenth Annual Activity Report in accordance with paragraph 4 above pending the possible observations by the Member States concerned;
6. *Invites* all the State parties concerned to submit to the ACHPR the reports due by virtue of Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Assembly/AU/Dec.50 (III)

Decision on the Candidature of Doctor Jacques Diouf for the Post of FAO Director General

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Standing Nomination Committee for the African Candidatures in the International System;
2. *Recalls* Decision EX.CL/Dec.86 (IV) adopted in March 2004 by which the Executive Council decided to support the candidature of Dr. Jacques Diouf of the Republic of Senegal, for his re-election to the post of Director General of the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO), whose term of office expires in 2005, date provided for elections at the Thirty-third Session of this institution in Rome;
3. *Decides* to support the candidature of Dr. Jacques Diouf;
4. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up this issue and to report thereon to the Assembly at its next session.

Assembly/AU/Dec.51 (III)

Decision on Support to the Candidature of Mr. Koïshiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the presentation of Mr. Koïshiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO, on cooperation between NEPAD and UNESCO;
2. *Welcomes* the priority accorded by UNESCO to the economic, social and cultural development of the African continent in its fields of competence;

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3. *Expresses satisfaction* at the excellent state of cooperation existing between the African Union and its programme NEPAD and UNESCO;
4. *Supports* the candidature of Mr. Koïshiro Matsuura for a second term as Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to enable him to pursue his action and strengthen the priority UNESCO gives to the continent;
5. *Requests* Member States of the AU, particularly those representing Africa in the Executive Council and the General Conference, to fully support the candidature of Mr. Koïshiro Matsuura.

Assembly/AU/Dec.52 (III)

Decision on the Hosting of the Football World Cup 2010 in South Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of FIFA to award the hosting of the 2010 Football World Cup to Africa thus recognizing that this is a momentous occasion for the African continent;
2. *Recognizes* the spirit of solidarity demonstrated by the contending African countries to secure the hosting of the World Cup for the African continent;
3. *Congratulates* South Africa on its successful bid to host the World Cup;
4. *Mandates* the Commission, in collaboration with CAF, to work with FIFA and the host country to develop programmes to deliver a successful World Cup.

Assembly/AU/Dec.53 (III)

Decision on the Periodicity of the Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the provisions of Article 6, paragraph 3, of the Constitutive Act which stipulates that the Assembly shall meet in ordinary session at least once a year;
2. *Further recalls* the provisions of rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;
3. *Aware* of the increasing responsibilities of the Assembly in addressing the challenges facing the continent;
4. *Decides* that the Assembly shall meet twice a year in ordinary session.

Assembly/AU/Dec.54 (III)

Decision on Darfur

The Assembly,

1. *Reiterates* its serious concern over the prevailing situation in the Darfur region of Sudan, particularly the humanitarian crisis and the continued reports of violations of human rights, including attacks against civilians committed by the Janjaweed militia and other non-regular armed groups, and reiterates the need to bring to justice all those responsible for human rights violations in Darfur;

2. *Notes* that, even though the humanitarian situation in Darfur is serious, it cannot be defined as a genocide. The Assembly further notes that the crisis should be addressed with utmost urgency to avoid further escalation;
3. *Welcomes* the measures taken by the GOS to protect the civilian populations, facilitate the work of the humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations and provide them with unrestricted access to the affected populations. The Assembly welcomes the commitment by the GOS to disarm and neutralize the Janjaweed militia and other armed groups and urges the GOS to follow through these commitments;
4. *Stresses* that the African Union should continue to lead these efforts to address the crisis in Darfur and that the international community should continue to support this effort;
5. *Commends* President Deby of Chad for his mediation efforts, undertaken with the support of the AU Commission and other partners. The Assembly calls on all concerned to vigorously pursue their efforts;
6. *Welcomes* the establishment of the ceasefire commission in El Fashir as of 9 June 2004 and the partial deployment of the AU military observers in the Darfur region and urges the Commission to expedite the process, including the deployment of the protection force;
7. *Decides* to increase the number of AU Observers to a minimum of 80 and decides that the protection force should be deployed immediately. In this regard, the Assembly welcomes the willingness of the GOS to cooperate with the AU Protection Force and its commitment to provide overall protection to the Mission. The Assembly urges the Member States concerned to contribute observers and troops for the AU Mission as a matter of urgency;
8. *Agrees* that the rebel forces should be cantoned at mutually agreed sites and that the militia and all other outlaw groups should be disarmed by the GOS, and that these two operations shall be carried out simultaneously and monitored by the AU Mission;
9. *Underlines* the centrality of a political solution and agrees that the political dialogue should resume on the scheduled date of 15 July 2004, at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, with the view to reaching a political agreement. Such an agreement would create conditions for the convening of the all party conference provided for in the N'Djamena Humanitarian Cease-Fire Agreement. The Assembly urges all parties to the meeting to participate at the highest level, to ensure that decision will be reached. In this respect, the Assembly urges the Commission with the assistance of Member States and other partners, to ensure that the rebel movements participate in the meeting at the highest level, to avoid delays;
10. *Urges* the parties to strictly respect the provisions of the ceasefire agreement and create conditions for the speedy and urgent return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The Assembly urgently appeals to the international community and Member States to extend full support to this process by providing the much needed humanitarian assistance;
11. *Acknowledges* the Agreement signed between the Government of Sudan and the United Nations which is consistent with the AU Peace efforts;
12. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to follow this matter as a matter of a priority and report to the Peace and Security Council regularly.

Assembly/AU/Motion (III) Rev.1

Motion of Appreciation to H.E. President Joaquim Chissano, Outgoing Chairperson of the AU

The Assembly,

Recognizing the important and historic role played by President Joaquim Chissano in the struggle for the liberation of his country as well as the promotion of peace and stability and socio-economic development of Mozambique throughout his tenure as the second President of that country;

Recalling the commitment and dedication with which President Chissano carried out his responsibilities as Chairperson of the African Union at this early stage of its establishment;

Considering that President Chissano is approaching the end of his term of office and is committed to handing over the stewardship of his country to a successor to be elected by the people of Mozambique in the elections scheduled for December 2004,

1. *Congratulates* H.E. President Chissano for the meritorious services rendered to his country and the people of Mozambique, and for the exemplary leadership he has demonstrated by resolving to abide by the Constitution of his country to hand over power peacefully;
2. *Expresses* its profound gratitude and appreciation and pays tribute to H.E. President Joaquim Chissano for his dynamic leadership and contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Decl.12 (III)

Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Third Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 8 July 2004,

Reaffirming our commitment to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4, subparagraph (I), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various regional, continental and international instruments on human and women's rights, including the Dakar Platform for Action (1994), the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979), the African Plan of Action to Accelerate the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action for the Advancement of Women (1999); the Outcome Document of the Twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000); United Nations resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003),

Standing by our decision on gender parity taken at the Inaugural Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2002, in Durban, South Africa, implemented during the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2003 through the election of five female and five male Commissioners;

Noting with satisfaction that our decision on gender parity is a historic achievement that does not yet exist in any other continent or regional organizations,

Reaffirming our commitment to continue, expand and accelerate efforts to promote gender equality at all levels,

Determined to build on the progress that we have achieved in addressing issues of major concern to the women of Africa,

Taking cognizance of the landmark decision to adopt the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa during the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2003,

Noting the decision of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to transform the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD) into the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC), which will be located in the Gender Directorate and serve as an Advisory Body to the Chairperson on Gender and Development,

Recognizing that major challenges and obstacles to gender equality still remain and require concerted and collective leadership and efforts from all of us including networks working on gender and development,

Deeply concerned about the status of women and the negative impacts on women of issues such as the high incidence of HIV/AIDS among girls and women, conflict, poverty, harmful traditional practices, high population of refugee women and internally displaced women, violence against women, women's exclusion from politics and decision-making, illiteracy and limited access of girls to education,

Aware of the policies and programmes we have put in place to curb the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic as well as the current challenges in this campaign,

Concerned that, while women and children bear the brunt of conflicts and internal displacement, including rapes and killings, they are largely excluded from conflict prevention, peace-negotiation, and peacebuilding processes in spite of African women's experience in peacebuilding,

Aware of the fact that low levels of women's representation in social, economic and political decision-making structures and feminization of poverty impact negatively on women's ability to derive full benefit from the economies of their countries and the democratization process,

Aware of the digital divide between the North and the South, men and women and the role of information telecommunication technologies (ICTS) in the advancement of the gender issue as stated in the e-gender Forum Declaration of Tunis, May 2004 in preparation for the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2005,

Hereby agree to:

1. *Accelerate* the implementation of gender specific economic, social, and legal measures aimed at combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic and effectively implementing both the Abuja and Maputo Declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Disease. More specifically, we will ensure that treatment and social services are available to women at the local level making it more responsive to the needs of families that are providing care; enact legislation to end discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS and for the protection and care for people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly women; increase budgetary allocations in these sectors so as to alleviate women's burden of care;
2. *Ensure* the full and effective participation and representation of women in the peace process including the prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa as stipulated in United Nations resolution 1325 (2000) and to also appoint women as special envoys and special representatives of the African Union;
3. *Launch*, within the next one year, a campaign for the systematic prohibition of the recruitment of child soldiers and the abuse of girl children as wives and sex slaves in violation of their rights as enshrined in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
4. *Initiate, launch and engage* within two years sustained public campaigns against gender-based violence as well as the problem of trafficking in women and girls; reinforce legal mechanisms that will protect women at the national level and end impunity of crimes committed against women in a manner that will change and positively alter the attitude and behaviour of the African society;

5. *Expand and promote* the gender parity principle that we have adopted regarding the Commission of the African Union to all the other organs of the African Union, including its NEPAD programme, to the Regional Economic Communities, and to the national and local levels in collaboration with political parties and the national parliaments in our countries;
6. *Ensure* the active promotion and protection of all human rights for women and girls, including the right to development, by raising awareness or by legislation where necessary;
7. *Actively promote* the implementation of legislation to guarantee women's land, property and inheritance rights including their rights to housing;
8. *Take specific measures* to ensure the education of girls and the literacy of women, especially in the rural areas, to achieve the goal of "Education for All" (EFA);
9. *Undertake* to sign and ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by the end of 2004 and to support the launching of public campaigns aimed at ensuring its entry into force by 2005 and usher in an era of domesticating and implementing the Protocol as well as other national, regional and international instruments on gender equality by all States parties;
10. *Establish* AIDS Watch Africa as a unit within the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission who should render annual report on the HIV/AIDS situation on the continent during annual summits; and promote the local production of anti-retroviral drugs in our countries;
11. *Accept* to establish an African Trust Fund for Women for the purpose of building the capacity of African women and further request the African Union Commission to work out the modalities for the operationalization of the Fund with special focus on women in both urban and rural areas;
12. *Commit* ourselves to report annually on progress made in terms of gender mainstreaming and to support and champion all issues raised in this Declaration, both at the national and regional levels, and regularly provide each other with updates on progress made during our ordinary sessions;
13. *Request* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to submit, for our consideration, an annual report, during our ordinary sessions, on measures taken to implement the principle of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and all issues raised in this Declaration both at the national and regional levels.

Assembly/AU/Decl.13 (III) Rev.1

**Declaration on the Ongoing Review of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and
Its Impact on Trade in Commodities with ACP Countries**

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Third Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 8 July 2004,

Recalling the Kigali Declaration on the Doha Work Programme and the Kigali consensus on the Post-Cancun Doha Work Programme adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Trade held in Kigali from 24 to 28 May 2004, and endorsed by this Assembly;

Having taken note of the ongoing review process of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);

Considering the crucial role played by agriculture in sustaining the socio-economic fabric of developing, least-developed, land-locked and small island developing States;

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Conscious that the development of these countries is heavily dependent on the preferential EU-ACP arrangements governing the access, at guaranteed prices, of commodities, in particular bananas, rice and sugar to the EU market;

Cognizant of the fact that there is a direct correlation between commodity dependence and poverty levels especially in circumstances of perennial declining prices;

Express great concern at the sharp decline and fluctuation of prices of commodities which has created a crisis in most African commodity exporting countries, the majority of whom are either least-developed countries and/or heavily indebted African countries;

Support the Maputo Declaration adopted by the Fourth Summit of the ACP Heads of State and Government on 21 June 2004, and, in particular, the relevant paragraphs on trade in commodities;

Call on our long-standing development partners of the EU to ensure that the reform of the CAP, including the review of the EC sugar regimes, does not adversely affect the vital interests of the ACP countries, in particular of those Member States of the African Union;

Request the AU Commission to continuously monitor developments relating to the CAP reform process and periodically report to the Assembly.

THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
8 to 9 September 2004**

Ext/Assembly/AU/3 (III)

Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa

1. *We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union*, meeting at the Third Extraordinary Session of our Assembly in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 to 9 September 2004, pursuant to a proposal to convene an Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa to address the challenges posed by pervasive and persistent poverty, unemployment, and underemployment in our countries;
2. *Recalling* the decision taken at the Second Ordinary Session of our Assembly held in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003, to convene an Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, in 2004;
3. *Also recalling* the objectives of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as well as the vision and mission of the African Union;
4. *Further recalling* the outcome of the Extraordinary Summit on Agriculture and Water Resources held in Sirte, Libya, in February 2004, as well as all relevant declarations, decisions and policy guidelines that we adopted in the area of poverty alleviation and political and socio-economic development;
5. *Aware* of the need to address social development, poverty alleviation and employment creation in a coherent and integrated manner;
6. *Concerned* that nearly half of the African population lives below the poverty line and more than 140 million are working poor unable to provide their families with sustainable livelihood and that at the current economic growth rates, Africa is at risk of not attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
7. *Equally concerned* about increasing youth unemployment, lack of access to education and training, health, proneness to diseases and mainly HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related infectious diseases and re-emergence of diseases hitherto eradicated/controlled;
8. *Further concerned* about the lack of social protection which affects particularly women, youth, persons with disabilities, the aged and children, and the exposure to poor occupational health and safety conditions of the majority of workers, particularly in the informal economy;
9. *Taking cognizance* of the dialectics between the development of education and health sectors on the one hand and employment on the other; and noting that the positive results obtained at the level of the first sectors can be mitigated, indeed, reduced by the shortcomings of the second;
10. *Convinced* that widespread poverty, unemployment and underemployment compromise basic human rights and dignity of individuals and communities affected, and that they constitute a threat to social, economic and political stability;
11. *Concerned* about the fragmentation of social and economic policies and that employment creation has not always been considered as a major objective for sustained equitable economic growth and development, and for improving the living conditions of our people;
12. *Recognizing* that while the current process of globalization presents both challenges and opportunities for Africa, it has so far marginalized the continent in a manner that exacerbates problems of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, indebtedness and vulnerability as well as lack of competitiveness;
13. *Noting with grave concern* that Africa, in particular, sub-Saharan Africa, is currently the region worst affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related infectious diseases, and other pandemics which are

negatively impacting development, social cohesion, political stability, life expectancy and human dignity, thus imposing a heavy economic and social burden on the continent;

14. *Deeply concerned* about the high incidence of poverty, unemployment and underemployment, especially in the urban informal economy and in the rural areas where more than 60 per cent of the poor live and work;

15. *Noting* that weak economic growth, poor economic management, corruption, social inequality and discrimination together with the quality of governance are, among others, the major factors that cause and/or exacerbate poverty and unemployment;

16. *Noting also* that socio-political conflicts, man-made and natural disasters are major impediments to Africa's efforts aimed at employment creation and poverty reduction;

17. *Acknowledging* the need to strengthen social dialogue mechanisms and institutions as a means of realizing participatory democracy involving the social partners and civil society in policymaking, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring and as a way of diffusing tension and conflict in our countries;

18. *Particularly concerned* with the major challenges and obstacles to gender equality as well as with the low levels of women's representation in social, economic, and political decision-making structures which still persist; and the increasing feminization of poverty, aggravated by discrimination and unequal opportunities and treatment, and underutilization of the entrepreneurial creativity and job creation potential of the African women;

19. *Noting with concern* that many of our youth who are an asset for sustainable economic growth, social development and political stability are unemployed, underemployed, heavily affected by HIV/AIDS during their most productive years and generally living in poverty;

20. *Equally noting* the alarming trend of child labour, trafficking and the phenomenon of child soldiers;

21. *Also noting* that the number of African workers who are compelled by economic, political and demographic factors to migrate within and outside the continent impacts negatively on the human capital stock that is crucial for economic growth and sustainable development;

22. *Cognizant* that the persons with disabilities who are discriminated against have limited access to education, training opportunities as well as to the labour market;

23. *Noting* that the situation of refugees who, together with internally displaced persons (IDPs), are subjected to the most severe forms of economic, social and political exclusion and thus poses a continuing threat to peace, security and stability on the continent;

24. *Convinced* that high and sustained economic growth is a necessary but not sufficient condition to reduce poverty, and that sustainable development and poverty reduction also require the development of cooperatives and adequate investment in productive sectors that enhance employment opportunities;

25. *Particularly recognizing* that the current efforts aimed at poverty reduction and employment creation being undertaken by our respective national governments, employers and workers organizations, private sector, cooperatives, national, regional, and continental non-governmental organizations, Africans in the diaspora, civil society organizations (including youth, women, people with disability, religious and community-based organizations), with support from our continental organization and its Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as the United Nations system, and other multilateral and bilateral development agencies, and international non-governmental organizations are inadequate;

26. *Deeply concerned* that the previous commitments made by our development partners in global forums relating to new and additional resource allocation, debt relief and cancellation, increased foreign direct investment (FDI) flows and harmonized official development assistance (ODA) have not been fully met;
27. *Gravely concerned* that foreign direct investment (FDI) does not give room for meaningful participation and control of the economy by indigenous people;
28. *Convinced* that such additional resource transfers are imperative to complement Africa's own efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of halving poverty by 2015 to achieve long-term sustainable development goals;
29. *Stressing* the importance of the World Solidarity Fund established by resolution 55/210 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to promote employment and to fight against poverty in the world and in Africa, in particular;
30. *Supporting* the continuing efforts made by our governments, social partners and civil society organizations to promote the decent work development agenda of the International Labour Organization (ILO);
31. *Having undertaken* a critical review of the employment and poverty situation in Africa with a view to finding ways and means of creating adequate productive and decent employment opportunities for all, as one of the effective means to alleviate poverty;

Commit ourselves to:

1. *Achieve* the objectives of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its NEPAD programme, the vision and mission of the African Union, and all relevant declarations, decisions and policy guidelines within the framework of our continental organization as well as our other engagements within the framework of the United Nations in the area of poverty alleviation and employment creation;
2. *Develop* integrated economic and social policies and effect reforms at national, regional and continental levels to address structural constraints to investment and entrepreneurship, promote private-public partnerships, encourage corporate social responsibility, and create an enabling environment for increased production and decent employment opportunities to achieve socio-economic development;
3. *Place* employment creation as an explicit and central objective of our economic and social policies at national, regional and continental levels, for sustainable poverty alleviation and with a view to improving the living conditions of our people;
4. *Support* the continuing efforts made by our governments, social partners and civil society organizations to promote the decent work development agenda of the International Labour Organization (ILO) through achievement of the following related strategic objectives: (i) promote and implement international labour standards and, fundamental principles and rights at work; (ii) create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent income; (iii) enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all; and (iv) strengthen tripartism and social dialogue;
5. *Empower* the poor and the vulnerable, particularly in the rural communities and the urban informal economy, the unemployed and the underemployed by enhancing their capacities through education, skills and vocational training and retraining of labour force, access to financial resources, in particular micro-financing, land, infrastructure, markets, technology and services in order to meaningfully integrate them into the labour market;
6. *Intensify* our fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related infectious diseases, and to develop and implement national legal and policy frameworks as well as preventive, affordable drugs, and care and

support programmes to fight these diseases, thus providing a supportive workplace environment for all workers and, in particular, persons living with HIV/AIDS;

7. *Support and implement* the recommendations of the World Commission Report on the Social Dimension of Globalization entitled: “A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities For All”, presented by H.E. President Benjamin William Mkapa of Tanzania during the Third Ordinary Session of our Assembly, and as considered at this Extraordinary Summit;

8. *Ensure* equal opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized groups by:

(a) Empowering African women through increased access to decent employment as well as innovative approaches to income generating activities, entrepreneurship, real business opportunities, productivity and access to resources and markets at the national, regional, continental and international levels;

(b) Developing and implementing strategies that give young people in Africa a real chance to find decent and productive work and encourage African Member States to support, and adopt the Youth Employment Network (YEN) Initiative and implement its recommendations therein with the support of the United Nations, the ILO, the World Bank and other competent agencies as well as development partners;

(c) Facilitating the integration of the Africans in the diaspora in the continent’s development efforts, including through facilitating the mobility of labour in regional integration activities, through targeted investments, job and wealth creation in collaboration with public and private sector as well as civil society;

(d) Mitigating brain drain through enhancing appropriate conditions and measures, ensuring the full respect for human and labour rights of migrant workers and the setting up or enhancing of development programmes in the countries of origin in order to provide employment and production opportunities as a compensation for the use of their expertise;

(e) Implementing the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and urging the Member States which have not yet ratified or acceded to the Charter to do so as soon as possible, and to the relevant ILO instruments on child labour, and the recommendations contained therein, including through time-bound programmes for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour;

(f) Creating a conducive environment, and ensuring protection, assistance and support for integration or voluntary repatriation and reintegration, as appropriate, for refugees and asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and migrant workers as well as victims of human trafficking within the framework of national legislation and international instruments;

(g) Implementing the African Decade of Disabled Persons, and to this end deciding to develop policies and national programmes that favour the full participation of persons with disabilities and their families in social, political and economic development;

(h) Improving the living condition of the aged, through better social protection services including improved pensions, health and other social security schemes;

9. *Promote* social dialogue and partnership among governments, social partners, civil society and the private sector, at the enterprise, sectoral, national, regional and continental levels and, to support the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union and the Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the AU as principal forums for discussion, partnership, exchange of views between governments, social partners and civil society for the promotion of productive employment and poverty alleviation;

10. *Pursue* a well-developed programme of mass awareness and information dissemination of employment policies and programmes as key factors towards achieving the goals of reducing unemployment and poverty alleviation;
11. *Increase* our domestic financial, human and material resources, and seek external support and resources from development partners and Africans in the diaspora to fight poverty and its manifestations;
12. *Enhance* the capacity of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to promote the productive employment dimension within the framework of regional and interregional cooperation;
13. *Strengthen* the capacity of the African Union Commission with human and financial resources, with the support of relevant and competent organizations and agencies, in the Commission's endeavour to support Member States, at their request, in the development of national plans of action for the implementation of the strategies for promotion of productive employment and poverty alleviation;
14. *Include* initiatives on employment creation and poverty alleviation as indicators in the NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM);
15. *Promote* an effective and speedy implementation of actions and programmes agreed upon in the framework of NEPAD and to maximize their impact on the continental efforts geared towards poverty reduction and productive employment creation, particularly in the fields of infrastructure, agriculture and rural development, environmental conservation, cultural industries, transportation, fisheries, forestry, information and communication technology (ICT) industry, trade and tourism which have a high potential for enhancement of productive capacities; job creation and poverty alleviation;
16. *Pursue* dialogue with our development partners in the true spirit of partnership for an international enabling environment, promotion of a fair globalization, fair trade including the removal of subsidies, and financial rules to support Africa's development, and call on them to urgently honour their commitments to attain the level of ODA of 0.7 per cent of their GNP, improve the terms of trade and increase market access of African commodities and industrial products as well as levels of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows, debt relief and cancellation, repatriate illegally acquired funds stashed in foreign banks to their countries of origins and other measures to support Africa's development efforts and poverty alleviation;
17. *Create* instruments that will facilitate joint ventures between foreign investor and indigenous entrepreneurs to allow effective and meaningful participation by the nationals in all sectors of the economy;
18. *Urge* the United Nations, international financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral institutions, regional and continental development banks to adopt greater policy coherence and increased support to the employment agenda within the context of our national PRSPs and other development strategies;
19. *Further urge* the United Nations organs to speed up the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund and appeal to the international community, governments, donors, foundations, the private sector and the civil society to contribute to the Fund for the attainment of the MDGs, particularly the alleviation of poverty;
20. *Operationalize* the Digital Solidarity Fund in line with the decision taken at our Third Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, in July 2004, on the Digital Solidarity Fund and to reiterate the appeal made to the local communities, the civil society organizations, and the private sector to contribute to the Fund;
21. *Implement* the commitments in this Declaration through the Annexed Plan of Action and Mechanism for Follow-up and Evaluation;

22. *Designate* Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as the principal bodies responsible for the implementation of this Declaration and the Plan of Action; and the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission as the coordinator of the implementing mechanism;

23. *Request* Member States, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), to submit biennial progress reports on the status of implementation of this Declaration to the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission and the Commission of the AU to prepare a comprehensive evaluation report in 2009 and 2014.

FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Abuja, Nigeria
30 to 31 January 2005**

Assembly/AU/Dec.55 (IV)

Decision on the Interim Report on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Polio

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Interim Report;
2. *Also takes note with satisfaction*, of the institutionalization of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) at the AU Commission;
3. *Endorses* the detailed strategies on health systems development, reducing disease burden and promoting child survival considered by Assembly;
4. *Commends* the Global Fund against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for holding its Ninth Board Meeting in Africa from where a decision was taken to launch Round Five funding for projects against these diseases, and; calls upon the international community, especially the rich industrialized countries, to fully fund the Global Fund in line with previous commitments made in this regard, and taking into account the magnitude of the health emergency presented by these diseases in Africa;
5. *Further commends* the sustained national, continental and international efforts to combat these diseases and promote health and development in Africa;
6. *Reaffirms* its commitment to invest increased resources in health and to address internal obstacles impeding their utilization;
7. *Urges* Member States to:
 - (a) *Take the lead* in TRIPs negotiations and in implementing measures identified for promoting access to affordable generic drugs;
 - (b) *Ensure* that every child receives polio immunization in 2005;
 - (c) *Prepare* inter-ministerial costed development and deployment plans to address the Human Resources for Health crisis;
 - (d) *Prepare* health literacy strategies to achieve an energized continent-wide health promotion endeavour;
8. *Urges* Member States to intensify efforts towards more effective and well-coordinated implementation of national programmes to promote health systems development as well as improve access to prevention, treatment, care and support, along the “Three Ones Initiative”, the “Three by Five Initiative”, and the Global “Child Survival Partnership”;
9. *Resolves* to take all the necessary measures to produce with the support of the international community, quality generic drugs in Africa, supporting industrial development and making full use of the flexibility in international trade law and; requests the AU Commission within the framework of NEPAD to lead the development of a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa;
10. *Calls upon* the international community to match the US\$ 19 billion gap in health financing which the WHO has determined that Africa is not in a position to self-finance;
11. *Requests* the AU to foster partnerships with the global community, the United Nations agencies and the RECs, and to coordinate a review of the MDGs and report to the next Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.56 (IV)

**Decision on the Seventeenth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission
on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Seventeenth Annual Activity Report of the ACHPR and takes note of the fact that Member States responses have been attached to the above report;
2. *Authorizes* the publication of this report in accordance with the provisions of Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as its attachments;
3. *Commends* the ACHPR for the work accomplished and requests it to pursue and complete as soon as possible, the brainstorming on the relations with the various organs and institutions of the African Union in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.7 (II).

Assembly/AU/Dec.57 (IV)

Decision on the Convening of an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Reform of the United Nations and in particular the Security Council;
2. *Further takes note* of the Report of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Scale of Assessment and the proposals contained therein;
3. *Welcomes* the establishment of a Committee of Fifteen (15) on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council by the Executive Council;
4. *Endorses* the mandate of the Committee to consider all aspects of the recommendations made in the report of the High-Level Panel for the reform of United Nations system, particularly the reform of the Security Council, with the view to elaborating an African Common Position;
5. *Requests* the Council to convene in an Extraordinary Session before March 2005 to adopt the African Common Position on the Reform of the United Nations;
6. *Further requests* Council to consider the proposals relating to the scale of assessment and make appropriate recommendations to enable Assembly take a final decision in July 2005.

Assembly/AU/Dec.58 (IV)

**Decision on Granting Accreditation to the East African Community (EAC) as One of the
Regional Economic Communities of the African Union**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the request submitted by the East African Community for recognition and accreditation of the East African Community as one of the Regional Economic Communities of the African Union;

2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Executive Council for recognition of the East African Community and its accreditation as a Regional Economic Community of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.59 (IV)

**Decision on the Status of Food Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (IV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Notes with grave concern* the serious economic and social impacts of the 2004 desert locust invasion of the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions of Africa;
3. *Recalls* its decision taken in Maputo in 2003 adopting the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) for the development of the agriculture sector in Africa;
4. *Requests* the Commission and Member States to take all necessary measures to implement the Maputo, Sirte and Ouagadougou Declarations and their relevant Plans of Action;
5. *Further requests* the Commission to redraft the report on the status of food security in Africa focusing on the implementation of CAADP and other relevant declarations and plans of action and submit it for consideration of the Assembly in July every year;
6. *Requests* FAO, IFAD and WFP to collaborate with the Chairperson of the Commission to prepare the report.

Assembly/AU/Dec.60 (IV)

**Decision on the Strengthening of the Capacity of the AU Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPC)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (IV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Further notes with grave concern* the serious economic and social impacts of the 2004 desert locust invasion of the Northern, Western And Eastern Regions of Africa;
3. *Recalls* the Mandate of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the Commission of the African Union;
4. *Requests* the Commission to strengthen the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council to facilitate capacity-building at the regional and continental levels in matters of phytosanitary surveillance and inspection, early warning systems for desert locust and other migratory pests, pest risk analysis and integrated pest and crop management as well as management and eradication of obsolete pesticides;
5. *Urges* Member States and development partners to make increased contributions to the African Union's Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa;
6. *Calls upon* the development partners to assist the AU Commission, through the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, to implement this Decision;

7. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit a report to the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.61 (IV)

**Decision on Allocation of 10 Per Cent of National Budgetary Resources to
Agriculture and Rural Development over the Next Five Years
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (IV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to define, in collaboration with Member States and the NEPAD Secretariat, the core areas of agriculture and rural development relevant to the 10 per cent allocation adopted in the Maputo Declarations;
3. *Calls upon* Member States to implement the present Decision in order to improve the financing of agriculture;
4. *Further requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit a report to the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2005.

Assembly/AU/Dec.62 (IV)

Decision on the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa and the Establishment of the Security and Intelligence Committee in the Office of the African Union Commission Chairperson

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Establishment of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) in Abuja, Nigeria, on 26 August 2004;
2. *Commends and endorses* the establishment of CISSA and its objectives;
3. *Congratulates* Africa's Intelligence and Security Services for this initiative part of whose objectives will address Africa's myriad security, stability and developmental problems;
4. *Agrees* that CISSA should collaborate with the African Union and all its organs and directs that an Intelligence and Security Committee be created for this purpose;
5. *Further directs* that the Intelligence and Security Committee be located in the Office of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission who shall be the recipient of reports from the CISSA Secretariat or other CISSA structures;
6. *Requests* the AU Commission Chairperson to take the necessary steps to operationalize this Decision and report to the next Assembly on the progress thereof.

Assembly/AU/Dec.63 (IV)

Decision on the Framework for the Organization of Future Summits

The Assembly,

FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION (2005)

1. *Takes note* of the presentation on the framework for the organization of future summits;
2. *Recalls* its previous decision in July 2004 on the convening of two ordinary sessions of the Assembly every year;
3. *Decides* that the January sessions of the Assembly shall henceforth be held in the last week of January at the Headquarters of the Union, during which the Chairperson of the Assembly shall be elected;
4. *Further decides* that the January session could be convened, on an exceptional basis, outside the Headquarters, by decision of the Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Council. However, such hosting shall not be linked to the Chairmanship of the Union;
5. *Decides also* to extend the term of office of the Chairperson and the Bureau of the Assembly from July 2005 to January 2006;
6. *Approves* the following calendar for hosting of future Summits:

2005	July	Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
2006	January	Sudan;
	July	Gambia;
2007	January	Headquarters;
	July	Ghana;
2008	January	Headquarters;
	July	Angola;
2009	January	Headquarters;
	July	Madagascar;
2010	January	Headquarters;
	July	Egypt;
7. *Decides* that the relevant Rules of Procedure of the Assembly shall be amended accordingly;
8. *Further decides* that any proposal to change the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly should first be considered by the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.64 (IV)

Decision on the Location of the Headquarters of AU Institutions in Various AU Regions of the Continent

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the presentation on the location of AU institutions;

2. *Recalls* its previous decision that the Pan-African Parliament shall be located in the Southern Region (South Africa);
3. *Decides* that the other AU institutions shall be located in the following AU regions:
 - African Central Bank Western Region;
 - African Investment Bank Northern Region;
 - African Monetary Fund Central Region;
 - Court of Justice Eastern Region;
4. *Takes note* of the decision of the Northern Region that the African Investment Bank shall be located in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake the necessary preparatory activities for the elaboration of the necessary legal instruments and submit progress reports thereon to future summits.

Assembly/AU/Dec.65 (IV)

Decision on Somalia

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the achievements made in the Somalia peace and reconciliation process under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and congratulates the people and the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFG) of Somalia for the success so far achieved;
2. *Welcomes* the decision adopted by the Twenty-second Meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) held on 5 January 2005, in which the PSC accepted, in principle, the deployment of an AU Peace Support Mission in Somalia, based on its previous decisions and the recommendations of the Nairobi Experts Meeting held from 15 to 16 December 2004, to support the Somalia Transitional Federal Institutions, and requested the Commission to submit to it recommendations on the mandate, size, structure, tasks and funding requirements for such a mission;
3. *Stresses* the need for the AU and the larger international community to provide speedy and sustained support to the Transitional Federal Institutions to prevent the unraveling of the tremendous achievements made in the reconciliation process in Somalia as a result of two years of collaborative endeavour by the countries of the region, the AU and the international community at large;
4. *Requests* the Commission to expedite the preparation of the recommendations requested by the PSC to facilitate the speedy deployment of an AU Peace Support Mission, as part of the efforts to create propitious security conditions and to normalize the situation in order to assist in the effective functioning of the Transitional Federal Institutions, the relocation of which, in Somalia, constitutes an important component of the ongoing efforts to restore lasting peace and stability in that country;
5. *Welcomes* the Abuja communiqué of the IGAD Heads of State and Government of 31 January 2005 and notes with appreciation the commitment of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda to provide troops and/or equipment for the deployment of an IGAD Peace Support Mission to provide security support to the TFG of Somalia in order to ensure its relocation to Somalia and guarantee the sustenance of the outcome of the IGAD peace process, and requests the PSC to mandate IGAD to deploy such Peace Support Mission (PSM) pending the deployment of the envisaged AU PSM and requests further the Commission to provide support and assistance;

6. *Calls for* the convening, as soon as possible, of an International Pledging Conference for the post-conflict reconstruction of Somalia within the context of the already established mechanism. In this respect, the Assembly requests the Commission to take all measures required to contribute to the mobilization of the international community in support of peace-building efforts in Somalia;

7. *Calls upon* AU Member States, particularly the IGAD Member States, to continue to do their utmost to consolidate the process of normalization and stabilization in Somalia.

Assembly/AU/Dec.66 (IV)

**Decision on the Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and
the Relations between the DRC and Rwanda**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the Twenty-third Session of the Peace and Security Council in Libreville, Gabon, on 10 January 2005;

2. *Encourages* the current Chairperson of the AU and the Chairperson of the Commission to speedily implement the above decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.67 (IV)

Decision on the Situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the Twenty-third Meeting of the Peace and Security Council held in Libreville, Gabon, on 10 January 2005;

2. *Commends* President Thabo Mbeki for the efforts exerted on behalf of the African Union and encourages him to continue these efforts;

3. *Urges* the Ivorian parties to cooperate fully with President Thabo Mbeki;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Security Council to coordinate closely its efforts with the African Union to facilitate the speedy resolution of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire;

5. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continued involvement in the effort aimed at resolving the crisis and encourages the ECOWAS countries to pursue their efforts in cooperation with the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.68 (IV)

Decision on the Situation in the Darfur Region of Sudan

The Assembly,

1. *Condemns* in the strongest possible terms the continuing violations of the Ceasefire Agreement in Darfur by all the parties and attacks perpetrated on the civilian populations. The Assembly urges the parties to put an immediate end to these acts and to strictly adhere to their commitment to desist from any attacks by land or by air;

2. *Expresses its determination* to take appropriate measures against those responsible for further obstructing the peace efforts in Darfur;
3. *Supports* the convening in N'djamena, Chad, in February 2005, of a high-level meeting of the Joint Commission, provided for in the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004, to strengthen the implementation of the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement and therefore contribute to the creation of conditions conducive to the vigorous pursuit of the peace process;
4. *Stresses* the need for urgent and adequate preparation for the resumption of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, as directed by the Twenty-third Meeting of the Peace and Security Council held in Libreville, on 10 January 2005. The Assembly urges the parties to attend these talks at the highest level, without preconditions;
5. *Supports* the proposal of the Chairperson of the AU to be assisted in his efforts to facilitate the attainment of a speedy solution to the conflict in Darfur by a Committee comprising Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria and the AU Commission;
6. *Encourages* all the leaders and other stakeholders who have been supporting the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur to continue their efforts;
7. *Requests* the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to keep the situation in Darfur under constant review and to take all necessary measures to promote an early negotiated solution. The Assembly further requests the PSC to review the operations of the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and to take all necessary steps to strengthen the Mission.

Assembly/AU/Dec.69 (IV)

**Decision on the Proposals of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (IV) Add.1-5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposals of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
2. *Accepts* that these proposals are pertinent and forward looking and in line with the vision of the African Union;
3. *Decides* to set up a Committee of Heads of State and Government Chaired by the President of the Republic of Uganda and composed of Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia to consider with the Chairperson of the Commission the said proposals and submit a report to its Fifth Ordinary Session in July 2005.

Assembly/AU/Dec.70 (IV)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU.3 (IV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report presented by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
2. *Welcomes* the Africa Commission as an important step towards the mobilization of international assistance for the implementation of NEPAD and commends its efforts in this regard;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to support NEPAD and in particular calls on the G8 countries to:
 - (a) Cancel all debts of African countries and take practical steps to urgently implement such cancellation;
 - (b) Double development assistance to Africa and improve its quality, inter alia, by channeling such increase through multilateral development institutions and by augmenting the budgetary support component of it;
 - (c) Take the necessary steps to complete the Doha round of trade negotiations at the earliest possible time so as to provide free and non-reciprocal access to their markets for African countries and eliminate export subsidies for agricultural products.

Assembly/AU/Dec.71 (IV)

Decision on the Draft African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses appreciation* to the President of Ghana in his capacity as Chairperson and other members of the Committee of Heads of State and Government, established by the Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly, to consider the issues of non-aggression, common defence and common security;
2. *Underscores* the importance of the Pact as an instrument to reinforce cooperation among Member States in the areas of defence and security, and particularly, to strengthen the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;
3. *Decides* to adopt the draft African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact, as amended by the Assembly;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to sign, ratify or accede to the Pact, as soon as possible to enable its early entry into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.72 (IV)

Decision on the Signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A)

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes and applauds* the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the GoS and the SPLM/A, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 9 January 2005, and congratulates the parties for this landmark agreement which brings to an end the longest running conflict in Africa;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the positive diplomatic and material contributions of the IGAD Member States, and of specially, Kenya, which hosted the long negotiations for the successful conclusion of the talks;
3. *Further expresses appreciation* for the diplomatic, financial and political contributions of the international community at large, and of the IGAD Partner's Forum, in particular, who tirelessly played pivotal roles throughout the negotiations;
4. *Remains committed* to accompany the Sudanese parties during the interim period as they consolidate their hard-won peace and embark on the difficult tasks of reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (IV)

Declaration of Appreciation to the United Nations Secretary-General

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Fourth Ordinary Session of our Assembly, warmly congratulate our friend and brother Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations for being present at our Summit. We appreciate his leadership of the United Nations during the last seven years of his tenure and particularly the process of reform of the Organization which he has set in motion.

In that context, we take note, with considerable satisfaction, of his appointment of a high-level panel to consider and make recommendations on threats, challenges and change, facing the United Nations.

The report of the panel, which is now the subject of intense focus throughout the world, including Africa, we believe will make a major contribution to the repositioning of the United Nations to respond more effectively to the demands of the present time. Africa, which expects much of the United Nations, is in the process of studying the recommendations in their totality and making its views known to the Secretary-General.

We renew, yet again, our confidence in the ability of the Secretary-General to successfully conclude his tenure of office, and wish him “bon courage”.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (IV)

Motion of Appreciation to H.E. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia

The Assembly,

Conscious of the tremendous efforts made and the historical role played by President Nujoma, initially as Chairman of SWAPO in the liberation of his country, and later as President of Namibia;

1. *Pays special tribute to H.E. President Nujoma, for his dynamic leadership in the service of his country and the continent as well as his contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the African Union;*
2. *Wishes President Nujoma success in all his future endeavours.*

Vote of Thanks by H.E. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia

Your Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairperson of the African Union, and President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegations,

Your Excellency Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my colleagues, Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation, and indeed on my own behalf, it is my singular honour and privilege to express our sincere thanks and appreciation, to you Mr. Chairperson, the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the warm welcome and customary Nigerian hospitality extended to us all since our arrival in this beautiful city of Abuja.

The excellent facilities availed to all our delegations have indeed contributed enormously to the successful conclusion of our deliberations.

Mr. Chairperson,

Under your able stewardship, we deliberated and took decisions on a wide range of important issues affecting our continent and the world at large. It is now incumbent upon us all to ensure the full implementation of the decisions that we have made.

May I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Executive Council, the Permanent Representatives Committee and indeed to the Chairperson of the Commission, the Commissioners and the entire staff of the Commission for their hard work.

Last but not least, our sincere thanks also go to all those who worked from behind the scene to make our work successful.

Let me conclude by expressing, once again, our sincere gratitude to you, Mr. Chairperson, for having directed our deliberations so efficiently to a successful conclusion.

I thank you.

FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Sirte, Libya
4 to 5 July 2005**

Assembly/AU/Dec.73 (V)

**Decision on the Institutionalization of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF)
(Doc. EX.CL/180 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report;
2. *Endorses* the Report and the Declaration of the First Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance;
3. *Decides* to institutionalize this Conference which will meet once a year;
4. *Mandates* the Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA) and development partners, to ensure the preparation of this Conference and report to it at its annual sessions.

Assembly/AU/Dec.74 (V)

Decision on the Report of the Commission for Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report;
2. *Commends* the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Tony Blair, and his Government for pushing for robust global action in support of Africa's efforts towards growth, poverty reduction and prosperity, through the framework proposed by the Commission for Africa;
3. *Emphasizes* that the Commission for Africa Report is supplemental to previous initiatives including NEPAD, the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the G8 Kananaskis Africa Action Plan;
4. *Fully supports* the recommendations contained in the Commission for Africa Report;
5. *Fully commits* itself to ownership of Africa's direction and development, including on the basic issues of good governance, and peace and security, regional integration and all key development issues;
6. *Strongly urges* the G8 Summit meeting scheduled from 6 to 8 July 2005 in Gleneagles to fully embrace the comprehensive recommendations of the Commission for Africa and act expeditiously on them;
7. *Mandates* the African Union Commission to follow up in collaboration with Member States and stakeholders the implementation of the Commission for Africa Report and report to annual sessions of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.75 (V)

**Decision on Accelerating Action for Child Survival and Development in Africa to Meet the MDGs
(Doc. Assembly AU/2 (V))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recalls* the various blueprints adopted in favour of improving the well-being of children in Africa, in particular, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990) and the African Common Position on the Future of Children – Africa Fit for Children (2001);
3. *Deeply regrets* that to date only 35 Member States have ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and appeals to Member States which have not yet done so to expedite the ratification process;
4. *Aware* of the fact that all the MDGs are, directly or indirectly, relevant to children and calls upon Member States to scale up the process of attaining the goals, in particular the fourth goal on reducing by two thirds the mortality of children under five, which can be achieved by low cost, and high impact interventions;
5. *Commends* UNICEF for its Accelerated Child Survival and Development (ACSD) Programme and requests UNICEF and other partners to extend the programme to the whole continent and Member States to mainstream the programme into their national health policies, the poverty reduction strategies and health sector reforms;
6. *Urges* Member States to:
 - (a) Reaffirm their commitment to implement pledges made to African children with renewed determination and set up mechanisms at the national level to ensure integrated child-centred, community-driven implementation of the package consisting of: integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI), ante-natal care for mothers and immunization-plus;
 - (b) Collaborate with AU, UNICEF and other partners, to elaborate a road map on MDG 4 for reduction of child mortality and morbidity to be considered at the mid-term review of the African Common Position at the 2006 Pan-African Forum on Children;
 - (c) Within the framework of the Child Survival Partnership and other partnerships, commit national resources and mobilize additional resources to significantly reduce child deaths and suffering;
7. *Requests* the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to lead the child survival agenda in their regions in collaboration with development partners and collaborate with the AU Commission to coordinate and harmonize the programmes and strategies;
8. *Also urges* the United Nations agencies, international organizations and development partners to technically support Member States in the process of strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of child policies; mobilize financial resources to be used at the national level; and collaborate with the African Union and RECs in playing their roles;
9. *Requests* the Commission to:
 - (a) Convene the mid-term review of the African Common Position on Children in 2006;
 - (b) Advocate for necessary investments and mobilize international support with partners in order to monitor and review progress on meeting MDG 4;
 - (c) Bring to the attention of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, AU Peace and Security Council, Pan-African Parliament, and ECOSOCC those countries that are violating children's rights and endangering their well-being, through conflict, poor governance, abuse, neglect, marginalization and other forms of exclusion;

(d) Strengthen and support the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in ensuring that the Committee fulfils its responsibility to monitor the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

(e) Place commitments made by governments regarding children at the heart of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and report regularly to African leaders on progress achieved in efforts to advance child survival and well-being including new lessons learned.

Assembly/AU/Dec.76 (V)

**Decision on the World Summit on Information Society
(Doc. EX.CL/173 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report presented in this regard;
2. *Recalls* the various decisions of the African Union on the World Summit on Information Society, particularly the decisions of its Second and Third Sessions held, respectively, in Maputo in July 2003 and Addis Ababa in July 2004;
3. *Recalls also* the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 183/56, 238/57 and 220/59;
4. *Recognizes* the growing importance the international community, in particular, attaches to the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society to be held in Tunis to bridge the digital gap into digital prospects and modern information and communications technologies as a strategic tool for development;
5. *Takes note* of the progress made in preparing for the Tunis phase and the results achieved during the meetings of the Preparatory Committee in June 2004 and February 2005, respectively, as well as Africa's impressive participation in them. In this respect, African countries are called upon to continue their effective participation in future meetings of the Committee, particularly the third meeting scheduled in Geneva in September 2005, in order to achieve the internationally desired results and to reflect Africa's interests in the recommendations and conclusions of the Tunis Summit appropriately;
6. *Commends* the effective role played by Africa in the preparatory phases of the Tunis Summit at the continental level through the Bamako 2003, Accra 2005 and Cairo 2005 meetings and urges African countries to continue their coordination and exchange of views at the continental level to ensure fruitful and more effective participation in the preparations for the Summit, particularly in the meeting slated for Dakar in July 2005 to finalize the African common position document on world good governance of the internet;
7. *Requests* the Commission to consider the organization of a meeting of Ministers of Information and Communication Technology to examine and adopt an African Plan of Action for the culmination of the preparations for the Tunis Summit into results that reflect the aspirations of the African peoples and the establishment of the best mechanisms for the follow-up and implementation of the African Plan of Action, thereby ensuring the achievement of the development goals of the continent;
8. *Invites* Member States and African governments to participate in the World Summit on Information Society to be held in Tunis at the highest level and also urges the civil society and the private sector to participate in parallel events during the Summit;
9. *Further invites* Member States, governments and regional and international organizations to support and contribute to the financing of the Digital Solidarity Fund.

Assembly/AU/Dec.77 (V)

Decision on the Eighteenth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) (Doc. EX.CL/199 (VII))

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Eighteenth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
2. *Commends* the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for the work accomplished and urges it to pursue its efforts in this regard;
3. *Authorizes* the publication of this Report as well as its annexes in accordance with the provisions of Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
4. *Requests* the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to pursue and complete as soon as possible, the brainstorming on the relations with the various organs and institutions of the African Union in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.7 (II);
5. *Further requests* the African Union Commission to provide adequate resources in its running budget for the ACHPR so as to enable it to discharge its mandate;
6. *Urges* Member States which have not yet done so to present their periodic reports in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Assembly/AU/Dec.78 (V)

**Decision on the Review of the MDGs
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (V))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Commends* the Commission of the African Union, the ECA, the ADB, NEPAD Secretariat, the RECs and UNDP for the quality of the report;
3. *Adopts* the Common African Position on the evaluation of the MDGs to be presented at the United Nations high-level Conference on the MDGs;
4. *Mandates* the Commission of the African Union, in collaboration with the ECA, the ADB, NEPAD and the RECs to monitor the implementation of the MDGs and continue with the pertinent reflections in order to report to the Assembly at its annual session.

Assembly/AU/Dec.79 (V)

Decision on the G8 Follow-up

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance on the Common African Position to the next G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland;

2. *Mandates* the Ministers of Economy and Finance to include on the Agenda of their annual conferences, the follow-up of the G8 commitments to Africa in consultation with the NEPAD Steering Committee;
3. *Requests* the Commission to take all the necessary steps to monitor the implementation and evaluation of the G8 Kananaskis Plan of Action for Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.80 (V)

**Decision on Multilateral Trade Negotiations
(Doc. EX.CL/188 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Meeting of Ministers of Trade held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 8 to 9 June 2005;
2. *Expresses appreciation* for the efforts deployed by African negotiators in the various bodies of the WTO and by Member States and RECs in the different national and regional forums put up for EPA negotiations;
3. *Calls on* developed countries to meet the requirements of developing countries in setting up a credible end date for the elimination of all forms of support to agricultural products;
4. *Urges* all bilateral and multilateral donors to honour their commitment on the development-related aspects of the cotton initiative;
5. *Endorses* the Cairo Declaration and Road Map on the Doha Work Programme as well as the AU's Ministerial Declaration on EPA negotiations;
6. *Invites* Member States, RECs and the Commission to stand by those Declarations in order to speak with one voice and safeguard Africa's interests in WTO and EPA negotiations.

Assembly/AU/Dec.81 (V)

Decision on the Proposal on Sickle-Cell Anaemia

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Commends* Burkina Faso, Senegal and Congo for their initiative;
3. *Recognizes* that the proper management of sickle-cell anaemia will contribute to an appreciable decrease in mortality from malaria and the risk of HIV infection;
4. *Calls on* the international community to search for the best treatment for this disease, which necessitates lifelong treatment;
5. *Supports* the inclusion of sickle-cell anaemia, a genetic disease, in the list of public health priorities, at the next session of the World Health Assembly;
6. *Requests* Burkina Faso, the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Senegal, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission, to take the necessary steps to this end, and submit a report to it at its next session.

Assembly/AU/Dec.82 (V)

Decision on the Return of the Axum Obelisk to Its Place of Origin

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its Resolution AHG/Dec.184 (XXXVIII) of July 2002;
2. *Commends* the Government and the people of Ethiopia on the return of the pillaged Axum Obelisk to its place of origin;
3. *Further commends* the efforts deployed in this regard by the Commission of the African Union to expedite the return of the Axum Obelisk;
4. *Expresses its gratitude* for the efforts deployed by UNESCO and other international partners in the return of this African historical monument to its country of origin;
5. *Acknowledges* that the cooperation demonstrated by Italy in the return of the Axum Obelisk is a positive step that should be taken as a landmark in the history of cooperation between Africa and Europe in the cultural area;
6. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Italy for ensuring the safe return of the Axum Obelisk in conformity with its commitment and in response to the request made by the OAU/AU in its Resolution AHG/Dec.184 (XXXVIII) of July 2002;
7. *Declares* that the return of the Axum Obelisk constitutes a victory for all African countries;
8. *Calls upon* all concerned countries to follow this exemplary act and make further efforts to return pillaged cultural property to their places of origin.

Assembly/AU/Dec.83 (V)

**Decision on the Merger of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
and the Court of Justice of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (V))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the merger of the Court of Justice of the African Union (Court of Justice) and the Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Human Rights Court);
2. *Decides* that a draft legal instrument relating to the establishment of the merged court comprising the Human Rights Court and the Court of Justice should be completed for consideration by the next ordinary sessions of the Executive Council and the Assembly and welcomes warmly and with gratitude the offer by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Algeria, Mr. Mohamed Bedjaoui, former President of the International Court of Justice to contribute to the drafting of this instrument;
3. *Also decides* that all necessary measures for the functioning of the Human Rights Court be taken, including particularly the election of the judges, the determination of the budget and the operationalization of the Registry;

4. *Further decides* that the seat of the merged court shall be at a place to be decided upon by the Member States of the Eastern Region, which shall also serve as the seat of the Human Rights Court pending the merger.

Assembly/AU/Dec.84 (V)

**Decision on the Appointment of Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/201 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as elected by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 - (1) Mrs. Reine Alapini-Gansou (Benin);
 - (2) Mr. Musa Ngary Bitaye (Gambia);
 - (3) Mr. Mumba Malila (Zambia); and
 - (4) Adv. Faith Pansy Tlakula (Ms.) (South Africa).

Assembly/AU/Dec.85 (V)

**Decision on the Appointment of Members of the African Committee
of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/202 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as elected by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 - (1) Mrs. Seynabou Ndiaye Diakhate (Senegal);
 - (2) Mrs. Koffi Appoh Marie Chantal (Côte d'Ivoire);
 - (3) Hon. Lady Justice Martha Koome (Kenya);
 - (4) Mrs. Mamosebi T. Pholo (Lesotho);
 - (5) Ms. Boipelo Lucia Seltlhamo (Botswana); and
 - (6) Mr. Moussa Sissoko (Mali).

Assembly/AU/Dec.86 (V)

**Decision on the Danger of Imported Seeds on the African Continent
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (V) Add.6)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of improved seeds as a major input in increasing agricultural productivity quantitatively and qualitatively for the attainment of food security on the continent;
2. *Realizes* that the seed industry, in its modern integrated sense, is still considered one of the industries dominated by the developed countries when developing countries are so much in need of it for food production and for optimal investment of their natural and human resources;
3. *Acknowledges* the recent developments in the seed industry and its monopoly through various legal and technical rights protection that allows for the use of seeds only once;
4. *Further acknowledges* that the African farmer is prevented from multiple use of these seeds thus resulting in diminished plant biodiversity which African countries enjoy;
5. *Calls for* dealing with the challenges imposed by agricultural development and food production conditions on the continent for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the number of people suffering from hunger and poverty. This can only be achieved by tackling the challenge of adequate supply of improved seeds at affordable prices to all farmers;
6. *Recognizes* that national governments cannot alone confront these challenges and provide the necessary potential for this strategic industry;
7. *Stresses* Africa's potential for creating its own seed producing industry given its vast potential and climatic diversity;
8. *Calls for* the exploitation of Africa's material and human potentials for the establishment of a sophisticated seed industry to break its monopoly and to secure it for the achievement of sustainable agricultural development and food security for the peoples of the continent;
9. *Urges* Member States for the establishment of genetic resource banks for identification and preservation of indigenous plant genetic resources that can be used for the production of improved seeds that are adaptable to local environmental conditions and to prevent the deterioration of plant biodiversity that the African continent enjoys;
10. *Requests* the Commission to consider all aspects of the issue of seeds, in the light of existing experiments, including the establishment of an African institution for the production and use of seeds;
11. *Requests* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of this Decision to the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.87 (V)

Decision on the Expansion of the Follow-up Mechanism on the Reform of the United Nations

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the expansion of the Follow-up Mechanism on the Reform of the United Nations;
2. *Decides* that the Follow-up Mechanism comprising the Core Group of three and a Committee of ten (two representatives per region) be expanded to include an additional 5 new members selected by the regions (one per region);

3. *Mandates* the Follow-up Mechanism, as expanded, to negotiate with other regions of the world and stakeholders and to take necessary measures that would permit the attainment of Africa's aspirations as enunciated in the Ezulwini Consensus, bearing in mind the necessity for reciprocal support from other interested groups and within the framework of achieving the provisions of the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration;

4. *Further decides* that whenever the negotiations require flexibility, the Follow-up Mechanism shall consult the Chairperson of the Union and the Chairperson of the Commission on how to proceed, including the need for an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.88 (V)

**Decision on the Scale of Assessment
(Doc. EX.CL/192 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. *Adopts* the new scale of assessment as proposed based on the principle of capacity to pay of Member States with the ceiling of 15 per cent and without a floor rate;
3. *Commends* the following Member States that have offered to contribute 15 per cent of the regular budget of the Union each, namely, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Nigeria and South Africa;
4. *Decides* that the adopted scale of assessment shall be effective from 1 January 2006;
5. *Urges* the Commission to enforce a strict sanctions regime to ensure prompt full payment of contributions;
6. *Further urges* the Commission to practice prudent financial management and control of its budgetary and financial affairs;
7. *Decides* that the scale of assessment shall be reviewed every three years.

Assembly/AU/Dec.89 (V)

Decision on the Extrabudgetary Session of the Executive Council

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council on the proposed structure of the Commission and the budget for the year 2006;
2. *Mandates* the Executive Council to convene in an extraordinary session to consider and adopt:
 - (i) The structure proposed for the Commission;
 - (ii) The budget for the year 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.90 (V)

Decision on the Report of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government, Chaired by the President of the Republic of Uganda, on the Proposals of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Commends* the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government for the report;
3. *Reaffirms* that the ultimate goal of the African Union is full political and economic integration leading to the United States of Africa;
4. *Decides* to establish a Committee of Heads of State and Government to be chaired by President Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairperson of the African Union, and composed of the Heads of State and Government of Algeria, Kenya, Senegal, Gabon, Lesotho and Uganda;
5. *Requests* that the Committee shall consider all the ideas discussed during the Summit and others that may be submitted or arise through consultations and submit a report to the next session of the Assembly, including the steps that need to be taken for the realization of this objective, the structure, the process, the time frame required for its achievement as well as measures that should be undertaken, in the meantime, to strengthen the ability of the Commission to fulfil its mandate effectively.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (V)

Declaration on the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the Fifth Ordinary Session of our Assembly, in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 4 and 5 July 2005,

Recalling that the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000 was a laudable initiative by the international community in eradicating poverty, accelerating human development, integrating the African continent into the twenty-first century global economy and making globalization more beneficial to the people of Africa,

Considering that we have devoted our resources and taken far-reaching decisions and policy reforms in the political, social, economic, environmental and cultural domains in favor of eradicating poverty, achieving rapid sustainable and socio-economic development, as well as accelerating the integration of our peoples,

Aware that although some progress has been made in several countries, more needs to be done in order to attain the MDGs within the deadline,

Convinced that the achievement of these goals requires the cooperation of the private sector, civil society, the international community and other stakeholders and solidarity with Africa in various fields,

Conscious of the fact that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for poverty eradication and for the achievement of all other MDGs,

Determined to eradicate poverty and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the peoples of our continent, and having undertaken a review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in order to assess the progress made thus far and the challenges confronting our individual and collective efforts,

Determined further to fulfill our commitments to the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the MDGs within the deadline,

Reaffirming our strong commitment to the implementation of the Decisions and the Declaration of the 2004 Ouagadougou Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, particularly, youth employment,

Decides to adopt the Common African Position on the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals to constitute Africa's input into the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, to be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2005,

We therefore resolve to:

1. *Redouble* our efforts at the national, regional, continental and international levels and to strengthen inter-State cooperation and joint activities toward meeting the MDGs by the target deadline;
2. *Enhance* investment and development in Africa by promoting peace and security and create a conducive environment by ensuring good governance in our countries through:
 - (a) Strengthening and ensuring that regional and continental mechanisms, in particular, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union play a central role in bringing about peace, security and stability on the continent;
 - (b) Addressing conflict and political instability on the continent, with the aim of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2010 by prioritizing and allocating more resources to conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding and to fully collaborate with regional and continental mechanisms, to ensure the speedy operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF);
 - (c) Becoming parties to regional, continental and international instruments relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism, transnational organized crimes, drug trafficking, the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and landmines, corruption and money laundering and ensuring the effective implementation of such instruments; and
 - (d) Deepening transparency and effective participatory forms of governance and strengthening democratic institutions and processes in our countries. We urge all Member States of the Union to join, as a matter of priority, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as soon as possible and to strengthen the APRM process for its efficient performance;
3. *Continue* to develop and effectively implement economic and social policies which are of benefit to the poor segment of the population through:
 - (a) Adopting employment-oriented and poverty reduction strategies, in particular the creation of decent work for the youth;
 - (b) Promoting rural economy and agriculture to raise the level of productivity, improve food security and enhance living conditions in rural Africa;
 - (c) Promoting the private sector, with particular emphasis on small and medium-scale enterprises;
 - (d) Pursuit of industrial development strategy;
 - (e) Enhancement of the competitiveness of African economies;
 - (f) Increased investment required for the development of infrastructure and services of transport, telecommunications and energy;

- (g) Prudent management of natural resources and the environment;
 - (h) Mainstreaming of gender into national development strategies and, in particular, addressing the persistent and high levels of poverty among women through the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action;
 - (i) Mainstreaming trade policy into national development strategies;
 - (j) Promoting ICT and enhancing investment in the development of physical and human capital, particularly in science and technology;
 - (k) Investment in strengthening health systems including access to reproductive and sexual health services to ensure sustained and long-term improvement in maternal, new born and child health;
 - (l) Enhancing social development including by giving priority to improved access and quality education, health and sanitation;
 - (m) Combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases;
 - (n) Designing and integrating social protection and social safety net programmes within broader national social policy frameworks and national development strategies; and
 - (o) Building of statistical capacity for policy and programme design, implementation and monitoring;
4. *Mobilize* additional domestic resources for financing of MDGs, thus call on the private sector in Africa to contribute more substantially to development on the continent and to efforts of meeting the MDGs in Africa;
5. *Include* in the MDGs framework, transport targets and indicators adopted by the African ministers in charge of transport and infrastructure in April 2005 with a view to accelerating the achievement of the MDGs;
6. *Mobilize* international support and strengthening partnership with the international community. In this regard, we:
- (a) Call on the international community, particularly the United Nations and our development partners, to complement our efforts, in particular, to fulfill the commitments that they have made in support for development in Africa;
 - (b) Urge the international community especially the G8 to fully embrace the comprehensive recommendations of the Commission for Africa and act expeditiously on them;
 - (c) Request the developed countries and development partners to expedite the process of total debt cancellation for Africa by the year 2007. In this regard, we acknowledge the recent proposal from G8 Ministers of Finance with respect to the cancellation of the debt for 14 African countries and encourage them to extend those proposals to all African countries with regard to all components of the external debt;
7. *Further urge* the developed countries to improve aid quality through, among others:
- (i) Delinking aid from the trade and geopolitical interests of donors;
 - (ii) Better coordination, harmonization and simplification of aid operational procedures;
 - (iii) Making aid pro-poor;

- (iv) Stronger linkage of aid to the MDGs, the NEPAD programme and the PRSP process;
 - (v) Strengthened ownership of aid by African beneficiaries and greater policy space in the utilization of aid;
 - (vi) Meeting the commitment to increase ODA flows to internationally agreed 0.7 per cent of GNP with greater predictability; and
 - (vii) Reducing the delay between the financial commitment and the effective disbursement;
8. *Call on* the international community to establish a fair and equitable trading system and to facilitate Africa's access to their markets, through:
- (a) Ensuring that multilateral trade rules provide adequate policy space for achieving MDGs;
 - (b) The elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers;
 - (c) Requesting the Bretton Woods Institutions to streamline their policies and programmes in Africa to be more MDGs-friendly;
 - (d) The elimination of trade distorting subsidies and domestic support especially in the agricultural sector;
 - (e) Assistance to African countries to integrate more effectively with the global trading system through increased support for capacity-building, environmental conservation, regional integration, cross-border infrastructure, and development of pro-poor growth policies and institutions;
 - (f) Provision of assistance and adjustment support to mitigate the adjustment costs of trade liberalization in Africa;
 - (g) Dealing with the commodity crises arising from fluctuations and collapse of prices through manufacturing, improving value addition and diversification of production and trade.

We reiterate our conviction that the implementation of these strategies will result in Africa achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (V)

Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Fifth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 4 to 5 July 2005,

Reaffirming our strong commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus,

Convinced of the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations system which takes into account the principles, objectives and ideals of the United Nations Charter for a fairer world based on universalism, equity and regional balance,

Conscious of the need, within this process of reform, to ensure Africa's legitimate rights to a fair and equitable geographical representation,

Recognizing that all the regions of the world must, in this new era of globalization, endeavour in a spirit of solidarity to build a world of peace, security, justice, good governance and sustainable development,

Persuaded that the reform of the United Nations should be all-inclusive and encompass all components of the United Nations system, including the General Assembly and the Security Council,

Are determined to ensure the success of the Ezulwini Consensus that clearly spells out the Common African Position on "sustainable development, collective security, conflict prevention and the conditions for the use of force, as well as the institutional reform of the United Nations", notably,

- The allocation of two (2) permanent seats to Africa with all the privileges, including the right of veto, and five (5) non-permanent seats on the Security Council,
- Strengthening the leadership of the United Nations General Assembly to enable it to fully play its role as the most representative and democratic organ of the United Nations system and world parliament,
- Strengthening the United Nations Secretariat in the sense of greater efficiency and increased representation for Africa,
- The establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission for the consolidation of peace as recommended by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,
- Granting ECOSOC the status of a central coordination mechanism for the activities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and its subsidiary organs in the economic, social and cultural domains with a view to enabling it to better discharge its role in attaining the MDGs,
- The establishment of a new human rights body, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly based in Geneva, to replace the Human Rights Commission with the same composition on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, and with a new non-selective and less politicized mandate, while confirming the universality and indivisibility of human rights,
- The democratization of the Bretton Woods Institutions,

Reiterate, to this end, our commitment to preserve Africa's unity and solidarity in the selection, by the African Union, of its representatives in the Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf,

Authorize consequently, the submission of a draft resolution to the United Nations General Assembly reflecting the Common African Position.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (V)

Declaration on the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur

The Assembly of the African Union, meeting in its Fifth Ordinary Session, in Sirte, from 4 to 5 July 2005, having been briefed on the ongoing fifth round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, in Abuja,

Welcomes the appointment of Salim Ahmed Salim, as the AU Special Envoy and Chief Mediator for the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, and expresses its support and appreciation for the efforts he is deploying with the support of the AU and Chadian Mediation Teams, other African facilitators and observers and which culminated in the submission to the parties of a draft Declaration of Principles (DoP),

Commends the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) for their disposition to adopt and sign the DoP as proposed by the mediation, the facilitators and observers,

Urges the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) to join the consensus and accept the DoP, which the international community considers as the best compromise addressing the legitimate concerns of all the parties, so

as to create propitious conditions for the commencement, as soon as possible, of the substantive discussions on power and wealth sharing and on security arrangements.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (V)

Resolution on the United Nations Reform: Security Council

The Assembly,

Reaffirming the aims and objectives of the United Nations Charter,

Recognizing that the international community has welcomed proposals for the reform of the United Nations as contained in the report of the United Nations High-level Panel on "Threats, Challenges and Change" and the United Nations Secretary-General's report entitled "In Larger Freedom – Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All",

Aware of the positive reactions of various regions, groups and individual countries to the proposals contained in the two reports, as reflected in the "draft Outcome Document" released by the President of the General Assembly in June 2005,

Noting Africa's common position as contained in the "Ezulwini Consensus",

Convinced that the three categories of freedom, namely "freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity" are essential for both developed and developing societies and indispensable for the peace and stability of the world,

Conscious that these freedoms can only be upheld and protected by the world community through an effective management of the current United Nations system,

Taking into account the need to strengthen United Nations institutions in order to enhance the efficiency of the organization, especially its principal organs and, in particular, the General Assembly and the Security Council,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the General Assembly which should be made to function effectively as the main deliberative and representative organ of the United Nations,

Cognizant of the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security under the United Nations Charter,

Stressing the need to consider the views of all Member States on this all-important issue of the reform of the Security Council with a view to bringing to fruition, ideas which have been the subject of several debates over the years,

Acknowledging the need for the Security Council to reflect present world realities and be more responsive to the aspirations of all Member States of the United Nations; bearing in mind the undeniable fact that in 1945, when the United Nations was being formed, most of Africa was not represented and, as a result, Africa remains to this day the only continent without a permanent seat in the Security Council, which is the primary organ of the United Nations on matters of international peace and security,

Mindful of the need to ensure Africa's effective representation in the Security Council like all the other regions of the world,

Realizing the need to engage fully all regions of the world in the work of the United Nations and to enlist their support for the progress of humanity,

Resolves to:

1. *Enlarge* the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories and improve on its working methods;
2. *Accord* the new permanent members the same prerogatives and privileges as the current permanent members, including the right of veto;
3. *Grant* Africa two permanent and five non-permanent seats in the Security Council and increase its membership from 15 to 26 with the 11 additional seats distributed as follows:

Permanent Members:

Two from Africa;
Two from Asia;
One from Latin American and Caribbean States;
One from Western European and Other States;

Non-Permanent Members:

Two from Africa;
One from Asia;
One from Eastern European States;
One from Latin American and Caribbean States;

4. *Amend* the United Nations Charter accordingly.

Assembly/AU/Motion of Gratitude (V)

Motion of Gratitude to H.E. President Benjamin Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Assembly,

Conscious of President Benjamin Mkapa's attributes as a statesman and his achievements at the helm of his country, at a time when he is about to relinquish his duties and responsibilities as President of the United Republic of Tanzania after ten years of loyal service, in accordance with the wishes of his people,

Expresses its profound gratitude to President Benjamin Mkapa for the work he has accomplished in his country and his invaluable contribution to the promotion of the ideals of our continental organization,

Expresses further to President Benjamin Mkapa its sincere thanks for his participation in the deliberations of the "Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization" as well as those of the "Commission for Africa", which constitutes eloquent proof of his commitment to the cause of Africa and its political, social, economic and cultural development,

Avails itself of this opportunity to wish him every success in his future endeavours and ask him to kindly continue to make himself available whenever he is needed, as the Ambassador and ardent advocate of our continent's causes that he has always been.

Assembly/AU/Vote (V)

Vote of Thanks to the People and the Leader of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2005)

The Conference of the African Union meeting at its Fifth Ordinary Session in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 4 to 5 July 2005,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Leader and the people of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for their warm welcome, excellent facilities and generous hospitality extended to all delegations since their arrival in the Jamahiriya;
2. *Also expresses its gratitude* to H.E. Muammar Gaddafi, Leader of Al-Fattah Revolution, for his tireless efforts towards the promotion and realization of the ideals and objectives of the Union and the search for greater unity and cohesion among our people.

FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4 August 2005**

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (IV)

Decision on the Reform of the Security Council of the United Nations

The Assembly meeting in its Fourth Extraordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 4 August 2005,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Enlarged Follow-up Committee on the Reform of the United Nations;
2. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus, and the Sirte Declaration and draft Resolution to the General Assembly on the Reform of the United Nations adopted respectively in Swaziland in February 2005 and in Libya in July 2005;
3. *Reaffirms* that the other elements of the reform of the United Nations be given equal attention, in particular, issues of development, reform of institutions such as the General Assembly, ECOSOC and Human Rights Commission and establishment of new ones, as well as the democratization of the Bretton Woods Institutions;
4. *Decides* to establish a Committee of Ten (10) Heads of State and Government (two per region) to be coordinated by the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, with the mandate to present, advocate and canvas support for the African draft Resolution to all the other regions of the world as well as interested groups with a view to achieving the provisions of the Ezulwini Consensus as well as the Sirte Declaration and Resolution and submit a report and appropriate recommendations thereon to the Chairperson of the Assembly;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Assembly, thereafter, to submit a Report to an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly to be held on the margin of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2005.*

* Editor's note: The African Union held an Extraordinary Summit in Sirte, Libya, in September 2005 to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the Sirte Declaration providing for the establishment of the African Union and to discuss issues such as the establishment of an African peacekeeping force and the creation of the United States of Africa. The African Union website does not contain any documents resulting from this summit.

SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Khartoum, Sudan
23 to 24 January 2006**

Assembly/AU/Dec.91 (VI)

**Decision on the Progress Report on AIDS Watch Africa (AWA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (VI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report and the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Strategic Framework contained therein;
2. *Welcomes* the decision to allocate each of the AWA Heads of State and Government a specific responsibility to spearhead in advocacy to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa;
3. *Also welcomes* the emphasis in the Strategic Framework on promotion of universal access to prevention, treatment and care as well as the crisis of orphans and vulnerable children;
4. *Urges* AWA Heads of State and Government to intensify efforts to maximize the visibility of AWA as an advocacy platform;
5. *Requests* the Commission to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the AWA Strategic Framework, and to annually report to the ordinary session of the Assembly on progress made.

Assembly/AU/Dec.92 (VI)

**Decision on a Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006 to 2015) and
the Framework of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade
(Doc. EX.CL/224 (VIII) Rev.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on a Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) and the Framework of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade;
2. *Accepts* the conclusions of the Evaluation Report, as amended;
3. *Commends* Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the efforts made to achieve the objectives of the First Decade; and salutes their collaboration in the evaluation of the said Decade;
4. *Acknowledges* that while there have been significant advances in many areas, a number of obstacles and challenges which confront the continent have prevented the full achievement of all the commitments made in 1997 by the Organization of African Unity;
5. *Also acknowledges* the need to accelerate and expand provision of quality education;
6. *Endorses* the Framework of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
7. *Calls upon* Member States to devote sufficient resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action;
8. *Also calls upon* the Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and the Member States to strengthen cooperation as well as support coordination mechanisms for operationalizing the Framework of the Plan of Action;

9. *Recognizes* the existence of other initiatives involved in education in Africa, such as, Education for All, Millennium Development Goals, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and calls for a better coordination between these initiatives and the Framework for action for the Second Decade;
10. *Proclaims* the period 2006–2015, the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
11. *Appeals* to international agencies, as well as non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society and development partners to lend their technical and financial support to the implementation of the Framework of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education at the national, regional and continental levels.

Assembly/AU/Dec.93 (VI)

**Decision on the International Year of African Football
(Doc. Assembly/AU.8 (VI) Add.11)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* that the Confederation of African Football (CAF), which was founded in Khartoum, Sudan, in 1957 by South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 2007;
2. *Acknowledges* the invaluable contribution of CAF to the development of the game of football on the continent while protecting the interests of Africa in the international arena;
3. *Acknowledges also* the efforts of CAF in the promotion of unity, solidarity, peace and reconciliation, its humanitarian activities and its participation in preventive education campaigns against scourges affecting the youth of the continent;
4. *Declares* 2007 as the International Year of African Football;
5. *Invites* all Member States to support their national football associations in the organization of the fiftieth anniversary of CAF in 2007, while highlighting the hosting of the FIFA World Cup in South Africa in 2010;
6. *Requests* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to cooperate with CAF in its efforts to achieve this objective and submit a report on the celebration in 2008.

Assembly/AU/Dec.94 (VI)

Decision on the Revised Charter for the Cultural Renaissance of Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council to adopt the revised Charter for the Cultural Renaissance of Africa;
2. *Adopts* the revised Charter as recommended;
3. *Appeals* to Member States for the speedy signing and ratification of the revised Charter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.95 (VI)

Decision on the Statute of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council to adopt the draft Statute for the Establishment of the African Academy of Languages as an AU Specialized Office to be located in Bamako, the Republic of Mali;
2. *Adopts* the draft Statute as recommended;
3. *Appeals* to Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), partners and other relevant organizations to support the AU Commission in the promotion of the activities of ACALAN.

Assembly/AU/Dec.96 (VI)

Decision on the Linkage between Culture and Education

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Algiers Conference of Ministers of Education in April 2005 and also the outcomes of the Extraordinary Session of the Ministers of Education in Addis Ababa in January 2006;
2. *Also takes note* of the Report of the First Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Culture held in Nairobi, in December 2005;
3. *Convinced* that African cultural values and heritages should provide the basis for education at all levels;
4. *Recognizes* the importance of African languages as the media of instruction and vehicles of culture for the achievement of the African renaissance;
5. *Recalls* the previous commitments made to protect and promote African tangible and intangible cultural heritages as well as to develop appropriate policies for the development of culture and the promotion of indigenous African knowledge;
6. *Reaffirms* the indisputable interface between culture and education and the role of both culture and education in sustainable socio-economic development;
7. *Convinced* of the need to promote cultural literacy among Africans of all walks of life;
8. *Also convinced* that culture and education are important weapons for the fight against poverty, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the promotion of peace, stability and governance;
9. *Determined* to eliminate certain cultural practices that have negative impacts on health, development, human rights and education;
10. *Recommits* to strengthen the interface between education and culture and give our full support to the implementation of programmes and projects to this effect;
11. *Urges* our ministries of culture and education to create the forums for regular consultations and streamlining culture in education and education in culture, in particular through the rebuilding of African educational systems;
12. *Calls upon* the Commission, in collaboration with Member States and RECs, to follow up and facilitate the implementation of this decision and to provide leadership in the process of reinstating the linkage between culture and education in Africa, specifically through the African Academy of Languages as well as reporting periodically thereon;

13. *Invites* UNESCO and other relevant partners to provide support to both ministries of culture and education in their efforts to strengthen the interface between culture and education.

Assembly/AU/Dec.97 (VI)

Decision on the Drought Situation in the IGAD Subregion

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with serious concern* of the drought situation that is affecting countries in the Horn and Eastern African region and most particularly Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya threatening the lives of millions of peoples and livestock in these countries;
2. *Underlines* the need to sensitize the international community of the impending crisis situation before its further escalation which would result in the huge loss of lives and displacement of peoples;
3. *Calls upon* the international community and in particular the relevant United Nations agencies to render maximum support and assistance to the affected countries with a view to saving human lives and minimizing the effect of the drought on the livelihood of the peoples.

Assembly/AU/Dec.98 (VI)

**Decision to Declare 2006 as the Year of African Languages
(Doc. EX.CL/223 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council;
2. *Declares* 2006 as the Year of African Languages;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with UNESCO and other relevant partners, to coordinate activities related to the Year.

Assembly/AU/Dec.99 (VI)

**Decision on the Report of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government
Chaired by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government;
2. *Commends* the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government for its Report;
3. *Reaffirms* that the ultimate goal of the African Union is the full political and economic integration of the continent leading to the United States of Africa;
4. *Requests* the Commission to follow up on this Report in accordance with the work plan and the framework of action contained therein;

5. *Also requests* the Commission to consider the contribution of the Brother Leader Muammar al-Gaddafi and all other pertinent ideas discussed during this session as well as others that may be submitted or arise through consultations with all relevant stakeholders and experts as envisaged in the Report and to submit a consolidated document with a road map for consideration by the Assembly at its next ordinary session in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.100 (VI)

**Decision on the Election of Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/241 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights as elected by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 - (1) Ms. Sophia A.B. Akuffo (two-year term);
 - (2) Mr. G.W. Kanyiehamba (two-year term);
 - (3) Mr. Bernard Makgabo Ngoepe (two-year term);
 - (4) Mr. Jean Emile Somda (two-year term);
 - (5) Mr. Hamdi Faraj Fanoush (four-year term);
 - (6) Mrs. Kelello Justina Mafoso-Guni (four-year term);
 - (7) Mr. Jean Mutsinzi (six-year term);
 - (8) Mr. Fatsah Ouguerouz (four-year term);
 - (9) Mr. Modibo Tounry Guindo (six-year term);
 - (10) Mr. El Hadji Guisse (four-year term);
 - (11) Mr. Gérard Niyungeko (six-year term).

Assembly/AU/Dec.101 (VI)

**Decision on the Nineteenth Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/236 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* and authorizes, in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Charter), the publication of the Nineteenth Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and its annexes, except for those containing the Resolutions on Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe;

2. *Requests* the concerned Member States to make available to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights within three months of the adoption of the present Decision, their views on the said Resolutions and the ACHPR to submit a report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council;
3. *Calls upon* the ACHPR to ensure that in future, it enlists the responses of all States parties to its resolutions and decisions before submitting them to the Executive Council and/or the Assembly for consideration;
4. *Requests* States parties, within three months of the notification by the ACHPR, to communicate their responses to resolutions and decisions to be submitted to the Executive Council and/or the Assembly;
5. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on 25 November 2005 and urges Member States which have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Protocol;
6. *Reiterates* its request to the AU Commission to allocate adequate resources from its operational budget to the ACHPR as provided for in Article 41 of the Charter to enable the ACHPR to discharge independently its mandate under the Charter;
7. *Urges* Member States, which have not yet done so, to present their outstanding periodic reports to the ACHPR in accordance with Article 62 of the Charter;
8. *Requests* the ACHPR to complete, as soon as possible, the work undertaken on its relations with the various organs and institutions of the African Union, including the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; and to submit to it, appropriate recommendations relating thereto;
9. *Also requests* the ACHPR to take part in the process of operationalization of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Assembly/AU/Dec.102 (VI)

**Decision on the Election of One Member of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/242 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Decides* to appoint Mrs. Dawlat Ibrahim Hassan as a member of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as elected by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.103 (VI)

**Decision on the Hissène Habré Case and the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (VI) Add.9)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the briefing by President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal and President Olusegun Obasanjo, the outgoing Chairperson of the African Union, on the Hissène Habré case and reiterates the AU's commitment to fighting impunity in line with the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act;

2. *Decides* to set up a Committee of Eminent African Jurists to be appointed by the Chairperson of the African Union in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union. The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the AU Commission (Office of the Legal Counsel);
3. *Mandates* the Committee to consider all aspects and implications of the Hissène Habré case as well as the options available for his trial, taking into account the following benchmarks:
 - (a) Adherence to the principles of total rejection of impunity;
 - (b) Adherence to international fair trial standards including the independence of the judiciary and the impartiality of the proceedings;
 - (c) Jurisdiction over the alleged crimes for which Mr. Habré should be tried;
 - (d) Efficiency in terms of cost and time of trial;
 - (e) Accessibility to the trial by alleged victims as well as witnesses;
 - (f) Priority for an African mechanism;
4. *Further mandates* the Committee to make concrete recommendations on ways and means of dealing with issues of a similar nature in the future;
5. *Requests* the Committee to finalize its work and submit a report to its next ordinary session in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.104 (VI)

**Decision on the Report of the Chairperson of NEPAD
Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (VI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee;
2. *Welcomes* the initiative to convene a Brainstorming Conference in Dakar, Senegal, to further review the achievements of NEPAD and on possible improvements of its programmes and operations;
3. *Requests* the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee to submit a report on the outcome of the Brainstorming Conference at its next ordinary session in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.105 (VI)

Decision on United Nations Reform

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Expanded Follow-up Mechanism on United Nations reforms;
2. *Affirms* the determination of Africa to correct the historical injustice that arises out of a situation in which the continent is the only region that does not have a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council;

3. *Decides* to maintain the resolution presented before the United Nations General Assembly session and requests all Member States to sponsor it;
4. *Renews* the mandate of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government and the Expanded Follow-up Mechanism to continue consultations with a view to promote and support the Common African Position as embodied in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Resolution on United Nations reform including the reform of the Security Council;
5. *Encourages* Member States to support this process;
6. *Requests* the Committee of Ten to submit a progress report on this issue to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.106 (VI)

**Decision on the Election of Ten Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (VI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Congratulates* the following Members of the Peace and Security Council for a two-year term:
 - (1) Cameroon (Central);
 - (2) Congo (Central);
 - (3) Rwanda (East);
 - (4) Uganda (East);
 - (5) Egypt (North);
 - (6) Botswana (South);
 - (7) Malawi (South);
 - (8) Burkina Faso (West);
 - (9) Ghana (West);
 - (10) Senegal (West).

Assembly/AU/Dec.107 (VI)

**Decision on the Review of Symbols (Flag of the Union), on the Holding of Bilateral Summits
between Africa and Other States and on the Non-Assimilation of North Africa
into the Middle East with Regard to Nomenclature, Content and Concept
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (VI) Add.1, 2 and 4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the proposals of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
2. *Emphasizes* that the African continent is a single human, geographical, political and cultural entity that can neither be partitioned, divided, annexed, nor integrated into any other region or part thereof into any space or continent other than its own;
3. *Decides* to submit the three proposals mentioned in the paragraph 1 above to the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government in conformity with the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.90 (V) for consideration and make proposals to the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.108 (VI)

**Decision on the Non-Submission of Decisions of the African Union Summits
to the Ratification Mechanisms of AU Member States
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (VI) Add.3)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* with satisfaction of the proposal of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning non-submission of decisions of the African Union Summits to the ratification mechanisms of AU Member States;
2. *Calls upon* all Member States to sign and ratify the treaties, charters, conventions and protocols adopted by the Assembly and requests national parliaments to hold, if necessary, extraordinary sessions for their ratification.

Assembly/AU/Dec.109 (VI)

**Decision on the Establishment of a Pan-African Stock Exchange and on the Establishment of a Fund within the
African Union to Mitigate the Effects of the Increase in Oil Prices on the African Countries
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (VI) Add.5 and 6)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of and welcomes the two proposals of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the establishment of a Pan-African Stock Exchange and on the establishment of a fund within the African Union to mitigate the effects of the increase in oil prices on the African countries;
2. *Commends* the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for its initiative which is an expression of its solidarity with countries of the continent that are experiencing economic difficulties as a result of the oil price hike;
3. *Directs* the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary measures to convene a meeting of experts to consider the two proposals and to report thereon, with specific proposals, to the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.110 (VI)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (AFESCO)
(Doc. EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.10)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal;
2. *Requests* the Commission to consider the issue further in cooperation with a Group of Experts to be set up for this purpose.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (VI)

**Declaration on the Outcome of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference
Held in Hong Kong, China, from 13 to 18 December 2005**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the Sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Khartoum, Sudan, from 23 to 24 January 2006,

Convinced that a multilateral trade system based on fair and equitable rules is crucial for the attainment of rapid and sustained economic growth and development, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Recalling the commitment made in November 2001 in the Doha Declaration by WTO Members to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Doha Work Programme,

Recognizing that a faithful and speedy implementation of the Doha Work Programme presents a good opportunity for our countries to be effectively integrated into the global economy and to have a fair share of global trade, which is growing at an unprecedented rate,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration and the Cairo Road Map on the Doha Work Programme, which we endorsed at the Fifth Ordinary Session of our Assembly,

Taking note of the Arusha Development Benchmarks for the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference adopted by the African Union Trade Ministers at the Second Extraordinary Session of their Conference held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 22 to 24 November 2005, and

Also taking note of the Report of the AU Commission on the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong, China, from 13 to 18 December 2005,

1. *Commend* our Member States and African negotiators, especially the African Group in Geneva, for the tremendous efforts they deployed prior to and in Hong Kong towards safeguarding Africa's interests in the negotiations on the Doha Work Programme;
2. *Express our deep concern* and disappointment at the limited progress achieved in Hong Kong on major issues of interest to Africa;
3. *Welcome* the commitment contained in the Declaration of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference to complete the Doha Work Programme fully and to conclude the negotiations launched at Doha successfully in 2006;
4. *Reaffirm* our commitment to a successful completion of the Doha Development Round and call on the international community, especially the industrialized developed countries, to show greater flexibility in their negotiating positions and muster the political will to remove the obstacles to the achievement of this objective by 2006;
5. *Emphasize* that the success of the Doha Round will be measured by its development outcomes;
6. *Take note* of the decision by the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference to ensure that the parallel elimination of all forms of agriculture export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect is

completed by the end of 2013 and call for appropriate compensation to African countries that may be adversely affected by the delay in the elimination of agriculture export subsidies;

7. *Welcome* the extension of the TRIPs Agreement transition period for LDCs and the incorporation of the temporary solution of August 2003 into an amendment of the TRIPs Agreement and reiterate the need for the simplification of the cumbersome procedure, which has rendered the solution ineffective and unworkable in practice;

8. *Commend* the Aid for Trade Initiative and request that it be endowed with adequate resources, and appropriate governance and operational modalities that will enable the initiative to serve as an effective instrument for the supply-side capacity-building which our countries need in order to use trade for development;

9. *Reiterate* the need to expeditiously review the special and differential (S&D) treatment provisions of WTO Agreements with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational;

10. *Reaffirm* the importance of ensuring that the obligations to be undertaken by our countries are proportional and commensurate with our level of development and will allow us sufficient flexibility to determine our trade policies in accordance with our countries' development goals;

11. *Call for* significant progress and useful outcomes in the negotiations on the issues of implementation; small and vulnerable economies; commodities including cotton; trade, debt and finance; and trade and technology transfers which are critical to making the Doha Work Programme a real development Round;

12. *Request* African Trade Ministers and negotiators to remain engaged, vigilant and united and to intensify their efforts in order to ensure that the interests and concerns of Africa are adequately addressed in the final outcome of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations; and

13. *Direct* the AU Commission to take necessary measures to continue to coordinate Africa's common position and, in collaboration with the ECA and other organizations, give necessary technical support to Member States in the WTO negotiations.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (VI)

Declaration by the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly of the African Union, meeting in its Sixth Ordinary Session in the Sudanese Capital, Khartoum, from 23 to 24 January 2006, expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the President of Sudan, H.E. Mr. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality the people and Government of Sudan have accorded during the Assembly and its preparatory meetings.

The leaders commend the Government of Sudan for the tremendous and historic achievement they made by concluding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that brought to an end the civil war in Southern Sudan and wished Sudan well in its post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

The leaders expressed their appreciation for the initiative taken by H.E. President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir to accept the postponement of his term of Chairmanship for the African Union until 2007. The leaders consider this gesture to be a true reflection of the great sense of responsibility and leadership demonstrated by President Al-Bashir.

The leaders agreed after extensive consultations that Sudan will assume the Chairmanship of the Union in the year 2007. In this regard, they reiterated the importance of implementing the principle of rotation between the geographical regions on the continent.

They also agreed to that the Central Region would submit a candidate for the Chairmanship of the Union for the Year 2006.

A committee to consider the implementation of the rotation system between the regions will set out procedures for the determination of the Chairmanship among them for the coming years in accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (VI)

**Declaration on the Activities of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the activities of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU and the state of peace and security in Africa;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made in the resolution of the conflicts facing the continent since its last summit, in July 2005, in particular the successful conclusion of the transition processes in Burundi, Comoros, Liberia and the achievements recorded in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including the successful holding of the referendum on 18 December 2005, Guinea-Bissau and Sudan, with respect to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA);
3. *Commends* the PSC for its work and contribution to the promotion of peace and security in Africa, and urges it to exert renewed efforts to address the scourge of conflicts in Africa. In this respect, the Assembly requests the PSC to put a particular emphasis on conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction;
4. *Notes with appreciation* the achievements of the African Union Mission (AMIS) in Darfur, in spite of the serious financial and logistical constraints facing the Mission and its contribution to the improvement of the security and humanitarian situation. The Assembly stresses the need for all parties to abide by their commitments as spelled out in the agreements already signed and to extend full cooperation to the AU-led mediation to facilitate the early and successful conclusion of the Abuja Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on the conflict in Darfur;
5. *Expresses appreciation* to the troop contributing countries (TCCs) and partners for their contribution to AMIS and urges them to continue to support AMIS to enable it to perform its mandate;
6. *Takes note* of the progress made in the peace and reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire and encourages the Ivorian parties to persevere on the path of dialogue and reconciliation and to extend full cooperation to the International Working Group (IWG) and the day-to-day mediation;
7. *Pays tribute* to all African leaders, the United Nations and the Regional Economic Communities, as well as the AU partners, for their commitment and contribution to the promotion of peace and security in Africa. The Assembly further pays tribute to all the peacekeepers deployed on the continent for their sterling efforts and unreservedly condemns the attacks against members of AMIS and United Nations peacekeepers that resulted, notably, in the killing of Nigerian and Senegalese members of AMIS and Guatemalan United Nations peacekeepers in the DRC. The Assembly conveys Africa's condolences to the bereaved families and the governments concerned.

Assembly/AU/Recommendation (VI)

Recommendation of the Committee on the Chairmanship of the African Union

SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION (2006)

As instructed by the Assembly of the African Union at its Sixth Ordinary Session in the Sudanese Capital, Khartoum, on 23 and 24 January 2006, the Committee of Seven chaired by Botswana and composed of Gabon, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Tanzania and Egypt, held its meetings and concluded the following:

1. That Sudan shall assume Chairmanship of the African Union for the year 2007;
2. The rotation principle between regions shall be respected when electing the Chairman of the African Union;
3. The region of Central Africa shall present a candidate for the Chairman of the Union for year 2006;
4. A committee shall be established to examine the implementation of the rotation principle for the coming years in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
5. A declaration shall be issued by the Assembly Heads of State and Government to express appreciation and gratitude to the people and Government of Sudan for their commendable effort and to congratulate them on their election as Chairman of the African Union for the year 2007.

The meeting is submitting the above to the attention of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for adoption.

**SPECIAL SUMMIT OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON
HIV AND AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA (ATM)**

**Abuja, Nigeria
2 to 4 May 2006**

SP/Assembly/ATM/2 (I) Rev.3

Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services by A United Africa by 2010

**Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to
HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa**

I. Introduction

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 4 May 2006 to review the progress made in implementing the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll Back Malaria (RBM) of 2000, and the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Infectious Diseases (ORID) of 2001; focused our deliberations on the Theme: “Universal Access to HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services by a United Africa by 2010”. We recall that the twelve priorities for our Abuja Plan of Action on HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases included Leadership at the National, Regional and Continental Levels to mobilize the society as a whole; Resource Mobilization; Protection for Human Rights, Poverty, Health and Development; Strengthening Health Systems; Prevention of Primary and Secondary Infections; Improvement of Information, Education and Communication; Access to Treatment, Care and Support; Access to Affordable Drugs and Technologies; Research and Development on HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and ORID; Partnership; and Monitoring and Evaluation.

2. We also recall that at the same 2001 Abuja Summit eight African Heads of State and Government, deeply concerned with the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, created AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) as an advocacy platform at the Head of State and Government level and for monitoring the African response and to mobilize resources.

**II. Africa’s Progress towards the Achievement of the 2000 and 2001
Abuja Commitments in Declarations and Plans of Action**

3. Marked progress has been also observed in the proportion of national budgets allocated to health as 33 per cent of countries have allocated at least 10 per cent of their national budget to health while one country has attained the target of 15 per cent. Heads of State have engaged with the G8 countries for additional resources and debt relief.

4. We realize that the movement of people across and within borders spreads diseases such as HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In view of this, we take regional level actions and cooperation as vital to the fight against the HIV and AIDS epidemic on the continent. Accordingly, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have integrated health and social issues in their development programmes. Some RECs are implementing HIV and AIDS strategies. With the coordination of RECs, cross-border cooperation and delivery of services are enhanced.

5. We are aware that the AU Commission developed and is implementing the AU Commission HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2005—2007, coordinating the implementation of the AIDS Watch Africa Strategic Framework; and is playing its advocacy role through the World AIDS Campaign, World TB Day and Africa Malaria Day campaigns, among other advocacy activities.

6. In 2002, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) was created as suggested by the OAU/AU Heads of States following the advice by their health ministers and then proposed to the United Nations Secretary-General at the Abuja Special Summit in 2001 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on AIDS. Since then, several African countries have been able to access funds from GFATM, and other sources, which include the World Bank Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Programme (MAP), United States President’s Emergency Fund for HIV and AIDS Relief Programme (PEPFAR), the Commission for Africa, the initiative by France on air ticket levy and other bilateral and multilateral sources. Despite the increased number of donors, the current annual global spending is less than half of the US\$ 12 billion needed by 2005 and less than one

quarter of the amount needed in 2007. However, spending for Africa from this amount accounts for 6 to 10 per cent of the total AIDS expenditure. According to the Global Fund Observer 2003, Africa was able to secure 60 per cent of the resources of the Global Fund.

III. THE CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

7. We have identified the following as the main challenges and obstacles to accelerated action towards universal access to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria services in Africa:

- The triple burden of disease including non-communicable diseases and injuries;
- The difficulty in ensuring predictable and sustainable financing for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria services;
- Weak planning partly because of lack of institutional and human resource capacity at the national level;
- The health crisis reflected in terms of weak health systems, infrastructures, inadequate laboratory network for diagnosis of diseases, human resources in terms of numbers, mix of skills, motivation, and retention which have become major barriers to the implementation of disease control programmes in general and HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria programmes in particular;
- Inadequate access to essential medicines, preventative commodities and technologies across much of the continent; inadequate global supply of long-lasting insecticide treated nets (ITNs) and artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) and indoor residual spraying (IRS) with effective insecticides;
- Lack of adequate policies and legislation protecting the human rights of PLWHA and TB by most countries;
- Failure to take into account the link between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health;
- Stigma, discrimination and gender inequity, which result in inadequate application of the human rights of people infected or affected by HIV and AIDS and directly hampers their ability to access services;
- Poor or inadequate coordination of regional and national and international partnerships;
- Weak monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems and cumbersome M&E framework for the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, TB and ORID;
- Conflicts that result in mass displacement, violence, loss of livelihood and property as well as major breakdowns in essential services;
- Other cross-cutting issues such as ensuring good nutrition and food security, and internal and inter-country migration for reasons other than conflicts;
- Policy planning and programming for addressing health in national development frameworks by most countries which is reflected by inadequate health system development, low coverage and access to services for the three diseases;
- An increasing burden of disease and other development challenges.

IV. Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services by 2010

Rededication by African Heads of State and Government

SPECIAL SUMMIT (2006)

8. We still consider AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as a state of emergency on our continent. They are major threats to our national and continental socio-economic development, peace and security. We reaffirm the commitments contained in the 2000 and 2001 Abuja Declaration and Plans of Action, the MDGs and subsequent commitments.

9. After reviewing the progress made to date, the challenges confronted by individual and Member States, acknowledging progress made by Member States and the contributions of civil society and the international community, and bearing in mind that HIV, TB and malaria are preventable and treatable while malaria and TB are curable, we resolve to intensify the fight against HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria and to achieve the targets adopted by the Summit and other internationally agreed goals on health.

10. We therefore, individually and collectively rededicate ourselves and our countries to the following:

Leadership at the National, Regional and Continental Levels

- To intensify our practical leadership role at the national, regional, and continental levels to mobilize society as a whole to fight HIV and AIDS, TB, and malaria more effectively;

Resource Mobilization

- To mobilize local resources for sustainable and predictable financing, including the implementation of the Abuja Declaration Call for 15 per cent of the national budget to health and strengthen our collaboration with national and international partners to mobilize adequate financial resources to fight the epidemics; and ensure that financial resources mobilized to fight all the three epidemics can actually be spent by the removal of the medium-term expenditure ceilings on public spending imposed on African countries by the international financing institutions;
- To negotiate for debt cancellation and the availability of grants at the national and regional levels that would specifically be targeted at financing prevention, treatment, care and support of the three diseases;
- To undertake collective advocacy with multilateral and bilateral donors to end all conditionalities except normal fiduciary requirements;

Protection of Human Rights

- To continue promoting an enabling policy, legal and social environment that promotes human rights particularly for women, youth and children and ensures the protection of people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria and to reduce vulnerability and marginalization including conflict-affected and displaced persons, refugees and returnees;
- Adapting national legislation to take cognizance of HIV and AIDS and TB issues, specifically discrimination and stigmatization, and encourage Member States to ratify relevant international conventions such as the Convention on Discrimination and Employment;
- To enact or repeal laws and policies related to gender and human rights in order to align them with AU frameworks including the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and the AU Protocol on Women;

Poverty Reduction, Health and Development

SPECIAL SUMMIT (2006)

- To ensure the integration of HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria programmes into poverty reduction strategies and programmes and country programmes; and thus ensure access to adequate nutrition and food security by pursuing the realization of an integrated African food production, storage and distribution plan and other social protection measures including adequate social security schemes to address sustainability of treatment as well as treatment, care and support; ensuring community involvement and participation;

Strengthening Health Systems

- To strengthen health systems and building on existing structures (infrastructure, human resources, financing, supplies, etc.) for scaling up and accelerating universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria;
- To strengthen data management and surveillance;
- To meet WHO standards for doctors and nurses;

Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support

- To invest heavily in evidence-based prevention as the most cost-effective intervention with focus on young people, women, girls and other vulnerable groups;
- To ensure access to a comprehensive package of prevention interventions for the prevention of primary and secondary infections with HIV and AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (including post-exposure prophylaxis following sexual violence), TB and malaria, reduction of vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria;
- To ensure the promotion and integration of access to prevention, treatment, care and support in primary health care services, and in education institutions;
- To improve information, education and communication;
- To disseminate, correct, reader-friendly information on prevention, treatment, care and support on HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis;
- To ensure universal access to male and female condoms for all sexually active persons;
- To integrate HIV and AIDS issues into ongoing immunization programmes and sexual and reproductive health programmes, and conversely sexually and reproductive health issues into HIV and AIDS programmes;
- Awaken traditional values on abstinence but continually increase condom use;

Access to Affordable Medicines and Technologies

- To enact and utilize appropriate legislation and international trade regulations and flexibilities, to ensure the availability of medicines and commodities at affordable prices as well as technologies for the treatment, care and prevention of HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria including vaccines, medicines and anti-retrovirus therapy (ART);
- To promote regional bulk purchase and local production of generic medicines and other commodities;
- Support work on regional local production of generic ARV drugs;

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Research and Development

- To promote and support research and development of microbicides, vaccines, diagnostics and treatment for HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria, including traditional medicine;
- Monitoring of drug resistance in the treatment of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;
- Demographic and health surveys every five years;
- Research ethics including for HIV and AIDS;
- Conduct regular incidence surveys on HIV;

Implementation

- Enhance and support implementation of comprehensive strategic programmes at country and regional levels against HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria;
- Prevention of multi-drug resistant TB;
- Accelerate malaria control programmes with a goal to eliminate malaria using all effective strategies such as indoor residual spraying, insecticide treated bed nets, artemisinin combination therapy (ACTs) and intermittent presumptive therapy (IPT);
- Implement the Three-Ones (one Executing Authority, one Plan of Action and one Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (for HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria);

Partnerships

- To further develop and support comprehensive frameworks and mechanisms of well-coordinated partnerships, particularly public, private, civil society, regional and international including donors, to promote universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria;

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

- To strengthen in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders particularly civil society partners affected by the three diseases, planning, monitoring and evaluation and generation of information for quality, sustainability and accountability of programmes, and for advocacy;
- To ensure networking and sharing of best practices and submit progress reports regularly to appropriate organs of the AU;
- To undertake to strengthen implementation of the NEPAD Health Strategy to fight poverty and underdevelopment.

11. We request ministries of health, national AIDS councils or equivalent and ministries of finance and economic planning to coordinate the realization of a multisectoral and integrated approach to disease control, in collaboration with other sectors, including the involvement of the community in the planning and implementation.

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12. Finally, we commit ourselves to the implementation of the recommendations and action points enshrined in the in “Brazzaville Commitment on Scaling up Universal Access to HIV and AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support”; and to extend these to TB, malaria and other prevailing diseases.

Call to Civil Society and the Private Sector

13. Recognizing and commending the progress made by Member States, the efforts and achievements of the civil society and private sector;

We call upon the respective national, regional, continental and international partners including NGOs, and civil society, (including, youth, women, people with disability, religious organizations, trade unions, employers organizations, traditional health practitioners, traditional rulers, people living with HIV and AIDS and other groups) to:

- Intensify their efforts more than ever before for the fight against HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;
- In this connection, they should develop and implement well-coordinated and harmonized frameworks which will provide concrete results;
- Support the mobilization of additional resources for prevention, care and support and treatment-related activities;
- Facilitate through enhancing their monitoring role, the operationalization of commitments at all levels.

Call to Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

14. We call upon Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other regional groupings to:

- Intensify the implementation of inter-country and cross-border health initiatives;
- Coordinate inter-country efforts and provide support to Member States;
- Mobilize resources for HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria programmes in their respective regions;
- Report back to us through the AU Commission on the progress made in the implementation of this Call;
- Accelerate the prevention and control of malaria, learning from best practices on the continent with the aim of eliminating malaria in Africa using all available control strategies including indoor residual spraying, use of insecticide-treated nets, ACT combination therapy and intermittent preventive therapy.

Mandate the AU Commission and AU Organs

15. We request the AU Commission and the AU organs and programmes to:

- Effectively implement the AU Commission HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan and AWA Strategic Framework 2005—2007;
- Promote regional integration and collaboration in the areas of disease control;
- Ensure that HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria are catered for in the NEPAD Health Strategy;

SPECIAL SUMMIT (2006)

- Ensure that malaria prevention and control is accelerated with the goal to eliminate malaria in Africa by 2010 using all available control strategies;
- Coordinate in broad partnership with civil society and the private sector, the effective implementation of the Abuja Call and report annually to the AU Assembly.

16. We further request the Pan-African Parliament Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs to provide oversight and accountability for the implementation of the commitments made towards universal access and the implementation of the Abuja Declaration.

17. We also request the Peace and Security Council (PSC), and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the AU, the NEPAD Programme, other AU organs and national parliamentarians to play an effective advocacy role and provide necessary support to Member States in the fight against these diseases.

Call to the International Community

18. We solemnly call upon:

- Development partners to continue to work closely with Member States, the AU Commission and the RECs to ensure long-term, predictable financing commensurate with the burden of these diseases and to provide financial and technical support to our efforts in a coordinated, efficient and country and AU led manner;
- The United Nations agencies and other development partners to provide technical, material and financial support and to facilitate follow-up on the implementation of this Call;
- The development partners to mobilize additional and adequate resources on a long-term basis for the fight against HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;
- The international community to reaffirm its commitment to strengthening the partnership with Africa for the fight against HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and other major causes of morbidity and mortality.

Follow-up and Reporting

19. Recognizing and commending the lead role played by the Federal Government of Nigeria for the Abuja 2000, 2001 and 2006 commitments; we mandate H.E President Olusegun Obasanjo, Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to report the outcome of this Special Summit on HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria to the next ordinary AU Assembly, and to continue to lead in the follow-up on implementation of the Abuja Call.

20. Finally, we request consultative reviews at two years (2008) and five years (2010) on the status of implementation of the 2006 Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services by 2010; and of the MDGs.

**AFRICAN UNION SPECIAL SUMMIT OF
THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

AFRICA FERTILIZER SUMMIT

**Abuja, Nigeria
13 June 2006**

Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for the African Green Revolution

The New Partnership for Africa's Development has declared that the vision of economic development in Africa must be based on raising and sustaining higher rates of economic growth (7 per cent per year). To realize this vision, the African Heads of State and Government adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, which calls for a 6 per cent annual growth in agricultural production, as a framework for the restoration of agricultural growth, food security and rural development in Africa.

Africa's farmers face a variety of constraints including low productivity, limited access to new agricultural technologies and weak markets. Without adequate inputs, farmers often cannot meet the food needs of their own families, much less those of a rapidly growing population. To feed themselves and their countries, farmers will need to shift from low-yielding, extensive land practices to more intensive, higher-yielding practices, with increased use of improved seeds, fertilizers and irrigation.

A move toward reducing hunger on the continent must begin by addressing its severely depleted soils. Due to decades of soil nutrient mining, Africa's soils have become the poorest in the world. It is estimated that the continent loses the equivalent of over \$4 billion worth of soil nutrients per year, severely eroding its ability to feed itself. Yet farmers have neither access to nor can they afford the fertilizers needed to add life to their soils. And no region of the world has been able to expand agricultural growth rates, and thus tackle hunger, without increasing fertilizer use.

In Africa, use of fertilizer averages only eight kilograms per hectare. In short, Africa is trapped in a fertilizer crisis; this is only 10 per cent of the world average. Addressing Africa's fertilizer crisis therefore requires urgent and bold actions. Africa is ready for the Green Revolution. Today, African leaders have convened to show their strong and unanimous commitment to achieving the African Green Revolution by taking immediate actions to solve Africa's fertilizer crisis.

The African Union Ministers of Agriculture convened in Abuja on 12 June 2006 for the Africa Fertilizer Summit:

Recognizing that Africa needs a Green Revolution which is long overdue and yet constitutes the way of getting African farmers out of the poverty trap by achieving food security and the other relevant Millennium Development Goals;

Recognizing that fertilizer is crucial for achieving an African Green Revolution in the face of rapidly rising population and declining soil fertility;

Realizing that most farmers in Africa are poor, have virtually no access to fertilizer and that the poorest of them urgently need special attention;

Recognizing the urgent need for a strategic investment programme to increase the availability and use of fertilizer alongside with other inputs to usher in the Green Revolution on the African continent;

Declare fertilizer, from both inorganic and organic sources, a strategic commodity without borders; and

Resolve that the African Union Member States will accelerate the timely access of farmers to fertilizers:

1. Given the strategic importance of fertilizer in achieving the African Green Revolution to end hunger, the African Union Member States resolve to increase the level of use of fertilizer from the current average of 8 kilograms per hectare to an average of at least 50 kilograms per hectare by 2015;
2. By mid-2007, the African Union Member States and the Regional Economic Communities should take appropriate measures to reduce the cost of fertilizer procurement at national and regional levels especially

through the harmonization of policies and regulations to ensure duty and tax-free movement across regions, and the development of capacity for quality control. As an immediate measure, we recommend the elimination of taxes and tariffs on fertilizer and on fertilizer raw materials;

3. By mid-2007, the African governments must take concrete measures to improve farmers' access to fertilizers, by developing and scaling up input dealers' and community-based networks across rural areas. The private sector and development partners are hereby requested to support such actions;

4. By 2007, the African Union Member States must take concrete measures to specially address the fertilizer needs of farmers, especially women, and to develop and strengthen the capacity of youth, farmers' associations, civil society organizations, and the private sector;

5. With immediate effect, the African Union Member States must improve farmers' access to fertilizer, by granting, with the support of Africa's development partners, targeted subsidies in favor of the fertilizer sector, with special attention to poor farmers;

6. The African Union Member States should take immediate steps to accelerate investment in infrastructure, particularly transport, fiscal incentives, strengthening farmers' organizations, and other measures to improve output market incentives;

7. The African Union Member States should establish national financing facilities for input suppliers to accelerate access to credit at the local and national level, with specific attention to women;

8. The African Union Member States, hereby request the establishment of Regional Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution Facilities with the support of the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Regional Economic Communities and the regional development banks, through strategic public-private partnerships by the end of 2007;

9. Given the extensive fertilizer raw material resources in Africa and the fact that they are underutilized in many parts of the continent, the African Union Member States undertake to promote national/regional fertilizer production and intra-regional fertilizer trade to capture a bigger market and take advantage of economies of scale through appropriate measures such as tax incentives and infrastructure development. This should be supported by the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the regional development banks, the Regional Economic Communities, other development partners, and the private sector;

10. The African Union Member States should take specific action to improve farmer access to quality seeds, irrigation facilities, extension services, market information, and soil nutrient testing and mapping to facilitate effective and efficient use of inorganic and organic fertilizers, while paying attention to the environment;

11. The African Development Bank, with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, is called to establish, by 2007, an Africa Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism that will meet the financing requirements of the various actions agreed upon by the Summit. We, the African Union Member States, undertake to support the establishment of this facility and will pledge resources for its immediate operation;

12. The African Union Member States request the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development to set up a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this resolution. This should be done in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank. The African Union Commission should give a progress report to the African Heads of State at every sixth-monthly African Union Summit, starting in January 2007.

SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Banjul, Gambia
1 to 2 July 2006**

Assembly/AU/Dec.111 (VII)

**Decision on the New Financial Rules and Regulations of the Union
(Doc. EX.CL/250 (IX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report and the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. *Adopts* the new Financial Rules and Regulations of the African Union;
3. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary measures to implement scrupulously the provisions of the said rules and regulations.

Assembly/AU/Dec.112 (VII)

**Decision on the Moratorium on the Recognition of Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
(Doc. EX.CL/278 (IX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the First Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration held from 30 to 31 March 2006, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on the Rationalization of Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
2. *Requests* Member States, RECs and the United Nations system, as well as development partners to collaborate closely with the Commission in conducting the rationalization process;
3. *Decides* to suspend, until further notice, the recognition of new RECs with the exception of the following eight:
 - (i) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
 - (ii) Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA);
 - (iii) Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);
 - (iv) Southern African Development Community (SADC);
 - (v) Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD);
 - (vi) Arab Maghreb Union (AMU);
 - (vii) Economic Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); and
 - (viii) East African Community (EAC);
4. *Urges* the above-mentioned RECs to coordinate and harmonize their policies among themselves and with the Commission with a view to accelerating Africa's integration process.

Assembly/AU/Dec.113 (VII)

Decision on the Institutionalization of the Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration

(Doc. EX.CL/282 (IX))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report and the Declaration of the First Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 30 to 31 March 2006, on the Rationalization of Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
2. *Mandates* the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and RECs, to implement the road map for the rationalization process (quantification studies of the scenarios, seminars and workshops for the benefit of stakeholders) and submit a report to the Assembly in July 2007;
3. *Decides* to institutionalize the Conference of Ministers in charge of Integration which will meet once a year in ordinary session and in extraordinary session when necessary, pending rationalization of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs).

Assembly/AU/Dec.114 (VII)

**Decision on Africa's Common Position to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on AIDS
New York, 31 May to 2 June 2006
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Recalls* the 2001 Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases which was Africa's Common Position to the 2001 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on AIDS;
3. *Also recalls* the January 2006 Khartoum Decision (EX.CL/Dec.241 (VIII)), requesting the preparation of Africa's Common Position to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on AIDS aimed at reviewing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on AIDS;
4. *Welcomes* the Common Position which was Africa's contribution to the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS, and the related Brazzaville Commitment on Scaling Up towards Universal Access to HIV and AIDS prevention, Treatment, Care and Support in Africa by 2010;
5. *Also aware* of the complementary role played by partnerships with stakeholders at various levels, including people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS; and acknowledges the need for appropriate coordination of partnership and harmonization of programmes;
6. *Notes with concern* the funding gap for scaling up towards universal access to comprehensive and sustained services to fight HIV/AIDS;
7. *Committed* to the achievement of sustainable access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, through an integrated and multisectoral approach;
8. *Recognizes* the important role of civil society organizations and development partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

9. *Reaffirms* the 2001 Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, as well as subsequent commitments;
10. *Reiterates* its commitment to the global and African call for universal access to comprehensive services for HIV/AIDS control;
11. *Undertakes* to support the implementation of the commitment in Africa's Common Position and achieve the set targets by 2010 in close partnership with stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels;
12. *Calls upon* Member States to effectively implement the commitments in the Common Position through an integrated and multisectoral approach, aimed at attaining the targets specified in the Common Position;
13. *Also calls upon* development partners, through a well-coordinated and harmonized approach, to honour their mandates and/or pledges and make available the needed technical, material and financial support;
14. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Pan-African Parliament, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and development partners, to coordinate and follow up on the implementation of the Common Position and report annually to the Assembly;
15. *Also requests* the Commission to launch in collaboration with the AU Conference of Ministers of Health a renewed campaign on the eradication of malaria and to mobilize the necessary support and resource in that regard.

Assembly/AU/Dec.115 (VII)

**Decision on the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS,
Tuberculosis and Malaria (ATM) Services in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 4 May 2006, and the Abuja Call;
2. *Recalls* the 2000 Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll Back Malaria, and the 2001 Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, TB and Other Related Infectious Diseases;
3. *Welcomes* the Abuja + 5 review of the 2000/2001 Abuja Declarations and Plans of Action on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB and Other Related Infectious Diseases;
4. *Also welcomes* the outcome of the United Nations High-Level Meeting to review the 2001 Declaration of Commitment for the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria;
5. *Notes with satisfaction* the achievements made in the implementation of the 2000/1 commitments for the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria;
6. *Recognizing* the various obstacles and challenges faced in this regard;
7. *Aware* of the solidarity, support and encouragement by partners and stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels;

8. *Deeply concerned* that the collective burden of these diseases on Africa's socio-economic development is still increasing, in spite of registered successes;
9. *Endorses* the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (ATM) Services in Africa;
10. *Reaffirms* the 2000/2001 Abuja Declarations and Frameworks for Action, and subsequent commitments for the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;
11. *Re-declares* HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria collectively "as a State of Emergency in Africa";
12. *Undertakes* to lead and support the implementation of the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa through, among others, ensuring sustained local funding;
13. *Urges* Member States to further strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders and coordinate the realization of a multisectoral and integrated approach to disease control;
14. *Calls upon* parliamentarians and civil society organizations to play their role through a coordinated and harmonized approach;
15. *Also calls upon* development partners to provide sustained, well-coordinated and harmonized support, including fulfilling their commitment for adequate additional funding in global aid by 2010;
16. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the RECs, the Pan-African Parliament and development partners to coordinate the implementation of the Abuja Call and report annually to the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.116 (VII)

Decision on the Continental Framework for Harmonization of Approaches among Member States, and Integration of Policies on Human Rights and People Infected and Affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa (Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (VII))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Continental Framework;
2. *Recalls* the 2001 Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases which highlighted that stigma, silence and denial constituted a major barrier to an effective response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
3. *Also recalls* the request of the 2001 Abuja Summit that a Continental Forum be convened to design a Continental Framework for Harmonization of Approaches among Member States, and Integration of Policies on Human Rights and People Infected and Affected by HIV/AIDS;
4. *Recognizes* the importance of greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS at all levels of planning, implementing and monitoring HIV/AIDS control policies and programmes;
5. *Endorses* the decision by the 2006 AU Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis which adopted the Framework;

6. *Urges* Member States, using a multisectoral approach and in collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs) and development partners, to develop and/or implement appropriate frameworks at the national level, based on appropriate provisions in the Continental Framework;

7. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and development partners, to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Continental Framework and biennially submit a progress report to the ordinary session of the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.117 (VII)

**Decision on the Special Summit of the AU on Fertilizers
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Welcomes* the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for an African Green Revolution;
3. *Endorses* the Abuja Declaration;
4. *Congratulates* President Olusegun Obasanjo and the Government of Nigeria for initiating and hosting the Special Summit and demonstrating a strong commitment by pledging US\$ 10,000 000 to the establishment of an Africa Fertilizer Development Financial Mechanism that will be hosted at the African Development Bank (ADB);
5. *Urges* Member States to support the establishment of the Africa Fertilizer Development Financial Mechanism and encourages them to pledge and contribute resources for its immediate operation;
6. *Requests* the Commission and the New Partnership of Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and ADB to establish follow-up mechanisms for the implementation of the Abuja Declaration;
7. *Also requests* the Commission to report on progress made to the Executive Council biannually;
8. *Calls upon* Member States to ratify the Convention establishing the African Centre for Fertilizer Development (ACFD), and requests the Commission to strengthen the capacity of the Centre to discharge its mandate on fertilizer development.

Assembly/AU/Dec.118 (VII)

**Decision on the Draft Single Instrument on the Merger of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
and the Court of Justice of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/253 (IX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. *Requests* the Commission to convene a meeting of the ministers of justice to consider the draft Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights including the outstanding issues and make appropriate recommendations to the Council thereon in January 2007;

3. *Further requests* the Commission and the PRC to finalize the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Executive Council, the PRC and the Statute of the Commission, as well as the elaboration of the document on the establishment of the AU Commission on International Law and submit a report and draft texts thereon to the next session of the Executive Council in January 2007.

Assembly/AU/Dec.119 (VII)

**Decision on the WTO Negotiations
(Doc. EX.CL/283 (IX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Welcomes* the efforts by the ministers of trade and African negotiators in promoting the collective interests of Africa in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on the Doha Work Programme and requests them to remain vigilant and steadfast in the protection of these interests in the remaining stages of the negotiations;
3. *Expresses deep concern* on the limited progress made so far in the negotiations on issues of major interest to African countries;
4. *Emphasizes* that any failure to incorporate Africa's needs, interests and concerns within the outcome of the Doha Round will not only undermine Africa's already limited trade opportunities, but also erode the autonomy and ability to pursue trade policies that would serve key developmental objectives such as employment, industrialization, food security, rural development and sustained economic growth in Africa;
5. *Reiterates* that the outcome of the Doha Round will be judged by the extent to which it takes into account the needs, interests and concerns of our countries and calls on African negotiators and ministers of trade not to join any consensus that is contrary to the interests of Africa and inconsistent with the developmental mandate of the Doha Round;
6. *Endorses* all the recommendations contained in the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration on the Doha Work Programme (April 2006);
7. *Welcomes* the technical support provided by the Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to the African negotiators and requests them to continue to provide their technical support to Member States in the course of the negotiations;
8. *Requests also* the Heads of State who will take part in the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg, to seek the support and cooperation of Heads of State of the main member countries of the WTO for Africa's position so as to consolidate Africa's interest in the Doha Round.

Assembly/AU/Dec.120 (VII)

**Decision on the Activities of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on
the Peace and Security Situation in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (VII))**

The Assembly,

SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION (2006)

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Activities of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU and the peace and security situation in Africa and welcomes the crucial role played by the PSC in conflict prevention and resolution and the increased credibility acquired by this body in the accomplishment of the mandate entrusted to it;
2. *Commends* the progress achieved in the promotion of peace and security on the continent since the Khartoum Summit in January 2006. In this regard, the Executive Council expresses satisfaction at the deepening of the reconciliation process in the Comoros, with the holding of the April-May 2006 presidential elections, significant progress accomplished in the DRC, with the holding of the next general elections which will mark the end of the transition period, and the positive development registered in Mauritania with the holding of the Constitutional Referendum of 25 June 2006. The Council further expresses satisfaction at the positive development in Burundi, with the signing on 18 June 2006 of the Dar-es-Salaam Principles of Agreement with a view to achieving lasting peace, security, and stability in Burundi, and Sudan, with the signing on 5 May 2006 in Abuja of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in South Sudan as well as progress made in Côte d'Ivoire in spite of the delay in the implementation of the Road Map adopted by the Ivorian Government in February 2006;
3. *Urges* the parties concerned in other conflict situations to demonstrate a spirit of necessary compromise and to cooperate with efforts made to facilitate the search for negotiated and lasting solutions;
4. *Requests* the Peace and Security Council to continue efforts with particular emphasis on conflict prevention, by examining potential crisis situation before they degenerate into conflict, and the implementation of peacebuilding programmes in countries emerging from conflict on the basis of the Framework Document on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development endorsed by the Executive Council;
5. *Also requests* the Peace and Security Council to particularly ensure completion of the implementation of the Continental Peace and Security Framework, in particular, the establishment and the effective functioning of the Panel of the Wise as well as the establishment of the Continental Early-Warning System and the African Defence Force with a view to giving the continent the required structure and means to meet the challenge of peace and security in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.121 (VII)

Decision on the Report of the Ministerial Conference on the African Youth Charter (Doc. EX.CL/262 (IX))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Approves* the recommendations of the Executive Council;
3. *Adopts* the African Youth Charter as the legal framework of action for the African Youth;
4. *Invites* Member States to take appropriate steps for the signing and ratification of the Charter as well as for its popularization.

Assembly/AU/Dec.122 (VII)

Decision on Strengthening the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank Partnership

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the concerted efforts of the Chairperson of the Commission, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the President of the African Development Bank (ADB), to strengthen the cooperation among the three African leading development organizations to coordinate African development strategies and programmes;
2. *Emphasizes* the need for concerted efforts and support to fulfill the commitments within the United Nations family to address the special needs of African countries notwithstanding progress made towards achieving several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015;
3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Executive Secretary of ECA to strengthening and repositioning ECA to address Africa's development challenges;
4. *Reaffirms* the role of the Economic Commission for Africa as a key and necessary United Nations institution in Africa to assist and facilitate the work of the AU and the RECs in defining, articulating, advocating common positions on development policies and issues and goals, and in promoting and supporting social economic development in Africa;
5. *Stresses* the importance of effective management and coordination of United Nations activities in Africa, and in this regard, requests the United Nations Secretary-General to enhance the coordination role played by the Economic Commission for Africa and its Executive Secretary to strengthen United Nations system-wide coherence for effective support to the African Union and its programme NEPAD.

Assembly/AU/Dec.123 (VII)

**Decision on the Union Government
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Committee of Seven on an African Union Government towards the United States of Africa;
2. *Commends* the Committee of Seven and the Commission for the good work accomplished so far;
3. *Requests* the Commission to convene an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council as soon as possible to consider the report and propose an appropriate framework for action;
4. *Directs* that financial resources be provided for the implementation of this decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.124 (VII)

**Decision on the Integration of NEPAD into the Structure and the Processes of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC);
2. *Decides* to extend the deadline of three years set in Maputo in July 2003, to January 2007, that is, an additional six months;

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3. *Further decides* to set up a committee comprising the Chairman of the Union, the Chairperson of the Commission, the Chairman of the HSGIC and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Secretariat as well as the Vice-Chairpersons of HSGIC to:

- (i) Finalize the proposal on the integration of NEPAD into the AU structure and processes;
 - (ii) Conduct an evaluation of NEPAD at its current stage;
 - (iii) Propose a realignment of NEPAD to its original objectives, mandate and philosophy;
4. *Requests* the Committee to report to the Assembly at its next ordinary session in January 2007.

Assembly/AU/Dec.125 (VII)

**Decision on the African Common Position on Migration and Development
(Doc. EX.CL/277 (IX))**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
- 2. *Endorses* the African Common Position on Migration and Development;
- 3. *Urges* Member States to implement the Common Position;
- 4. *Requests* the Commission to convene as soon as possible the Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development to be held in Libya.

Assembly/AU/Dec.126 (VII)

**Decision on Strengthening Africa's Representation in the Bretton Woods Institutions
(Doc. Assembly/AU/Draft/Dec.18 (VII))**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Expresses grave concern* over Africa's poor representation in the decision-making organs of international institutions including the Bretton Woods Institutions;
- 2. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary measures to convene a special meeting of ministers in charge of relations with the Bretton Woods Institutions, with a view to elaborating a strategy that will enable Africa to remedy the situation. The meeting should be held preferably before the annual meetings of these institutions due to take place in Singapore in September 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.127 (VII)

**Decision on the Hissène Habré Case and the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (VII))**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Referring* to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.103 (VI) taken in Khartoum, Sudan, in January 2006;

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2. *Takes note* of the report presented by the Committee of Eminent African Jurists appointed in conformity with the above-mentioned decision;
3. *Observes* that, according to the terms of Article 3, subparagraph (h), and Article 4, subparagraphs (h) and (o), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the crimes of which Hissène Habré is accused fall within the competence of the African Union;
4. *Considering* that, in its present state, the African Union has no legal organ competent to try Hissène Habré;
5. *Considering* the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in this case, and the ratification by Senegal of the United Nations Convention against Torture;
 - (i) Decides to consider the Hissène Habré case as falling within the competence of the African Union;
 - (ii) Mandates the Republic of Senegal to prosecute and ensure that Hissène Habré is tried, on behalf of Africa, by a competent Senegalese court with guarantees for fair trial;
 - (iii) Further mandates the Chairperson of the Union, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission, to provide Senegal with the necessary assistance for the effective conduct of the trial;
 - (iv) Requests all the Member States to cooperate with the Government of Senegal on this matter;
 - (v) Calls upon the international community to avail its support to the Government of Senegal.

Assembly/AU/Dec.128 (VII)

Decision on the Holding of the First Africa-South America Summit

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the preparation for the First Africa-South America Summit;
2. *Recalls* its decision taken in Khartoum on the matter;
3. *Confirms* that the Summit will take place in Abuja, Nigeria, from 30 November to 1 December 2006;
4. *Urges* all Member States to take all necessary measures to participate massively in the Summit;
5. *Requests* the Government of Nigeria and the Commission to take all measures to ensure a successful Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.129 (VII)

**Decision on Revision of Symbols Taken over from the OAU and Creation of New Symbols
Which Distinguish the Union from the OAU — Flag of the Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report and proposals of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government to review the proposals and submit recommendations to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2007.

Assembly/AU/Dec.130 (VII)

**Decision on the African Continent as a Single United Entity
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Non-Assimilation of North Africa to the Middle East with regard to the domination, content and concept;
2. *Approves* the recommendation of the Commission;
3. *Mandates* the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of this decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.131 (VII)

**Decision on Other Items Proposed by Member States to the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission and;

On Holding of Bilateral Summits between Africa and Certain States and
the Establishment of a Mechanism to Participate in the Summits
2. *Endorses* in principle the recommendations of the Commission;
3. *Recognizes* the need for Member States to fulfil prior commitments and obligations associated with the China-Africa Summit of 2006;

On Non-Submission of Decisions taken by the African Union Summits to the
Usual Ratification Mechanisms of Member States of the Union

4. *Requests* Member States to give urgent priority to the ratification of treaties, protocols, charters and conventions adopted by the African Union including seeking to present them to the first sitting of their respective parliaments and/or other appropriate organs immediately after their adoption;
5. *Also requests* the Commission and the Pan-African Parliament to consider ways and means of accelerating this process and submit appropriate recommendations to the next ordinary session of the Assembly;

On the Creation of a Pan-African Stock Exchange with a Seat in Egypt or South Africa, the Status of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament, Marking of the Emancipation Day, Establishment of an Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, International Year of the Football, France-Africa Summit, Migration and Development, Ratification of the Treaty of Pelindaba

6. *Commends* the effort of the Commission to implement the decisions taken by the Assembly at its Sixth Ordinary Session with respect to issues brought to its attention by Member States;

7. *Approves* the recommendations and proposals of the Commission in various regards;
8. *Decides* that necessary budgetary support be provided to enable full implementation of the decisions in the areas identified;
9. *Decides also* that, in accordance with existing provisions, any proposal requiring fund for implementation, should be accompanied with the necessary budgetary provision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.132 (VII)

**Decision on the Proposal to Establish a Fund within the African Union to Alleviate the Increase in Oil Prices on the Poor African Countries and the Coordination of African Oil Policies
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (VII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report and proposal of the Commission;
2. *Recognizes* the need to alleviate the impact of the increase in oil prices on the poor African States;
3. *Requests* the First Meeting of Ministers responsible for Oil and Gas due to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in November 2006, to study the issue in depth and present a detailed strategy for cooperation and solidarity between oil producing and non-oil producing African countries with a view to:
 - (i) Mitigating the effects of high oil prices on the economies of poor non-oil producing African countries;
 - (ii) Maximizing oil revenues for oil producing African countries; and
 - (iii) Enhancing the quantity and quality of refined oil products in Africa in order to meet the development objectives of the continent;
4. *Further requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to provide a detailed report on the outcome of the Meeting of African Ministers responsible for Oil and Gas to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.133 (VII)

**Decision on Enacting Legislation to Govern and Ensure Respect for Social Life in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (VII) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proposal of the Great Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, concerning "Enacting Legislation to Govern and Ensure Respect for Social Life in Africa";
2. *Pays tribute* to the Great Jamahiriya for this initiative that reveals a future vision aiming at promoting family relations and ensuring legal protection of the rights and obligations of the two main parties, i.e. man and woman;
3. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to establish a panel of experts to carry out a study on the matter and report to the conference at its July 2007 ordinary session.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (VII)

Declaration on UNCTAD and UNIDO

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting during the Seventh Ordinary Session of our Assembly to deliberate upon key issues relating to the economic development of our continent,

Conscious of the critical importance of improved performance in the areas of trade and productive capacity-building for the effective integration of our countries into the global economy, the achievement of rapid and sustainable economic development, and the eradication of poverty among our peoples,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are the two major international organizations that were established to support developing countries in their efforts to mainstream trade into development and promote industrial development,

Convinced of the continued relevance of the mandates of UNCTAD and UNIDO in meeting Africa's challenge of economic development and poverty eradication in the current era of globalization,

Call for, in the context of the reform of the United Nations system, the strengthening of UNCTAD and UNIDO with a view to enhancing their capacity-building support to developing countries for the promotion of trade and industrialization.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (VII)

Declaration on the Situation in Somalia

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Seventh Ordinary Session, in Banjul, Gambia, deliberated extensively on the situation in Somalia and adopted the following Declaration:

The Assembly,

Conscious of the unfolding situation in Somalia, which threatens to unleash fresh confrontations with far-reaching consequences on the ongoing efforts at dialogue and the entire peace and reconciliation process in the country, as well as for the security and stability of the region as a whole,

Convinced that the time has come to turn over the page of the conflict in Somalia and to put in place effective institutions of State in that country,

Recalling its previous decisions on the situation in Somalia, as well as those of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) on Somalia,

1. *Reiterates* its full support to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), in particular, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), as the legitimate Government of Somalia and pledges its commitment to do everything possible to enable the TFIs to fulfill their national obligations and responsibilities in bringing about peace and security in Somalia and in ensuring the reconstruction of the country;
2. *Strongly appeals* to all concerned within Somalia to refrain from any action likely to aggravate the situation and to maintain the cessation of hostilities. The Assembly further appeals to all the stakeholders to seek the path of dialogue as the only way to resolve differences and to extend the necessary cooperation to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), in order to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation in the country. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the preliminary agreement reached between the TFG and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), following the meeting held in Khartoum, Sudan, on 22 June 2006, under the auspices of the League of

Arab States and urges the parties to uphold their commitments, bearing in mind the need for full compliance with the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC) of Somalia;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide the necessary assistance to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) to enable them to fully assume their responsibilities, with a view to achieving reconciliation and restoring lasting peace and stability, as well as undertaking the reconstruction of Somalia. The Assembly stresses that any initiative on Somalia should fully involve the AU and the IGAD, given their active implication in the Somalia peace and reconciliation process;

4. *Fully supports* the initiatives taken by IGAD, including the communiqué issued by the Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi on 13 June 2006, as well as the central role of IGAD in the efforts aimed at consolidating the outcomes of the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference;

5. *Requests* the Commission, working closely with the IGAD, to take all necessary steps for the early deployment of IGASOM in Somalia, to be subsequently taken over by the AU, as provided for in Decision PSC/PR/Comm. (XXIX) adopted by the Twenty-ninth meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 12 May 2005. In this regard, the Assembly requests the Security Council to provide an exemption to the arms embargo imposed on Somalia by resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992, to pave the way for the deployment of IGASOM and facilitate the re-establishment of the national security forces of Somalia. The Assembly welcomes the adoption by the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), on 14 June 2006, of the National Security and Stabilization Plan (NSSP) providing a framework for the overall pacification of the country;

6. *Endorses* the conclusions of the consultative meeting between the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the International Partners on the Somalia Reconciliation and Peace Process, convened by the Commission and IGAD, in Addis Ababa, on 19 June 2006;

7. *Invites* AU partners to provide the requisite political, financial and logistical support to facilitate the successful conclusion of the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, including the deployment of a peace support mission in the country. In this regard, the Assembly stresses the important role of the Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC) and welcomes the ongoing efforts to convene a donors' conference on Somalia;

8. *Appeals* to the international community to provide the required humanitarian assistance to the populations in Somalia, and calls on all parties in the country to respect international humanitarian law and to facilitate access to the populations in need, as well as the protection of humanitarian workers.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (VII)

Banjul Declaration on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Banjul, Gambia from 1 to 2 July 2006,

Noting the fact that this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter) by the Eighteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in June 1981 in Nairobi, Kenya, and the twentieth year since it entered into force in 1986,

Recalling the firm conviction of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity in their duty to protect human rights and freedoms and taking into account the importance traditionally attached to these rights and freedoms in Africa, against the backdrop of their efforts to achieve the total liberation of Africa, the peoples of which were still struggling for their dignity and genuine independence, undertaking to eliminate colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, Zionism and to dismantle aggressive foreign military bases and all forms of discrimination on the basis namely of race, ethnic group, color, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or other status,

Considering the contribution of the adoption of the African Charter to the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa,

Bearing in mind that today the wisdom of having taken this decision continues to demonstrate itself in view of the fact that the African Charter has provided a legal framework for the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights on our continent and development of the jurisprudence of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) attests to this achievement,

Also recalling the decisions of the African Union whereby we expressed the need for the ACHPR to be provided with adequate human, material and financial resources to enable it to effectively fulfill its mandate under the Charter,

Further recalling the decisions at our Assembly to review the operation and composition of the ACHPR with a view to strengthening its independence and operational integrity and ensuring appropriate gender representation,

Noting that the African Charter has contributed to the development of human rights norms on the continent, including the adoption of supplementary instruments such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Protocols on the establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and on the Rights of Women,

Recognizing that all Member States have ratified the African Charter which makes us all parties to the African Charter,

Expressing our appreciation to the ACHPR, which also commemorates its twentieth anniversary this year, for the laudable role it has played, in collaboration with its partners, particularly civil society organizations and national human rights institutions, in ensuring the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa, in accordance with the African Charter,

Cognizant of the fact that poverty and human rights violations are among the root causes of conflicts on our continent, and wishing to seize the opportunity of the occasion of this anniversary of the African Charter to re-dedicate ourselves to the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights on the continent,

1. *Express great satisfaction* at the positive contributions made by the African Charter towards the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa;
2. *Reiterate* our unflinching determination to promote and protect human and peoples' rights and all basic freedoms in Africa as well as our full support to the work of the ACHPR and all human rights treaty bodies established on the continent;
3. *Commit* ourselves to undertake the necessary measures to respect and guarantee the independence of the ACHPR, as well as to provide it with the necessary human and financial resources, in order to enable it to effectively discharge its functions;
4. *Urge* Member States to take the necessary steps to fulfill their obligations under the African Charter and other human rights instruments to which they are parties, in particular, the implementation of decisions and recommendations of human rights treaty bodies;
5. *Welcome* and express our full support to the newly established African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights whose role is to complement the ACHPR in its human rights protective mandate and commit ourselves to provide the necessary human and financial resources to allow the new Court to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently as well as to fully cooperate with and render all the necessary assistance to the Court;

6. *Take note* of the recent developments of the ongoing process of the merger of the Court of Justice of the African Union and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in order to rationalize our institutions, ensure cost effectiveness and avoid unnecessary duplications;

7. *Rededicate* ourselves to ensuring respect for human and peoples' rights as a prerequisite for the attainment of our common vision of a united and prosperous Africa, and reaffirm our confidence in the ACHPR.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (VII)

Tribute to Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting in the Seventh Ordinary Session of our Assembly, noting that the second term of office of our brother Kofi Annan as Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization is drawing to a close, pay special tribute to Mr. Kofi Annan who, as Secretary-General, for two consecutive mandates, has presided over the destiny of the world, a globalized world undergoing constant change in which challenges to be addressed formed the daily lot of his preoccupations. He has in these instances demonstrated outstanding competence in finding appropriate solutions to these various challenges.

We have noted with appreciation his initiatives in contributing to the economic and social development of our continent through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Also noteworthy is the daunting dossier he launched for the reform of the United Nations and particularly the Security Council. The reform of the Security Council, based on the principles of equity, justice and representation, should enable Africa to regain its rightful place in the concert of nations and above all to increase its influence in the world and in the decision-making bodies of the United Nations including the Security Council.

Mr. Kofi Annan, the illustrious son of Africa, has in his ten years at the helm of the United Nations, honoured our continent; held high the torch of justice and demonstrated self-abnegation and modesty that characterized his two mandates. He has honoured Africa in all corners of the world, and has been present in the battlefields and in conflict areas where his interventions were exemplary and crucial.

We, therefore avail ourselves of this opportunity to pay solemn and well-deserved tribute to Mr. Kofi Annan and express all our pride in him, an illustrious son of the continent, a citizen of the world and indeed a great man in the service of the entire humanity.

EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
29 to 30 January 2007**

Assembly/AU/Dec.134 (VIII)

**Decision on Climate Change and Development in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on Climate Change and Development in Africa;
2. *Expresses grave concern* on the vulnerability of Africa's socio-economic and productive systems to climate change and variability and to the continent's low mitigation and response capacities;
3. *Commends* the development partners for their collaboration in the elaboration of a plan entitled "Climate Information for Development Needs: An Action Plan for Africa – Report and Implementation Strategy";
4. *Endorses* the above-mentioned plan;
5. *Urges* Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in collaboration with the private sector, civil society and development partners to integrate climate change considerations into development strategies and programmes at national and regional levels;
6. *Calls upon* Africa's cooperation partners to support the Member States and Regional Economic Communities to effectively integrate adaptation and mitigation measures into their development plans and to implement them;
7. *Requests* the Commission, the Economic Commission for African, and the African Development Bank to develop and implement the Plan on Climate Change and Development in Africa and to report on progress biennially to the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.135 (VIII)

**Decision on the Summit on Food Security in Africa, Abuja, Nigeria
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Summit on Food Security in Africa;
2. *Welcomes* the Abuja Declaration on Food Security;
3. *Appreciates* the efforts and support by President Olusegun Obasanjo and the Government of Nigeria for initiating and hosting the Special Summit on Food Security that afforded Member States the opportunity to collectively reassess their agricultural development strategies with a view to focusing attention on a few key actions that can best move Africa forward in eradicating hunger by 2030;
4. *Endorses* the Abuja Declaration on Food Security and adopts the recommendations of the African Agriculture Ministers Conference on revitalization of African interregional trade on agricultural commodities and infrastructure for water control held in Libreville, Gabon;
5. *Reaffirms* its commitment to allocate at least 10 per cent of the national budgets to agriculture and determined to reduce the continent's annual expenditure of US\$ 20 billion on agricultural imports;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to accelerate the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) by focusing efforts and resources on selected areas that could yield quick and sustainable results at the national, regional and continental levels;
7. *Endorses* the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP) as a strategic framework for the development of the seed sector in Africa and requests the AU Commission to establish the necessary institutional arrangements to coordinate the effective implementation of the ASBP at the national, regional and continental levels;
8. *Urges* Member States to increase intra-African trade by promoting and protecting rice, maize, legumes, cotton, oil palm, beef, dairy, poultry and fisheries products as strategic commodities for Africa and take urgent measures to accelerate development of the strategic commodities by fast tracking the implementation of trade arrangements adopted in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) through lowering tariff barriers and elimination of non-tariff barriers both technical and non-technical by 2010;
9. *Encourages* Member States to promote public sector investment in agriculture-related infrastructure, particularly regarding water, irrigation, electricity and roads through public-private partnership and calls upon Africa based development banks and financial institutions to improve access to soft loans, small loans and grants;
10. *Calls upon* Member States to initiate the implementation of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy and the NEPAD African Nutrition Initiative by 2008 with focus on long-term household food security and ending child hunger and undernutrition;
11. *Calls upon* the Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to establish a system for selecting and prioritizing key AU and NEPAD Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) related to previous summit commitments;
12. *Further urges* Member States to take ownership of important commitments by way of formalizing and institutionalizing them, including making adequate resources available.

Assembly/AU/Dec.136 (VIII)

Decision on the Avian Flu

The Assembly,

1. *Acknowledges* the efforts by Member States and the commitment made by the development partners as well as the financial and material contributions provided to prevent the spread of the avian influenza virus (H5N1) in affected African countries;
2. *Welcomes* the Report of the Fourth International Conference on Avian Influenza held in Bamako, Mali, in December 2006 and the preparation of integrated national plans for the control of avian influenza on the continent;
3. *Urges* Member States to allocate additional financial resources to the implementation of their integrated national action plans;
4. *Appeals* to the development partners to support Member States in the implementation of the African regional strategy on the control and eradication of the avian flu;
5. *Requests* Member States to strengthen their veterinary and public health delivery systems through the setting up of efficient epidemic-surveillance networks that meet standards defined by relevant international organizations (OIE/WHO);

6. *Further requests* the Commission, in collaboration with development partners, to coordinate resource mobilization efforts to fund avian influenza control measures at the regional level and in countries experiencing financial difficulties.

Assembly/AU/Dec.137 (VIII)

Decision on the Implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Launching of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative;
2. *Endorses* the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative;
3. *Calls upon* the Commission to fast track implementation of the Green Wall Initiative through development of a master plan in collaboration with the concerned Member States, Regional Economic Communities, private sector, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations;
4. *Calls upon* Member States and Regional Economic Communities to put in place necessary institutional arrangements that are required at national, subregional and regional levels to guide the programme implementation process;
5. *Mandates* the Commission to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Initiative by Member States and Regional Economic Communities;
6. *Calls upon* the development partners to support the affected Member States, RECs and the Commission to ensure the effective implementation of the Initiative at national, regional and continental levels.

Assembly/AU/Dec.138 (VIII)

Decision on the Establishment of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the need to establish a single Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization;
2. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and in coordination with the African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO) and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) to submit to it the texts relevant to the establishment of a single Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
3. *Also requests* the Commission to submit a report on the establishment of this institution at the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2007;
4. *Invites* Member States, WIPO as well as development organizations and partners to lend support for the implementation of this decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.139 (VIII)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Education Fund
(Doc. EX.CL/314 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Report of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF II) held in Maputo, Mozambique, in September 2006;
2. *Commends* the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union for the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
3. *Authorizes* the establishment of an African Education Fund;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Fund;
5. *Appeals* to African and international agencies, as well as civil society and development partners to support the Plan of Action;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in consultation with the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and development partners, to:
 - (a) Facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
 - (b) Secure funding to strengthen the Education Department in the Commission and at the RECs through capacity-building and strategic recruitment;
 - (c) Investigate the nature and modalities, and set in motion the process of establishing the African Education Fund;
 - (d) Expedite the formalization of working relations between the Commission and expert agencies in support of the Plan of Action.

Assembly/AU/Dec.140 (VIII)

**Decision on Enhancing United Nations-African Union Cooperation:
Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the signing by the United Nations and the African Union of a Declaration entitled “Enhancing United Nations-African Union Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union”;
2. *Expresses satisfaction* at the positive understanding between the two organizations to strengthen the strategic priorities and political aspects of the United Nations-African Union relationship within the Framework of the ten-year programme of cooperation, based on African Union priorities and United Nations comparative advantage. In this regard, welcomes the ECA Business Plan for the period 2007—2009, which constitutes a first concrete step towards meeting the priorities of the African Union;
3. *Reiterates* its commitment to the 2005 World Summit Outcome and undertakes to support the implementation of this collaborative framework in close partnership with stakeholders at national, regional and international levels;

4. *Requests* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission in close collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to coordinate and follow up on the implementation of this Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union;
5. *Also requests* the United Nations Secretary-General to continue efforts aimed at strengthening United Nations-African Union cooperation for the benefit of the African Union as well as its Member States and their Regional Economic Communities.

Assembly/AU/Dec.141 (VIII)

**Decision on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (VIII) Add.6)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council on 29 June 2006;
2. *Reaffirms* Resolution AHG/Res.16 (I) of 1964 in which all Member States of the Organization of African Unity pledged to respect borders existing on their achievement of national independence;
3. *Expresses concern* at the political, economic, social and constitutional implications of the Declaration on the African continent;
4. *Reaffirms* the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 concerning the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;
5. *Welcomes* the efforts by the international community to address the rights of indigenous peoples and expresses full support and solidarity with indigenous peoples of the world;
6. *Welcomes also* the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to defer consideration and action on the Declaration to allow for further consultations on the numerous matters of fundamental political and constitutional concern, among the most important of which are questions about:
 - (a) The definition of indigenous peoples;
 - (b) Self-determination;
 - (c) Ownership of land and resources;
 - (d) Establishment of distinct political and economic institutions; and
 - (e) National and territorial integrity;
7. *Affirms* that the vast majority of the peoples of Africa are indigenous to the African continent;
8. *Decides* to maintain a united position in the negotiations on amending the Declaration and constructively work alongside other Member States of the United Nations in finding solutions to the concerns of African States;
9. *Mandates* the African Group at the United Nations in New York to continue to ensure that Africa's interests in this matter are safeguarded;
10. *Also decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.142 (VIII)

Decision on Somalia

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its previous decisions and declarations concerning the situation in Somalia, particularly its decision adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, on 31 January 2005, and its declaration adopted in Banjul, Gambia, on 2 July 2006;
2. *Recalls also* all the relevant decisions of the Peace and Security Council on Somalia and Resolution 1725 (2006) of the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted on 6 December 2006;
3. *Takes note* of the communiqué issued by the International Contact Group on Somalia which met in Nairobi, Kenya, on 5 January 2007;
4. *Notes with satisfaction* the recent positive developments in Somalia which have resulted from Ethiopia's intervention upon the invitation of the legitimate Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, and which has created unprecedented opportunity for lasting peace in the country;
5. *Welcomes* the decision of Ethiopia to withdraw its troops from Somalia, and takes note of the fact that Ethiopia has already started withdrawing its troops;
6. *Calls for* an immediate deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in accordance with the decision of the Sixty-ninth meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), and calls on Member States to contribute troops in order to avoid a security vacuum following the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia;
7. *Urges* the international community to provide financial, logistical and technical support for the deployment of AMISOM;
8. *Expresses concern* that many of the pledges by the donor community have not been honoured and calls upon the international community to disburse the funds without delay and without political preconditions;
9. *Also calls on* the Member States and the AU partners to support the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) of Somalia to enable them to establish their authority in the country;
10. *Expresses its support* to the initiative of the TFG for an inclusive inter-Somali dialogue involving all stakeholders including political leaders, clan leaders, religious leaders, and representatives of the women, youth, business community and the civil society which would ensure national reconciliation in Somalia;
11. *Appeals* to the international community to provide all the necessary support for post-conflict reconstruction in Somalia, and urges the United Nations to lead this endeavour which is critical for sustainable peace in the country.

Assembly/AU/Dec.143 (VIII)

**Decision on the Reports on the Implementation of the Au Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/306 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the reports and presentation on the implementation of the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA);
2. *Congratulates* Member States that have so far submitted their baseline reports, namely: Algeria, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Namibia, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia;
3. *Appeals* to Member States that are yet to submit their baseline reports to urgently submit these reports, for the AU to have a base upon which to build on the progress made;
4. *Calls on* Member States to implement all the commitments made in the SDGEA;
5. *Also calls upon* the Commission to assist Member States in the process of reporting on the Solemn Declaration, and take necessary steps in this direction;
6. *Requests* Member States to adopt the content of the SDGEA as the framework for the acceleration of the implementation of the existing instruments and platform for gender equality at the national level, in order to maximize the implementation of the SDGEA;
7. *Invites* the RECs, development partners, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to work closely with the AU and Member States in the implementation of the Solemn Declaration and report on progress made in this endeavour;
8. *Requests* the Commission to urgently organize a continental conference on Economic Empowerment of African Women in order to articulate strategies to elevate the economic status of African women, including the establishment of the African Trust Fund for Women;
9. *Also appeals* to Member States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify/accede to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.144 (VIII)

Decision on the Activity Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for 2006

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Activity Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for 2006;
2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the progress so far made regarding the commencement of the activities of the Court;
3. *Requests* the PRC Subcommittee on Structures and the Advisory Subcommittee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to consider as soon as possible the draft structure of the Registry of the Court and the proposed remuneration and benefits of the Court and submit appropriate recommendations thereon to the PRC;
4. *Decides* that the recommendations of the PRC be applied with immediate effect, temporarily pending final decision by the policy organs at their next ordinary session scheduled for July 2007;
5. *Requests* the Commission, in close collaboration with the African Court, to actively engaged the host country, the Republic of Tanzania, with a view to securing the swift installation of the Court at its headquarters in Arusha;

6. *Requests* the Commission to submit a report on the implementation of this decision to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in July 2007.

Assembly/AU/Dec.145 (VIII)

**Decision on the Activities of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the activities of the Peace and Security Council and on the status of peace and security in Africa;

2. *Expresses satisfaction* at the progress made in the search for peace and stability in Africa. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes:

(a) The successful conclusion of the transition process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which ushered in a new political order;

(b) The signing of the cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army;

(c) The signing, on 14 October 2006, of a Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Eastern Front;

(d) The signing on 7 September 2006, of a Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Burundi and Palipehutu/FNL; and

(e) The pursuit of the transition process in Mauritania;

3. *Encourages* all the parties involved in these processes to persevere in their efforts and requests the Commission to continue providing them with the necessary support;

4. *Also expresses satisfaction* at the progress made in the post-conflict reconstruction process in Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone and urgently appeals to the Member States and the international community to render all the necessary assistance to the countries emerging from conflicts to enable them to consolidate peace and stability;

5. *Takes note* of the efforts deployed by the Commission to implement the Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and encourages it to intensify these efforts, including through the fielding of multidisciplinary missions of experts to evaluate the situation on the ground and make recommendations on the assistance that could be provided by Member States and the Commission;

6. *Takes note* of the progress achieved in the implementation of the conclusions of the high-level consultation on Darfur, held in Addis Ababa, on 15 November 2006, and endorsed by both the Peace and Security Council at its meeting held in Abuja, on 30 November 2006, and the United Nations Security Council, on 19 December 2006; and welcomes the fact that Sudan has approved both the conclusions of the high-level consultation and the decision of the Peace and Security Council;

7. *Encourages* the Commission, the United Nations Secretariat and the Government of Sudan to accelerate the process of implementation of the conclusions of the high-level consultation based on the conclusions reached by the various meetings held between the Commission and the United Nations Secretariat, to enable the United

Nations, as a matter of urgency, to take all the necessary measures for the funding of the peace support operation in Darfur through assessed contributions;

8. *Urges* the African members of the Security Council to take the required initiatives for the early adoption, by the United Nations, of the necessary decisions on the funding of the peace support operation in Darfur through assessed contributions;

9. *Expresses satisfaction* at the ongoing efforts by the African Union and the United Nations to broaden the support base of the Darfur Peace Agreement and facilitate its implementation and calls on all parties to refrain from any hostility and to commit themselves to an effective ceasefire on the ground;

10. *Welcomes* the recent developments in Somalia, particularly the return of the Transitional Federal Government to Mogadishu and stresses that there is a unique and unprecedented opportunity to be seized upon by the people of Somalia, their leaders and the entire international community, in order to re-establish government structures in Somalia and promoting lasting peace and reconciliation;

11. *Underscores* the need for the Transitional Federal Institutions to intensify their efforts for an all-inclusive and genuine dialogue and reconciliation within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter and urges Member States and the partners, including the European Union and the international community at large, to expeditiously provide the necessary assistance to facilitate the rapid deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM);

12. *Urges* the Ivorian parties, with the support of ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations and the international community, to redouble efforts to bring the peace process to its logical conclusion on the basis of Resolution 1721, adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 1 November 2006, through direct dialogue as proposed by President Laurent Gbagbo and supported by ECOWAS and the African Union;

13. *Supports* ECOWAS efforts aimed at helping the Guinean parties to find a negotiated and peaceful solution to the crisis facing the country, and calls upon the Commission to take all the necessary initiatives in this regard;

14. *Urges* the Government of Sudan and the SPLM to do their utmost to ensure the scrupulous and speedy implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in order to achieve the ultimate objective that they have set for themselves;

15. *Expresses its grave concern* at the tension in the relations between Chad and Sudan and requests the Peace and Security Council to urgently consider this matter;

16. *Stresses* the urgent need for the Comorian parties to take all the necessary steps to consolidate the reconciliation process in their country, particularly by overcoming the current difficulties on the constitutional powers that should devolve on each of the Comorian entities. The Assembly requests the Peace and Security Council to consider the possibility of deploying a mission that would contribute to the creation of a conducive security environment during the forthcoming elections in the islands, scheduled to take place in March–April 2007, and undertake other related tasks;

17. *Calls upon* the Peace and Security Council to pursue its efforts, with special emphasis on conflict prevention, by examining potential conflict situations before they degenerate into conflicts;

18. *Encourages* the Commission to pursue its efforts towards the structural prevention of conflicts, including through the speedy implementation of the African Union border programme;

19. *Welcomes* the progress made in the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, including the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force and the Panel of the Wise and encourages the Peace and Security Council to ensure the successful completion of this process;

20. *Recalls* that the maintenance of international peace and security is the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council and calls upon the United Nations to examine, within the context of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the possibility of funding, through assessed contributions, peacekeeping operations undertaken by the African Union or under its authority and with the consent of the United Nations. Requests Member States working together with the Commission, to undertake the necessary follow-up in this regard and further requests the Commission to submit a report thereon at the next ordinary session of the Executive Council scheduled in July 2007.

Assembly/AU/Dec.146 (VIII)

**Decision on the Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Union, the Executive Council and the Permanent Representatives Committee, and the Statute of the Commission
(Doc. EX.CL/298 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Union, the Executive Council and the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Statute of the Commission;
2. *Further takes note* of the recommendations by the Executive Council for the Assembly to adopt the amendments;
3. *Adopts* the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Union and the Statute of the Commission.

Assembly/AU/Dec.147 (VIII)

**Decision on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
(Doc. EX.CL/301 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
2. *Reiterates* the importance of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in the consolidation of commitments collectively taken by Member States to promote democracy and good governance on the continent;
3. *Adopts* the Charter, which is a major step towards the realization of the democratic agenda of the Union;
4. *Invites* Member States to take the necessary measures, as soon as possible, to sign and ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.¹

Assembly/AU/Dec.148 (VIII)

**Decision on the First African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Hydrocarbons (Oil And Gas)
(Doc. EX.CL/311 (X))**

The Assembly,

¹ Reservation entered by the Arab Republic of Egypt.

EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION (2007)

1. *Takes note* of Executive Council recommendations on the First Conference of African Union Ministers Responsible for Hydrocarbons (Oil and Gas) held in Cairo, Egypt, in December 2006;
2. *Adopts* the Cairo Declaration and Plan of Action on African Cooperation and Solidarity in the area of hydrocarbons;
3. *Urges* Member States to support the establishment of the African Petroleum Fund;
4. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (ADB) and other development partners, to implement the measures contained in the Cairo Declaration and Plan of Action.

Assembly/AU/Dec.149 (VIII)

**Decision on the Election of Five Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/326 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Approves* the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Congratulates* the following Members of the Peace and Security Council elected for a three-year term as of March 2007:
 - (1) Gabon (Central);
 - (2) Ethiopia (East);
 - (3) Algeria (North);
 - (4) Angola (South);
 - (5) Nigeria (West).

Assembly/AU/Dec.150 (VIII)

Decision on the Chairmanship of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Appoints* unanimously the Republic of Ghana to the Chairmanship of the African Union for 2007 in honour of the fiftieth anniversary of Ghana's independence and in recognition of the country's contribution to Africa's unity and independence;
2. *Decides* that, in conformity with the principle of rotation, the Chairmanship for 2008 shall revert to the East African Region.

Assembly/AU/Dec.151 (VIII)

Decision on the Flag of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government on the Union Government relating to the Flag of the African Union;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.129 (VII) taken at its Seventh Ordinary Session in Banjul;
3. *Decides* to launch a competition for the selection of a new flag for the African Union;
4. *Requests* the Commission to take all the necessary measures to organize the competition with the following agreed orientations:
 - The background of the flag should be of green colour to symbolize Africa's hope;
 - Member States should be represented by stars on the flag;
5. *Decides* that the design proposed by the Leader of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya should be taken as one of the entries for the competition;
6. *Requests* the Commission to submit the outcome of the selection to the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2007.

Assembly/AU/Dec.152 (VIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of the Members of the Panel of the Wise
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the establishment of the Panel of the Wise, as provided for by Article 11 of the Protocol relating to the Peace and Security Council (PSC);
2. *Decides*, as proposed by the Chairperson of the Commission and in conformity with Article 11, paragraph 2, of the PSC Protocol, to appoint, for a period of three years, the following African personalities as members of the Panel of the Wise:
 - (a) Salim Ahmed Salim, former Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (East Africa);
 - (b) Brigalia Bam, Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (Southern Africa);
 - (c) Ahmed Ben Bella, former President of Algeria (North Africa);
 - (d) Elisabeth K. Pognon, President of the Constitutional Court of Benin (West Africa); and
 - (e) Miguel Trovoadá, former President of Sao Tomé and Príncipe (Central Africa);
3. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary steps for the speedy operationalization of the Panel of the Wise, including the finalization of the modalities for the functioning of the Panel and the elaboration of a work programmes.

Assembly/AU/Dec.153 (VIII)

Decision on the Integration of NEPAD into African Union Structures and Processes

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report;
2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Committee set up in Banjul on the integration of NEPAD into the African Union structures and processes until the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2007, to enable the Committee to finalize its proposals on the integration of NEPAD as requested in the Banjul Decision;
3. *Endorses* the proposal for a brainstorming session to take place in Algiers, Algeria, before the end of March 2007 to elaborate a road map for the integration process, including precise steps, stages and phases;
4. *Further endorses* the proposal for a preparatory meeting in Nigeria involving the Chairperson of the HSI GC, the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Executive Head of NEPAD and their respective technical teams to determine the issues to be discussed at the Algiers brainstorming exercise and the agenda and programme of the meeting;
5. *Requests* the Committee to use these inputs and finalize the proposals for the integration of NEPAD into the AU structures and processes and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly;
6. *Further requests* the Commission to take all necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of this work programme.

Assembly/AU/Dec.154 (VIII)

Decision on the Budget of the African Union for 2007

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.340 (X) and the recommendations contained therein adjusted to include the following:
 - (a) US\$ 6,406,959 for the Pan-African Parliament; and
 - (b) US\$ 2,373,750 for the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;
2. *Adopts* the budget of the African Union for the year 2007 amounting to US\$ 132,988,152:
 - (a) A total amount of US\$ 96,711,152 to be assessed to Member States on the basis of the approved scale of assessment;
 - (b) US\$ 36,277,000 earmarked for specific programmes secured from partners;
3. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Commission in mobilizing resources from partners and expresses its appreciation for their support and collaboration to the African Union.²

Assembly/AU/Dec.155 (VIII)

Decision on the Report of the Committee of Ten on the Reform of the United Nations

The Assembly,

² Reservation entered by the Arab Republic of Egypt.

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Committee of Ten on the Reform of the United Nations which met on 28 January 2007;
2. *Further takes note* of the fact that no new development has taken place to affect the Common African Position on the Reform of the United Nations as enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;
3. *Requests* the Committee of Ten on the United Nations Reform to continue consultations with a view to promote and secure support for the Common African Position as mandated by the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Khartoum, Sudan, in January 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.156 (VIII)

**Decision on the Report of the Ninth Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council
on the Proposals for the Union Government
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Ninth Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council on the Proposals for the Union Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2006;
2. *Reiterates* that the ultimate objective of the African Union is the political and economic integration of the continent leading to the creation of the United States of Africa;
3. *Decides* to devote the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Accra, Ghana, in July 2007 to the theme: "Grand Debate on the Union Government";
4. *Further decides* that all other agenda items shall, in principle, be transferred to the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled in January 2008 with the exception of the election of the members of the Commission;
5. *Requests* Member States to carry out the necessary national consultations within their countries;
6. *Also requests* the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to undertake regional and continental consultations respectively;
7. *Endorses* the proposal of the Executive Council, as part of this process, to hold a retreat of ministers of foreign affairs to reflect on the state of the Union to be followed by an extraordinary session of the Executive Council and welcomes with satisfaction the offer by the Government of South Africa to host such meetings.

Assembly/AU/Dec.157 (VIII)

Decision on the Trial of Mr. Hissène Habré and the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.3 (VII) adopted in Banjul, Gambia, on 2 July 2006;
2. *Takes note* of the Interim Report presented by Senegal on the issue;
3. *Commends* Senegal for the efforts it has already deployed to speed up the implementation of the Banjul Decision and encourages it to pursue its initiatives to accomplish the mandate entrusted to it;

4. *Invites* Senegal to avail itself of the experience and contribution of the jurisdictions and judges of the continent for the organization of the trial;
5. *Appeals* to Member States, the international partners and the entire international community to mobilize all the resources, especially financial resources, required for the preparation and smooth conduct of the trial;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in consultation with the Government of the Republic of Senegal, to follow up on the implementation of this decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.158 (VIII)

**Decision on the Transformation of the All-Africa Ministerial Conference on
Decentralization and Local Development into a Structure of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (VIII) Add. 5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Transformation of the All-Africa Conference on Decentralization and Local Development into a structure of the African Union;
2. *Underscores* the role of decentralization policies in the development of nations;
3. *Endorses* the proposals of the Executive Council on the issue;
4. *Decides* to include the All-Africa Conference on Decentralization and Local Development in the restructuring of different technical committees of the African Union;
5. *Mandates* the Commission to take measures for the implementation of this decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.159 (VIII)

**Decision on the Africa-South America Summit
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (VIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Africa-South America Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 26 to 30 November 2006;
2. *Congratulates* the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the successful organization and hosting of the Summit;
3. *Approves* the proposal for further consultations with the Presidents of Brazil and Venezuela, and for a follow-up review meeting in Venezuela in March 2007 to consolidate the outcomes of the Abuja Summit;
4. *Requests* the Commission to take all necessary steps to support this process including a preparatory mission to liaise with the host of the review meeting;
5. *Further requests* the Commission to ensure that Member States are kept apprised of developments in this regard.

Assembly/AU/Dec.160 (VIII)

Decision on the Africa-China Forum on Cooperation (FOCAC)

(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (VIII))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Africa-China Forum on Cooperation;
2. *Commends* the People's Republic of China for hosting the Forum;
3. *Welcomes* the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Plan of Action, 2007-2009 and urges the faithful delivery on its commitments;
4. *Decides* that the Commission should play a coordinating role in the preparation, conduct and follow-up of all FOCAC Summits;
5. *Expresses appreciation* to Ethiopia for its contributions as Co-Chair in the period leading up to the recent FOCAC Summit;
6. *Congratulates* Egypt on the decision that it would host the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC process.

Assembly/AU/Dec.161 (VIII)

**Decision on the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology
(Doc. EX.CL/315 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology;
2. *Welcomes and supports* the Declaration of 2007 as the launching year of building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa;
3. *Strongly urges* Member States to promote Africa's Research and Development (R&D) and develop innovation strategies for wealth creation and economic development by allocating at least 1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) of national economies by 2010 as agreed by Khartoum Decision (EX.CL/Dec.254 (VIII));
4. *Also supports* the establishment of a Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
5. *Endorses* the need for South-South and North-South cooperation in science, technology and innovation and to enhance its role in international partnerships.

Assembly/AU/Dec.162 (VIII)

**Decision on the Report of the Ministerial Follow-up Meeting of the Twenty-third Africa-France Summit
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (VIII) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Ministerial Follow-up Meeting of the Twenty-third Conference of Heads of State and Government of Africa and France held in Bamako, Republic of Mali, on 16 January 2007;

2. *Welcomes* the pertinent recommendations of the Ministerial Follow-up Meeting aimed at fulfilling the expectations of the African youth, rekindling their hopes and enabling them to actively contribute to Africa's development;
3. *Takes note* of the Twenty-fourth Conference of Heads of State and Government of Africa and France to be held under the theme: "Africa and the Global Balance";
4. *Requests* the Commission to submit a report on the implementation of the Decision EX.CL/Dec.273 (VIII) adopted by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Khartoum, Sudan, in January 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.163 (VIII)

Decision on the Candidature of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the Presidency of the Sixty-fourth Session of the United Nations General Assembly In 2009

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the candidature of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the Presidency of the sixty-fourth Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2009;
2. *Approves and invites* Member States to support this candidature.

Assembly/AU/Dec.164 (VIII)

Decision on the Venue and Date of the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the offer by the Republic of Ghana to host the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Accra, in July 2007;
2. *Decides* that the Summit and the preparatory meetings relating thereto will be held in Accra, Ghana, on the following dates:

25 to 26 June 2007: Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee;

28 to 29 June 2007: Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;

1 to 3 July 2007: Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

Motion of Appreciation to H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Assembly,

1. *Conscious* of the tremendous efforts deployed by President Obasanjo in the conduct of the affairs of his country, and at the helm of the African Union, including in his capacity as Chairman during the period July 2004 to January 2006;
2. *Pays special tribute* to H.E. President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, for his dynamic leadership in the service of his country, subregion and the continent as a whole;

3. *Further pays tribute* to President Obasanjo for his contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the African Union, in particular his active role in the conduct of the work of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government on the “Union Government: towards the Establishment of the United States of Africa”;
4. *Wishes* President Obasanjo success in all his future endeavours.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (VIII)

**Declaration on the International Year of African Football, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the
Confederation of African Football and Ushering in the 2010 World Cup as an African Event
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (VIII))**

We, the AU Heads of State and Government, meeting in our Eighth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2007,

Recalling the decision we made during our January 2006 Summit in Khartoum, Sudan, to declare 2007 as the International Year of African Football as proposed by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,

Recognizing the role of sport in the promotion of peace, solidarity, social cohesion and sustainable socio-economic development,

Aware of the need for reflecting on the collective history of football in Africa and also the need for commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) as part of our appreciation of its outstanding contribution to the development of soccer in Africa,

Appreciating the briefing by South Africa on the preparations to host the 2010 World Cup, for the first time in the history of the continent, which is a legitimate recognition of Africa’s contribution to the advancement of world sports,

Pursuant to our commitment to ensuring the success of the 2010 World Cup tournaments on our continent,

Recognizing the supportive role of sports in Africa’s effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

We therefore:

1. *Hereby launch* 2007 as the International Year of African Football;
2. *Mandate* the Commission, in collaboration with Member States, to develop a programme of activities to mark the International Year of African Football;
3. *Further mandate* the Commission to organize the relevant Conference of Ministers of Sports to provide leadership to the organization of activities marking the International Year of African Football, as well as to elaborate concrete activities in connection with the 2010 World Cup;
4. *Congratulate* the Confederation of African Football on its fiftieth anniversary;
5. *Reaffirm* our commitment to make the 2010 World Cup a truly African World Cup, by committing our countries to the full and substantive involvement in the preparations leading to the 2010 World Cup;
6. *Commit* ourselves to provide all-round support to the Government and people of South Africa in their efforts to organize the 2010 World Cup tournaments successfully and effectively;

7. *Urge* CAF, FIFA, the international sport community and friends of Africa to provide the necessary support to South Africa in its preparation for the 2010 World Cup;
8. *Also urge* Member States to develop national programmes and identify African Union sport ambassadors to work closely with the Commission in the implementation of the International Year of African Football, “Sports for All” programmes, and the 2010 Soccer World Cup African Legacy Programme;
9. *Request* the Commission to mobilize necessary resources for coordination of the implementation of this Declaration and to strengthen Pan-African sports structures to give full meaning to “Sports for All” programmes and activities;
10. *Also request* the Commission, in collaboration with CAF, FIFA, and other development partners, to follow up the implementation of the activities of the International Year of African Football and report on the achievements to the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (VIII)

Declaration on Economic Partnership Agreements Negotiations

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2007 in the Eighth Ordinary Session of our Assembly,

Taking note of the report and recommendations of the Third Extraordinary Session of AU Ministers of Trade on the negotiation of economic partnership agreements (EPAs) with the European Union,

Recalling our earlier declarations on the negotiation of EPAs,

Further recalling the Khartoum Declaration issued by the Fifth Summit of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Heads of State and Government in Khartoum on 8 December 2006,

Hereby:

1. *Endorse* the Addis Ababa Ministerial Declaration of 16 January 2007 on the negotiation of EPAs;
2. *Commend* the efforts of the AU Ministers of Trade and Africa’s negotiators in promoting the collective interests of Africa in the EPA negotiations and request them to remain vigilant and steadfast in the remaining stages of the negotiations;
3. *Call on* the European Union to extend the deadline for the completion of negotiations beyond the December 2007 time frame and to explore the alternatives of economic partnership agreements as required by the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
4. *Urge* the European Commission to respond in a timely manner to issues that are presented to it by African negotiators in order to help expedite the negotiations;
5. *Emphasize* that the negotiation of EPAs should be consistent with the measures the Assembly takes to address the questions of rationalization and multiple membership, as well as the programmes of the Regional Economic Communities and the African Union;
6. *Reiterate* that economic partnership agreements must, as indicated in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, serve primarily as instruments for the promotion of sustained development and the eradication of poverty in Africa;

7. *Stress* that WTO negotiations under the Doha Work Programme have important implications for the negotiation of EPAs, which are required to be compatible with WTO rules; and therefore call for the appropriate sequencing of the two sets of negotiations.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (VIII)

Declaration on WTO Negotiations

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the Eighth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2007,

Recalling the decision of the international community at Doha in November 2001 to put the interests and concerns of developing countries at the centre of the new round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations,

Taking into account the enormous financial and human resource costs that have been incurred by our Member States since the launch of the Doha Round in 2001,

Recalling our earlier declarations on the Doha Development Agenda negotiations,

Mindful of the decisions taken by the Heads of State and Government of the United Nations Organization at the Millennium Summit +5, held in New York in September 2005, regarding the need for development, as well as the ways and means for attaining this central objective,

Further recalling the recommendations of the G-8 Summit held in Saint Petersburg in 2006 and the commitments taken by the major trade players concerning the achievement of the Doha Round objectives,

Taking note of the Report of the Third Extraordinary Session of AU Conference of Ministers of Trade, held in Addis Ababa on 16 January 2007,

Aware that there are many systemic trade issues of importance to Africa's development which are beyond the reach of bilateralism and which can be best addressed within the framework of a rules-based multilateral trading system,

Further aware that Africa will be a major loser if the Doha Round fails to deliver on its development promises and does not lead to a strengthening of multilateralism,

Convinced that a successful completion of the Doha Round, with development at its core, is critical to Africa meeting the challenges of development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note of the expressions of support for Africa's development aspirations by some of our development partners,

Hereby:

1. *Express our deep concern and disappointment* at the stalling of the negotiations on the DDA, which has been due largely to the failure of major players in the WTO process to demonstrate the necessary flexibility in their negotiating positions;
2. *Reaffirm* our support for a rules-based multilateral trading system;
3. *Call for* a prompt resumption and a speedy and successful conclusion of the Doha Round, with its development dimensions given high priority as agreed in the 2001 WTO Declaration;

4. *Request* the major players in the WTO and our development partners to contribute to the attainment of this objective by translating their expressions of support for Africa's development into concrete development-oriented commitments in the WTO negotiations;
5. *Reaffirm* the need for this round of negotiations to yield real development results, as promised in the Doha Declaration and the Doha Development Agenda (DDA);
6. *Urge* our trade partners, especially the major players, to provide the necessary flexibilities that will enable African countries to use trade as an engine for promoting development, reducing and eliminating poverty;
7. *Stress* therefore the need to improve and make workable, the rules, principles and mechanisms of multilateral trade, for African countries, in particular the least developed among them;
8. *Underscore* the importance of technical support and financial assistance for the building of supply capacity and the promotion of trade and development in African countries;
9. *Request* therefore the developed countries and the international organizations to make real contributions in the allocation of adequate resources and appropriate technical assistance, through effective channels and mechanisms, for attainment of these objectives;
10. *Commend* African trade ministers and negotiators for their continued steadfastness in the defence of Africa's interests in the WTO negotiations;
11. *Reiterate* our position that any outcome of the current round of WTO negotiations that fails to adequately deliver on the development promises of the DDA will be unacceptable to Africa.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (VIII)

Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Eighth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, from 29 to 30 January 2007,

Recalling our commitment to the principles and objectives, stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its NEPAD programme,

Further recalling the objective and principles of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its commitments,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on 16 February 2005 and its full operationalization by the Marrakech Accords adopted in Montreal in December 2005,

Further welcoming the Gleneagles G8 communiqué on Africa, Climate Change, Energy and Sustainable Development and its commitments on:

- Developing fully operational regional climate centres in Africa,
- Improving climate risk management in multilateral and bilateral development organizations,
- Helping developing countries build their resilience to climate change to the Millennium Review Summit in New York,

Recognizing that climate change could endanger the future well-being of the population, ecosystems and socio-economic progress of Africa,

Cognizant of the vulnerability of African economic and production systems to climate change and climate variability and the continent's low mitigation and response capacities,

Welcoming the outcome of the ministerial meetings on disaster risk reduction, which approved a programme of action to implement the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction,

Noting that actions for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change should be reinforced on the principle of differentiation basis and that urgent action is required to advance adaptation measures,

We commit ourselves to:

1. *Continue to urge* countries that have yet to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to do so;
2. *Build* capacity and strengthen the effective participation of African countries in the negotiations on the future of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol processes;
3. *Avail* funds to promote and strengthen the application of science and technology to climate data collection, analysis, generation of early warning information and timely communication;
4. *Integrate* climate change and climate change adaptation strategies into national and subregional development policies, programmes and activities;
5. *Undertake* targeted awareness raising among policy, decision-makers and civil society with the view to ensuring that climate change considerations are taken into account in all sustainable development initiatives;
6. *Urgently call for* the streamlining of Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding mechanisms to include the vulnerability index in the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) formula in order to ease African countries' access to GEF financial resources; and explore other financial resources and mechanisms to support Africa's adaptation programmes;
7. *Foster* and strengthen cooperation between national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs), regional climate centres (RCC), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and institutions on matters of climate variability and climate change;
8. *Strengthen* current African regional and subregional climate centres of excellence to address climate change and variability prediction as well as in the development of climate applications decision tools;
9. *Develop* and/or strengthen research and development in climate change in Africa, particularly in renewable energy, forestry and agriculture, to increase the continent's resilience and adaptation to climate change;
10. *Encourage* the transfer of relevant climate friendly technologies within and among developing countries and address the challenges as regards intellectual property rights (IPR);
11. *Demand* that developed countries undertake and meet their mitigation commitments, including the implementation of the "polluter pays" and "differentiated responsibilities principles" as provided for in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and to institute deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and better trade terms on emission entitlement;

12. *Request* the Commission to consult with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMSEN) with the view to establishing the necessary mechanisms to follow up the implementation of this Declaration, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and evaluate the progress towards the attainment of its objectives and report biennially to the summit as appropriate.

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (VIII)

Addis Ababa Declaration on Science Technology and Scientific Research for Development

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Eighth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2007,

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles and objectives stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and our common objective to advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology,

Determined to take all necessary measures to strengthen our common institutions and provide them with the necessary resources to enable them to discharge their respective mandates effectively,

Recalling our millennium commitment to achieve sustainable development for our continent,

Reaffirming that African people are now more than before determined to banish poverty, combat diseases, improve public health, increase agricultural production, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Realizing that the achievement of these goals depends on our countries' ability to harness science and technology for development and also on an increased and sustained investment in science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing the need to build and strengthen Africa's institutions to enable them to conduct more scientific research so that the outputs of research may be utilized to solve our social environmental problems and contribute to socio-economic development,

Recalling the decision to declare the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006—2015) and the adoption of the Framework for the Plan of Action for the Decade,

Recognizing the support in the field of science and technology by international organizations such as UNESCO,

We commit ourselves to:

- Encourage more African youth to take up studies in science, technology and engineering, and invite Member States to pay special attention to the teaching of science and technology;
- Promote and support research and innovation activities and the requisite human and institutional capacities;
- Ensure scrupulous application of scientific ethics in Africa with a view to preserving the continent's environment and national resources and preventing all practices harmful to African populations;
- Ensure the enhanced role and the revitalization of African universities and other African institutions of higher education as well as scientific research institutions so that they can play an effective role as loci of science, technology and engineering education and development and also contribute to public understanding of science and technology;

- Promote and enhance regional as well as South-South and North-South cooperation in science and technology;
- Increase funding for national, regional and continental programmes for science and technology and support the establishment of national and regional centres of excellence in science and technology.

We call on UNESCO and other bilateral and multilateral organizations to support the Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union to implement the Summit decision on Science and Technology.

Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (VIII)

Declaration on the Ethiopian Millennium

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting during the Eighth Ordinary Session of our Assembly held in Addis Ababa, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2007,

Taking note of the briefing by the Ethiopian Government on the Ethiopian Millennium to be celebrated on 12 September 2007,

Recognizing with appreciation the call of the Ethiopian people to all fellow African brothers and sisters to embrace the Millennium as a truly African occasion and to join them in the celebrations,

Noting with satisfaction the commitment of the Ethiopian people to use this occasion as a unique opportunity to highlight their collective resolve to make a difference in their struggle against poverty, and to broaden the frontiers of democracy and good governance,

Welcoming the cooperation already initiated between the African Union Commission and the Ethiopian Millennium Festival National Council,

Call upon all Member States of the African Union, the Commission of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities to extend their support towards the successful celebration of this unique African occasion – the Ethiopian Millennium.

NINTH ORDINARY SESSION

**1 to 3 July 2007
Accra, Ghana**

Assembly/AU/Dec.166 (IX)

**Decision on the Protocol on Relations between the African Union and
the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
(Doc. EX.CL/348 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Protocol;
2. *Adopts* the Protocol and authorizes the Chairperson of the Commission to sign it on behalf of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.167 (IX)

**Decision on the Election of the Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/365 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:
 - (1) Mme. Catherine Dupe Atoki (Nigeria) (6 year term);
 - (2) Mme. Zainabu Sylvie Kayitesi (Rwanda) (2 year term);
 - (3) Mme. Soyata Maiga (Mali) (6 year term);
 - (4) Dr. Angela Melo (Mrs.) (Mozambique) (6 year term);
 - (5) M. Yeung Kam John Yeung Sik Yuen (Mauritius) (6 year term).

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (IX)

Declaration on the Arab Peace Initiative

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Ninth Ordinary Session, in Accra, Ghana, from 1 to 3 July 2007,

Having examined the grave situation resulting from the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab lands,

1. *Support* the Arab Peace Initiative (API) in all its aspects, as adopted by the Arab Summit in its Fourteenth Session in Beirut, Lebanon, on 28 March 2002, to resolve the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict;
2. *Decide* to deploy all efforts and means to promote the API, explain its dimensions and lobby international support for its implementation;
3. *Support* the decision of the Arab Summit concerning the implementation of the API taken at its Nineteenth Session, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 29 March 2007;

4. *Affirm* that a comprehensive and just peace in the region can only be achieved by complete Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab lands occupied since June 1967; by establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian State with Al-Quds (East Jerusalem) as its capital and through a just solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 of 1948;
5. *Call for* the organization of an international conference for all concerned international and regional parties, to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and the Quartet, to launch the process of direct, serious and meaningful negotiations in accordance with the agreed instruments. This peace process should be within a well-defined time framework;
6. *Call upon* the Chairperson of the Commission to intensify his contacts and coordinate with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to deploy concerted efforts to promote the API and to lobby international support for its implementation.

TENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
31 January to 2 February 2008**

Assembly/AU/Dec.171 (X)

**Decision on the Strengthening of Cooperation between Africa and
the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)
(Doc. EX.CL/373 (XI) A)**

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for Japan's sustained efforts to promote peace and prosperity in Africa, and for its initiative to organize TICAD IV in Yokohama, Japan, from 28 to 30 May 2008;
2. *Takes note* of the progress made in the two Regional Preparatory Meetings in Zambia and Tunisia in October and November 2007, respectively, for the preparation of TICAD IV;
3. *Calls upon* Member States, the AU Commission and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to fully cooperate with the TICAD process in order to make strides "Towards a Vibrant Africa: A Continent of Hope and Opportunity", which is the main theme of TICAD IV;
4. *Also calls upon* Member States to elaborate concrete programmes and projects relating to the main areas of TICAD IV cooperation, namely (i) boosting economic growth, (iii) achieving the MDGs (ensuring human security), (iv) peace consolidation and (v) democratization and addressing environmental issues and climate change*;
5. *Requests* Member States to participate in the TICAD IV Ministerial Preparatory Conference in Gabon in March 2008 and also requests the AU Commission, in collaboration with the RECs, to provide necessary support to Member States in the above-mentioned Conference;
6. *Calls upon* African Heads of State and Government to fully participate in TICAD IV in conformity with the Banjul Decision (July 2006).

Assembly/AU/Dec.172 (X)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action
(Doc. EX.CL/385 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOSTIII), held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 12 to 16 November 2007;
2. *Endorses* the decision of the Executive Council on the report of the Third Ordinary Session of AMCOST;
3. *Appreciates* the current efforts by Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the AU Commission and NEPAD in implementing Africa's science and technology programmes, and the strategic partnerships and cooperation in science and technology with other international organizations particularly the United Nations agencies and the European Union;
4. *Welcomes* the formation of a Pan-African Association of African Women in Science and Technology;
5. *Calls on* RECs to establish science and technology desks and/or focal points by 2009 in order to improve communication, cooperation and information sharing.

* Editor's note: There is no item (ii) in the English or French version of this paragraph.

Assembly/AU/Dec.173 (X)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Second Decade of Education for Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/386 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF III) held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 6 to 10 August 2007;
2. *Endorses* the decision of Executive Council on the report;
3. *Calls on* the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to establish strong education desks in their Secretariats by 2009 in order to support the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa;
4. *Requests* the Commission to expedite the operationalization of the Pan-African Institute for Education for Development (IPED) and the Centre Internationale pour l'Education pour Filles et Femmes en Afrique (CIEFFA) as specialized institutions of the AU by recruiting qualified staff and building their institutional capacity;
5. *Further requests* the Commission to oversee the formalization of collaboration with the Association for the Development of Education for Africa (ADEA) as follows:
 - (a) Signing of a memorandum of understanding between the AU and ADEA;
 - (b) Merger of the COMEDAF Bureau with the ADEA Bureau;
 - (c) Invitation to all Member States that have not yet done so, to join ADEA;
6. *Calls on* development partners to ensure harmonization of their education programmes for Africa with the priorities set out in the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.174 (X)

Decision on the Establishment of an African Education, Science and Technology Fund

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the Executive Council on the Establishment of an African Education, Science and Technology Fund;
2. *Authorizes* the establishment of an African Education, Science and Technology Fund;
3. *Requests* the AU Commission and the African Development Bank to expedite the creation of the Fund by 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.175 (X)

**Decision on the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/378 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Endorses* the Action Plan for the Accelerated Development of Africa;
2. *Requests* the Commission to disseminate the Action Plan and organize, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Development Banks, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank, the European Investment Bank (EIB), IFC, the United Nations Organization for Industry (UNIDO) and other interested partners, regional meetings in Africa, that involve the participation of all industrial development stakeholders, for the effective implementation of the Action Plan;
3. *Directs* that the outcome of the regional meetings and regular progress reports on the operationalization of the Action Plan be presented to Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.176 (X)

**Decision on Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development
(Doc. EX.CL/380 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Second Pan-African Forum on Children: Mid-term Review, which was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 29 October to 3 November 2007 and the Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Towards Africa Fit for Children (2008—2012) which was adopted by the Forum;
2. *Recognizes* with concern that poor maternal, infant and child health remains a major challenge confronting the continent and undermining its development efforts;
3. *Recalls* the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly No. 4: Reduce Child Mortality, No. 5: Improve Maternal Health, and No. 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases, as vital indicators for monitoring the socio-economic development of any country in Africa;
4. *Also recalls*, inter alia, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990); the Sirte Assembly Decision on Accelerating Action for Child Survival and Development in Africa to meet the MDGs, in particular MDG 4 on reducing child mortality and morbidity (2005); the Maputo Plan of Action on the Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2006); and the Africa Health Strategy (2007);
5. *Welcomes with appreciation* the worldwide support expressed through the numerous programmes and initiatives to mobilize resources to meet challenges related to the promotion of maternal, infant and child health, survival, protection, development and participation;
6. *Reaffirms* its previous commitments towards promotion of maternal, infant and child health, survival, protection, development and participation;
7. *Reiterates* its commitment to take responsibility and provide leadership to advance actions towards the implementation of the MDGs, particularly those related to the promotion of maternal, infant and child health, survival and development. In this regard, it will ensure that its statements at the national, regional, continental and international levels (including the United Nations General Assembly) highlight the plight of women, infants and children in Africa, and the required action to rectify these related challenges;
8. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with development partners and stakeholders, to effectively implement the commitments made to improve the rights and welfare of women, infants and children in Africa;
9. *Calls upon* development partners at all levels to intensify efforts to provide well-coordinated support, based on the respective needs and policies of affected communities and countries;

10. *Mandates* the Chairperson of the African Union to undertake vigorous advocacy to mobilize resources and galvanize political will among the industrialized countries, at any available opportunity, including at such forums as the G8 Hokkaido Tokyo Summit (2008), TICAD IV (2008), EU Summit (2008), to advance maternal, infant and child health and development in Africa;
11. *Requests* the AU Commission to include the “Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development” on the Agenda of our Eleventh Ordinary Session in 2008;
12. *Further requests* the AU Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of its commitments on children and progress towards achieving MDGs 4, 5 and 6 to the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.177 (X)

**Decision on the Activities of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the activities of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the state of peace and security in Africa;
2. *Welcomes* the efforts deployed to promote peace, security, and stability in Africa, as well as the progress made in this regard. The Assembly encourages all the parties concerned to redouble their efforts to consolidate the gains realized thus far, and requests the Commission to continue to support the ongoing processes and mobilize the international community’s assistance in this respect;
3. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the ongoing efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including the signing by the concerned parties of an Act of Commitment aimed at restoring peace and stability in Eastern DRC and speeding up the national reconciliation process, following the Conference on Peace, Security and Development on the North and South Kivu Provinces, held in Goma, from 6 to 23 January 2008, and urges the parties to scrupulously honour their commitments, including those pertaining to disarmament of armed groups operating in the East of DRC;
4. *Notes with satisfaction* the encouraging developments in Côte d’Ivoire, since the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and the progress made in its implementation, and calls upon the parties to redouble their efforts so as to speed up the implementation of the agreements that have been signed, in order to pave the way for the holding of presidential elections not later than the first half of 2008;
5. *Welcomes* the resolution of the institutional crisis in Burundi with the establishment of a Government in line with the Constitution, following the political dialogue initiated by the President of the Republic with the political opposition parties in August 2007. At the same time, the Assembly expresses its concern over the lengthy delays and difficulties faced in the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement of 7 September 2006. The Assembly encourages the Mediator to pursue his efforts and requests the Regional Initiative to remain actively seized of the peace process in Burundi;
6. *Welcomes* the progress made regarding post-conflict reconstruction in Liberia and requests the Member States, the United Nations and bilateral and multilateral partners to continue to extend all the necessary support;
7. *Takes note* of the efforts deployed to relaunch the peace process in Darfur, particularly the opening of the Sirte peace talks on 27 October 2007. The Assembly reaffirms its support to the joint efforts being exerted by the AU and the United Nations, especially through their respective Special Envoys, with a view to commencing

substantive discussions on the pending issues, and urges all the parties concerned to provide the necessary cooperation;

8. *Welcomes* the launching of the African Union/United Nations hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the transfer of authority which took place on 31 December 2007, encourages the AU Commission and the United Nations Secretariat to pursue their efforts towards the early deployment of UNAMID, further encourages the Government of Sudan to continue to cooperate with the AU and the United Nations towards the early completion of the deployment of the Mission and the smooth conduct of its operations, and requests the AU, the United Nations and the Government of Sudan to continue to cooperate closely in order to create conditions conducive for the successful execution of the UNAMID mandate. The Conference commends the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and its personnel for the remarkable work accomplished in Darfur despite the numerous difficulties the Mission had to grapple with;

9. *Welcomes* the measures taken by the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan to overcome the difficulties encountered in its implementation and urges them to pursue their efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Agreement in letter and spirit;

10. *Expresses its serious concern* at the lack of progress in resolving the crisis in the Comorian island of Anjouan, particularly the restoration of the Union Government authority in Anjouan. The Assembly fully supports the efforts deployed by the AU in pursuance of the pertinent decisions of the PSC with a view to restoring State authority in Anjouan and put a definite end to the crisis arising from the attitude of the illegal authorities of Anjouan;

11. *Expresses its concern* over the persistent tension between Sudan and Chad, calls on the two Governments to exercise restraint and do everything possible to defuse the current tension and contribute to the restoration of normalcy along their common border and welcomes the efforts being deployed by Libya to assist the two countries;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the ongoing efforts aimed at consolidating peace and reconciliation in the Central African Republic (CAR), including the holding of an inclusive political dialogue, and encourages all the parties concerned to participate in the dialogue in a constructive spirit. The Assembly underscores the work accomplished by the Multinational Force of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and takes note of the decision of the Summit of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), held in Brazzaville on 30 October 2007, to transfer the CEMAC Multinational Force (FOMUC) from CEMAC to ECCAS;

13. *Reiterates its deep concern* at the continued impasse in the Ethiopia and Eritrea peace process and at its implications for peace, security and stability in the region at large, emphasizes the need for more sustained and coordinated efforts to help the parties overcome the current impasse in the peace process, including the demarcation of their common border, and normalize their relations, and expresses the readiness of the African Union to assist Eritrea and Ethiopia in this endeavour;

14. *Expresses deep concern* at the post-electoral violence and tension in Kenya and at its social, humanitarian and economic consequences, as well as at its implications for peace and stability in Kenya and the region as a whole, once again calls on all the parties to exercise restraint, refrain from acts of violence and from any other act that could further complicate the situation, as well as prevail on their supporters to put an immediate end to the violence, and speedily resolve the crisis and the electoral dispute within the established legal framework;

15. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the current Chair of the AU, John Kufuor, the Chair of the East African Community (EAC), Yoweri Museveni, and by other leaders and organizations both within and outside the region, to assist in resolving the crisis in Kenya. The Assembly requests the Kenyan parties to extend full cooperation to the mediation efforts being conducted by the group of eminent African elders led by former United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan;

16. *Requests* the PSC to pursue its efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability on the continent, with special attention to conflict prevention, and, whenever necessary, to be involved in all situations likely to pose a threat to peace and security on the continent;

17. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.145 (VIII) adopted by the Assembly at its Eighth Ordinary Session held in January 2007, calling upon the United Nations to examine, within the context of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the possibility of funding, through assessed contributions, peacekeeping operations undertaken by the AU or under its authority, with the consent of the United Nations, and welcomes the steps taken by the AU Commission and Member States in pursuance of this decision;

18. *Looks forward* to the report that will be submitted by the United Nations Secretary-General on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security, as provided for by the Security Council Presidential Statement of 28 March 2007. The Assembly welcomes the offer by South Africa to avail its presidency of the United Nations Security Council, in April 2008, to discuss the report of the United Nations Secretary-General, and requests the Security Council to consider this report with the view to achieving concrete results in further strengthening cooperation between the AU and the United Nations. In this regard, the Assembly requests the United Nations Security Council to collaborate with, and invite, the AU PSC during the consideration of this report;

19. *Takes note* of the Report of the International Workshop on Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Cape Town, South Africa, from 7 to 8 November 2007, and encourages the Commission to develop a comprehensive AU Policy Framework on SSR, within the context of the Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development adopted by the Executive Council in Banjul, in June 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.178 (X)

**Decision on Economic Integration
(Doc. EX.CL/378 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report and Declaration of the Second Conference of African Ministers of Integration, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 26 to 27 July 2007;
2. *Endorses* the recommendations contained therein;
3. *Requests* Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AU Commission to take the necessary steps, in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and development partners, to implement these recommendations with a view to speeding up the continent's integration process;
4. *Also requests* the AU Commission to submit at the next ordinary session of the Council scheduled for July 2008, a report on the status of the continent's integration.

Assembly/AU/Dec.179 (X)

**Decision on the Extension of the African Continental Shelf and Climate Change
(Doc. EX.CL/391 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the objectives and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

2. *Further recalls* the decisions and declarations of the Addis Ababa Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Science and Technology;
3. *Conscious* of the major geopolitical and strategic stakes linked to the African continental shelf and of its abundant mineral and biological resources, which constitute an important source of foreign currency earnings for the economic development of the continent;
4. *Calls on* coastal Member States to speed up the process of preparing and submitting the claims for the extension of the limits of their continental shelf, and requests the AU Commission to assist Member States in this regard, with the view to meeting the deadline of 12 May 2009;
5. *Encourages* Member States, to submit to the United Nations General Assembly a recommendation for a postponement, by an additional period of ten (10) years, of the 12 May 2009 deadline, while striving to meet the set deadline;
6. *Underscores* the need to speed up the process and to adopt an African common position on this issue;
7. *Requests* the Commission to engage, in collaboration with Member States, in a process to designate an eminent African personality as Special Envoy of the Union in charge of maritime and climate change matters;
8. *Calls on* the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to provide the coastal Member States all the assistance required to conduct the necessary studies for submitting applications for the extension of their continental shelf.

Assembly/AU/Dec.180 (X)

Decision on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the statement by the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, at the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly;
2. *Commends* and supports the establishment by the United Nations Secretary-General of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Africa Steering Group composed of leaders of the major multilateral and international organizations, including the African Union Commission, to support the accelerated achievement of the MDGs in Africa;
3. *Further commends* the President of the sixty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Serdjan Karim, on his efforts in assisting African nations achieve the MDGs;
4. *Welcomes* the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General and other partners to hold meetings on the MDGs in September 2008 to find ways to reinforce the partnership between developed and developing countries;
5. *Also calls upon* the G8 to follow through with its commitments at Gleneagles and other international commitments in order to scale up aid disbursement to Africa in support of the MDGs;
6. *Further calls on* African countries to participate fully in the 2008 Review Sessions to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus scheduled to take place from 29 November to 2 December 2008, in Doha, Qatar;

7. *Mandates* the AU Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to ensure effective African participation in that important event, and to this extent facilitate the harmonization of a common position;
8. *Appreciates* the scale-up efforts by the United Nations system to support Africa's Development Agenda through such initiatives as the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme in support of the AU and its NEPAD Programme;
9. *Recalls* the Banjul Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.78 (V)) on the MDGs;
10. *Requests* the AU Commission in collaboration with the ECA to prepare status reports and related statistics on the implementation of the recommendations of the Africa MDG Steering and Working Groups;
11. *Requests* the AU Commission to submit the status reports to its annual summits.

Assembly/AU/Dec.181 (X)

**Decision on the Reports on the Implementation of the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/376 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the reports and presentation on the implementation of the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA);
2. *Congratulates* Member States that submitted their baseline reports in 2007 namely: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and appeals to Member States that are yet to submit their baseline reports to urgently submit these reports, for the AU to have a base upon which to build on the progress made;
3. *Also congratulates* Member States that have signed and ratified the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and encourages Member States that have signed and not yet ratified to do so;
4. *Calls on* Member States to implement all the commitments made in the SDGEA;
5. *Requests* Member States to adopt the content of the SDGEA as the framework for the acceleration of implementation of the existing instruments and platform for gender equality at the national level, in order to maximize the implementation of the SDGEA and incorporate it in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) reports;
6. *Also requests* the Commission to assist Member States in the process of reporting on the Solemn Declaration, and take necessary steps in this direction;
7. *Further requests* the AU Commission to continue to expand and promote the gender parity principle so far adopted by the Assembly to all the other organs of the African Union, including its NEPAD programme, to the Regional Economic Communities and encourage Member States to adopt affirmative action at the national and local levels in collaboration with political parties and the national parliaments.

Assembly/AU/Dec.182 (X)

**Decision on the International Year of Languages Proclaimed by the
United Nations General Assembly on 16 May 2007**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the proclamation of 2008 as the Year of African Languages and notes the poor mobilization of Member States for its celebration;
2. *Reaffirms* the special role of African languages in the socio-economic and cultural development, as well as in the political integration of the continent;
3. *Welcomes* the proclamation, by the sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, of 2008 as the International Year of Languages;
4. *Urges* Member States to seize this opportunity to increase mobilization for the promotion and enhancement of African languages, through various activities at the local, national and regional levels, in order to ensure Africa's contribution to the celebration of the International Year of Languages, as an extension of the Year of African Languages;
5. *Invites* Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Language Plan of Action for Africa revised in Khartoum, and take the necessary measures to give African Languages the status of official working languages, together with the languages inherited from the colonial era;
6. *Invites* the Regional Economic Communities to spare no effort, with the support of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), to make some common transborder languages official working languages in all areas of education and employment, together with the languages inherited from the colonial era;
7. *Requests* the AU Commission to ensure that ACALAN is provided with the means to coordinate the activities of 2008 – International Year of Languages, in cooperation with UNESCO, the MAAYA Network, the World Network for Linguistic Diversity and other partners.

Assembly/AU/Dec.183 (X)

**Decision on the Election of Ten Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/402 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following ten (10) Members of the Peace and Security Council elected for a two-year term as of March 2008;

(1)	Burundi	Central Region;
(2)	Chad	Central Region;
(3)	Rwanda	Eastern Region;
(4)	Uganda	Eastern Region;
(5)	Tunisia	Northern Region;
(6)	Swaziland	Southern Region;
(7)	Zambia	Southern Region;

- (8) Benin Western Region;
- (9) Burkina Faso Western Region;
- (10) Mali Western Region.

Assembly/AU/Dec.184 (X)

Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State on the Reform of the Security Council;
2. *Reaffirms* the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
3. *Directs* the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations to participate in the forthcoming intergovernmental negotiations on the basis of the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration and to report to the Assembly accordingly, should they require further guidance;
4. *Requests* the Committee of Ten to intensify its efforts in promoting the African Common Position;
5. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Committee of Ten until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Security Council;
6. *Requests* the Committee of Ten to present a progress report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.185 (X)

**Decision on the Report of the Executive Council on the Audit of the Union and
the Report of the Ministerial Committee on the Union Government
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Executive Council on the Audit of the Union and the Report of the Ministerial Committee on the Union Government;
2. *Notes* that the Executive Council could not reach a general consensus on key issues and approaches in light of the Accra Declaration of 3 July 2007 (Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (IX)), due to time constraints;
3. *Reaffirms* that the ultimate objective of the African Union is the United States of Africa with a Union Government as envisaged by the founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity;
4. *Decides* to refer the issue of the Union Government to the existing Committee of Ten now elevated to the level of Heads of State and Government and expanded to include the immediate past Chairperson of the Union, under the chairmanship of the current Chairperson of the Union, with the same terms of reference (TORs). The membership of the Committee is as follows:
 - (a) Tanzania (current Chairperson of the Union);

- (b) Ghana (immediate past Chairperson of the Union);
- (c) Botswana;
- (d) Cameroon;
- (e) Gabon;
- (f) Egypt;
- (g) Ethiopia;
- (h) Libya;
- (i) Nigeria;
- (j) Senegal;
- (k) South Africa;
- (l) Uganda;

5. *Mandates* the Committee to consider the Report of the Executive Council on the Union Government as well as the background reports and submit appropriate recommendations to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2008;

6. *Authorizes* the convening of an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council within three (3) months to consider the Report on the Audit of the African Union and the comments of the Commission as well as those of the other organs of the Union, with the view to making appropriate recommendations thereon to the Assembly, through the Committee of Heads of State and Government.

Assembly/AU/Dec.186 (X)

Decision on the Situation in the Comoros

The Assembly,

1. *Regrets* that all the efforts so far deployed to resolve the crisis in the Comoros have not yielded the expected positive response from the illegal authorities of Anjouan and stresses that the persistence of that situation constitutes a serious threat to the reconciliation processes in the Comoros;

2. *Expresses its understanding* of the frustration of the Comorian population and the authorities of the Union in view of the absence of tangible progress regarding the restoration of State authority in Anjouan and the organization of free, fair and transparent elections, as stipulated in the relevant communiqués of the Ministerial Committee of the countries of the region;

3. *Requests* all Member States capable of doing so to provide the necessary support to the Comorian Government in its efforts to restore, as quickly as possible, the authority of the Union in Anjouan and to put an end to the crisis born out of the persistent refusal by the illegal authorities of Anjouan to comply with the relevant texts governing the functioning of the Union of the Comoros. In this regard, the Assembly requests the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the Commission to mobilize the assistance of Member States to the Union of Comoros;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work accomplished by the African Union Electoral and Security Assistance Mission (MAES) to the Comoros and appeals to Member States to provide the necessary support to strengthen MAES so as to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate as spelled out by the PSC;
5. *Urges* the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution endorsing the sanctions imposed on the illegal authorities of Anjouan by the PSC of the AU since 10 October 2007.

Assembly/AU/Dec.187 (X)

Decision on the Situation in Kenya following the Presidential Election of 27 December 2007

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the prevailing situation and its humanitarian consequences, as well as at its implications for peace and stability in Kenya and the region as a whole;
2. *Strongly deplores* the loss of lives and condemns the gross violations of human rights that occurred in the past weeks;
3. *Stresses* the need for all those involved in these violations to be held accountable and, to this end, calls for an in-depth investigation with a view to identifying those responsible and bringing them to justice;
4. *Calls on* all the parties to exercise restraint, refrain from acts of violence, as well as prevail on their supporters to put an immediate end to the violence;
5. *Strongly urges* the parties to commit themselves to a peaceful solution to the current crisis through dialogue and in conformity with the rule of law;
6. *Welcomes* the visit undertaken by the former Chairman of the African Union, President John Kufuor, to Nairobi, from 8 to 10 January 2008, as well as the efforts deployed by President Yoweri Museveni, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the East African Community (EAC), and by other leaders of the region;
7. *Stresses* the need for the parties to extend full cooperation to the mediation efforts undertaken by the group of eminent African elders led by Mr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and comprising Mr. Benjamin Mkapa and Mrs. Graca Machel, established as a follow-up to the visit of the former Chairperson of the AU. The Assembly welcomes the agreement on the ending of violence and the pursuit of dialogue, reached by the parties on 1 February 2008, and urges them to build on this encouraging development to find a lasting solution to the current crisis. The Assembly commends Mr. Kofi Annan and the members of his team for the results achieved so far and encourages them to pursue their efforts;
8. *Stresses* the need to initiate a collective reflection on the challenges linked to the tension and disputes that often characterize electoral processes in Africa, including the strengthening of the African capacity at the national, regional and continental levels to observe and monitor elections.

Assembly/AU/Dec.188 (X)

Decision on the Situation in Chad

The Assembly,

1. *Strongly condemns* the attacks perpetrated by armed groups against the Chadian Government and demands that an immediate end be put to these attacks and resulting bloodshed;

2. *Recalls* its rejection of any unconstitutional change in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Algiers Decision, the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and stresses that no authority that comes to power by force will be recognized by the AU;
3. *Calls on* all Chadian parties to unconditionally renounce the use of force and engage in constructive dialogue aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the problem facing their country;
4. *Underscores* its commitment to the principles of good neighbourliness and calls on all the countries of the region to comply with the principles of the African Union on respect for the unity and territorial integrity of Member States;
5. *Mandates* the Libyan Leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, and President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo, to engage the Chadian parties with a view to ending the fighting and to initiate efforts aimed at seeking a lasting solution to the crisis.

Assembly/AU/Dec.189 (X)

**Decision on the Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Elects* the following persons as follows:
 - (a) Mr. Jean Ping as Chairperson of the AU Commission;
 - (b) Mr. Erastus J.O. Mwencha as Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission;
2. *Congratulates* the newly elected Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, wishes them the very best in carrying out their mandate and assures them of the unwavering support of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.190 (X)

Decision on the Appointment of AU Commissioners

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election by the Executive Council of the Commissioners of the AU Commission;
2. *Appoints* the following persons as Commissioners of the African Union:
 - (a) Mr. Ramtane Lamamra (Algeria): Peace and Security Portfolio;
 - (b) Mrs. Julia Dolly Joiner (Gambia): Political Affairs Portfolio;
 - (c) Mrs. Elham Mahmood Ahmed Ibrahim (Egypt): Infrastructure and Energy Portfolio;
 - (d) Mrs. Bience Philomina Gawanas (Namibia): Social Affairs Portfolio;
 - (e) Mr. Jean Pierre Onvehoun Ezin (Benin): Human Resources, Science and Technology Portfolio;
 - (f) Mrs. Elizabeth Tankeu (Cameroon): Trade and Industry Portfolio;

(g) Mr. M. Maxwell Mkwezalamba (Malawi) Economic Affairs Portfolio;

3. *Congratulates* the newly elected Commissioners;

4. *Decides* that the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture shall be elected from among female candidates from the Eastern Region;

5. *Authorizes* the Executive Council to elect and appoint a Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture during its forthcoming extraordinary session and report to the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly;

6. *Decides* that the elected Commissioners who did not take the oath of office during the current session of the Assembly should do so before the Chairperson of the Commission.

Assembly/AU/Dec.191 (X)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Eighteenth NEPAD HSGIC Summit;

3. *Takes note* of the recent recall of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NEPAD Secretariat, Professor Firmino Mucavele, by the Government of Mozambique and calls upon the Chairperson of the AU Commission in consultation with the HSGIC Chairperson to appoint urgently a new Chief Executive Officer in conformity with the rules, policies and practice governing AU appointments and final shortlisting by a panel of representatives of the Chairs of AU, AUC, HSGIC and Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa;

4. *Further takes note* of the poor financial situation of the NEPAD Secretariat and agrees that Member States of HSGIC should pay up their arrears and annual contributions up to the next financial year, beginning in April 2008;

5. *Urges* Member States of the African Union to make voluntary contributions to the NEPAD Secretariat;

6. *Requests*, in the spirit of broad inclusiveness in the NEPAD process, for the rotation of the membership of the HSGIC to take place every two years, excepting the five initiating countries and for the five AU regions to consult and present their candidates for elections to the HSGIC at the Eleventh AU Assembly;

7. *Reiterates* the importance of convening the NEPAD Review Summit at the earliest opportune moment, and for the event to hold before the Eleventh AU Assembly;

8. *Agrees* to proceed with the integration of NEPAD into the AU structures and processes, immediately, and in an expeditious manner, along the lines of the 13-point conclusions of the Algiers Brainstorming Summit of March 2007.

Assembly/AU/Dec.192 (X)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Sharm El Sheikh in June/July 2008;
2. *Requests* the Commission, in this respect, to conduct the necessary consultations with the Arab Republic of Egypt in order to decide on the exact dates of the Assembly and inform Member States as soon as possible.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (X)

**Declaration on Africa's Industrial Development
(Doc. EX.CL/379 (XII))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the Tenth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 31 January to 2 February 2008 on the theme of African industrialization,

Recalling the objectives set for the accelerated and sustainable socio-economic development of Africa in the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Programme and the Strategic Plan of the AU Commission,

Reaffirming our commitment to claim the twenty-first century as a century of rapid change for Africa and to eradicate poverty and improve the living conditions of our peoples by 2015,

Mindful of the imperative of resolving the paradox of widespread poverty in Africa in the midst of the rich endowment of our continent in natural resources,

Aware of the strong link between industrialization and rapid economic growth and development,

Desirous of transforming Africa from a primary commodity producing economy to a value adding industrial economy,

Taking note of the fact that in spite of the efforts made so far, Africa's share in global manufacturing is still less than 1 per cent,

Further taking into consideration the NEPAD Spatial Development Programme (SDP),

Determined to draw useful lessons from the experiences of the newly industrializing and emerging economies,

Hereby:

1. *Endorse* the Action Plan of the First Extraordinary Session of AU Conference of Ministers of Industry (CAMI) on the industrial development of Africa; and
2. *Commit* ourselves to:
 - (a) Accelerate the pace of Africa's industrial development, especially the conversion of natural resources to higher value-added products;
 - (b) Adopt policies and programmes for natural resource processing and greater value addition in Africa;
 - (c) Enhance public-private sector partnership, particularly in the areas of heavy infrastructure development;

- (d) Increase investment in science and technology, and human capital development, with emphasis on technical training, to enhance Africa's industrial productivity and competitiveness;
 - (e) Pool resources and share knowledge and know-how in the area of industrial technology, planning and production management;
 - (f) Establish and strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion of African industrial enterprises at the national, regional, continental and international levels;
 - (g) Strengthen African industrial research and development institutions and agencies to develop innovative approaches and programmes for the accelerated industrial development of Africa;
 - (h) Encourage Africans in the diaspora to increase their contribution to the industrial development of Africa;
 - (i) Speed up the establishment of the African Investment Bank and the promotion of African regional and continental capital markets;
 - (j) Achieve the harmonization of African business laws;
 - (k) Take necessary measures at the national level to implement the Action Plan;
3. *Request* the AU Commission, Regional Economic Communities and development partners, to take necessary measures towards effective implementation of the Action Plan;
4. *Reaffirm* our strong commitment to the principles of good governance, democracy, rule of law, accountability, sound macroeconomic management, which are necessary for the accelerated development of our countries;
5. *Reiterate* our commitment to the promotion of regional markets that are necessary for the attainment of economies of scale in the production of competitive industrial products in Africa;
6. *Undertake* to develop and enhance Africa's industrial cooperation and partnership with the emerging industrial economies for the mutual benefits of both sides;
7. *Call upon* our development partners to adopt policies and measures to encourage their companies to increase investment in local processing within Africa of the continent's natural resources;
8. *Request* Member States to pay their contribution to UNIDO and the international community to strengthen UNIDO's mandate and means to enable it to serve as an effective agency for the accelerated industrial development of Africa;
9. *Call on* UNIDO to strengthen its visibility in Africa by implementing a programme that is regionally balanced and more focused towards Africa;
10. *Request* the AU Commission, in collaboration with the relevant agencies, to prepare and submit for our consideration every two years, Progress Reports on the State of Industrialization in Africa and the Implementation of the Action Plan.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (X)

**Declaration on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)
(Doc. EX.CL/394 (XII))**

The Assembly,

Recalling the objectives of the Abuja Treaty and the Constitutive Act of the African Union to accelerate the political and economic integration of Africa,

Also recalling the objectives of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement to make EPAs serve as instruments for the promotion of sustainable development, eradication of poverty, and reinforcement of regional integration,

Further recalling AU Summit decisions that EPAs should serve to support African integration and promote unity and cohesion in Africa,

Concerned about the non-ratification of the revised EPAs by some ACP States,

Also concerned about the lack of progress in the EPA negotiations towards making them achieve the development objectives of Cotonou Partnership Agreement,

Further concerned that the process leading to the conclusion of Interim Economic Partnership Agreements did not build on what was negotiated earlier and in particular that political and economic pressures are being exerted by the European Commission on African countries to initial Interim Economic Partnership Agreements,

Aware that some countries had to initial Interim EPAs in order to avoid trade disruption and to conclude World Trade Organization (WTO) compatible arrangements by the deadline of 31 December 2007,

Further concerned that the European Commission did not put much effort to explore other options to ensure that no Africa Caribbean Pacific country is worse off,

Hereby:

1. *Reiterates* that EPAs must serve as instruments for the promotion of sustainable development, eradication of poverty and the reinforcement of regional integration in Africa, as agreed in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
2. *Calls for* the review of the interim EPAs, in line with the concerns raised by African Heads of State during the Second Africa-EU Summit;
3. *Urges* the Regional Economic Communities and African negotiating groups that have initialed Interim Agreements to ensure that final agreements still to be signed are coherent with their regional integration agenda;
4. *Also urges* the African negotiating groups and the Regional Economic Communities to work closely among themselves and with the AU Commission as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to achieve these objectives;
5. *Further urges* the Member States that have not already done so, to ratify the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
6. *Calls on* the European Union and its Member States to deepen the EPA negotiating mandate of the European Commission to enable it to effectively address the development objectives of EPAs;
7. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the AU Commission to coordinate, monitor and harmonize the efforts of the concerned RECs and Member States in the negotiation of EPAs with the European Union;

8. *Requests* the RECs and African groups negotiating EPAs to facilitate the monitoring and coordinating role of the AU Commission by inviting the latter, to their preparatory meetings and negotiating sessions;
9. *Calls on* the European Union to respect the commitment it made in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement that no ACP country should be worse-off after the end of the Cotonou preferences;
10. *Urges* the European Union to provide additional resources beyond the European Development Fund and not to link the disbursement of EDF and Aid for Trade resources to the signing of EPAs;
11. *Welcomes* the proposal of the President of the European Commission for consultations on EPA negotiations between Africa and the European Union at the highest political level;
12. *Requests* the African Union ministers of trade and finance to hold at the earliest opportunity a meeting in preparation for these consultations;
13. *Also requests* the African regional negotiating groups, Commissions of the AU, RECs, and the EU to work towards the successful holding of the African-EU high-level consultations on EPAs;
14. *Urges* the African Union ministers of trade and African negotiators to remain vigilant in the upcoming stages of the EPA negotiations.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (X)

Declaration on the Situation in Somalia

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 31 January to 2 February 2008, in the Tenth Ordinary Session of our Assembly,

Having reviewed the situation in Somalia and the ongoing efforts aimed at promoting lasting peace, security and reconciliation in that country, in the light of the report submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission to the 105th meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) (PSC/PR/2 (CV)), held on 18 January 2008, and the communiqué adopted by the PSC on that occasion (PSC/PR/Comm(CV)),

Stressing that the situation in Somalia represents one of the most serious peace and security challenges facing the continent,

Welcoming the steps taken within Somalia, including the convening of the National Reconciliation Congress (NRC), in July–August 2007, the recent appointment of a new Prime Minister, Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein, and subsequent formation of a new government, as well as the efforts made by the AU, notably through the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM),

Reiterating the conviction expressed by the PSC that, despite the daunting challenges confronting the peace and reconciliation process, the opportunity that arose in December 2006, when the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) regained control of Mogadishu and other parts of the country, in order to find a lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia still exists,

Stressing the need for both the Somali stakeholders and the international community as a whole to seize this opportunity to decisively address the conflict in Somalia and to take all steps required to this end,

Hereby:

1. *Fully endorse* all the steps identified in the PSC communiqué referred to above;

2. *Demand* that all parties in Somalia reject violence, uphold the principles and spirit enshrined in the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC) and work towards genuine national reconciliation within that framework;
3. *Encourage* the TFG to urgently devise concrete ways to fully implement the outcome of the NRC, and adopt a broader inclusive approach to reach out to all Somali stakeholders who reject violence, both within and outside Somalia, in line with the TFC, and welcome the commitment of the newly appointed Prime Minister to an all-inclusive reconciliation;
4. *Call upon* all Member States, especially the countries of the region, and the larger international community to stand by the legitimate Somali institutions and provide adequate and concrete support in order to enhance their capacity, including that of the TFG and its security and defence forces;
5. *Urge* the United Nations Security Council to take measures against those who seek to prevent or block a peaceful political process, threaten the TFIs or AMISOM, or take action that undermines stability in Somalia or the region, in line with its intention as stated in resolution 1772 (2007);
6. *Commend* Uganda and Burundi for having contributed troops to AMISOM, Nigeria for the steps it has taken for imminent deployment of the battalion which it pledged to contribute to AMISOM and Rwanda for having contributed to the training of the Somali defense and security forces. We also commend Ethiopia for its invaluable assistance to the TFG;
7. *Strongly appeal* to Member States to provide the required troops and personnel to reach the authorized strength of AMISOM, as well as financial and logistical support, to facilitate the deployment of the mission and the sustenance of its operations;
8. *Appeal* to the AU partners to provide increased logistical and financial support for AMISOM, especially in view of the fact that the AU, in deploying an operation in Somalia, is also acting on behalf of the larger international community;
9. *Stress* the need for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia that will take over AMISOM and support the long-term stabilization and post-conflict reconstruction of Somalia;
10. *Appeal once again* to the United Nations Security Council to urgently take the necessary steps for the early deployment of such an operation, bearing in mind that it has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;
11. *Appeal* to the international community, including Member States, to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy population in Somalia, and urge that all necessary steps be taken to create conditions conducive to the provision of humanitarian assistance, including unhindered access to needy population and security for humanitarian workers and organizations;
12. *Agree* to review the situation at its next ordinary session and to assess the status of implementation of the PSC decision of 18 January 2008 and agree on the best way forward, and in the meantime, request the PSC to regularly review the situation in Somalia.

ELEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
30 June to 1 July 2008**

Assembly/AU/Dec.193 (XI)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa;
2. *Welcomes* the efforts deployed to promote peace, security and stability in Africa, as well as the progress made to date. The Assembly encourages all parties concerned to redouble efforts and requests the Commission to continue to support the ongoing processes and mobilize the support of the international community to that effect;
3. *Welcomes* the progress made in the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and requests the Commission to pursue the efforts being deployed, particularly with respect to the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF);
4. *Expresses satisfaction* at the success of the operation “Democracy in the Comoros”, which enabled the Government of the Union of the Comoros to re-establish its authority in Anjouan, and expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Tanzania and Sudan, as well as Libya and Senegal, which kindly provided their support to the Government of the Comoros, in implementation of Decision Assembly/Dec.186 (X) adopted at the Tenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 31 January to 2 February 2008;
5. *Also expresses its gratitude* to the countries of the region, under the coordination of the Republic of South Africa, which spared no effort to come to the aid of Comoros and support the reconciliation efforts in the Archipelago. The Assembly thanks the AU partners for their support. The Assembly welcomes the holding in Anjouan, on 15 and 29 June 2008, of elections which made it possible to designate the new President of the autonomous island of Anjouan;
6. *Requests* the Commission and AU Member States to continue to support efforts aimed at consolidating the progress made to date in the Comoros, including the rationalization of current institutional arrangements and the improvement of governance, as well as the socio-economic recovery of the Archipelago and the war on poverty;
7. *Expresses satisfaction* at the agreements reached to resolve the electoral crisis in Kenya and the establishment the coalition Government, in particular the National Accord and Reconciliation Act and the Agreement on the Principles of Partnership of the coalition Government. The Assembly commends the work done by President John Kufour of Ghana, the Panel of Eminent African Personalities led by Kofi Annan, and including Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of Tanzania and Mrs. Graça Machel, as well as the critical role played by the Chairperson of the AU, President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda in his capacity as Chairperson of the East African Community, in assisting the parties to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Assembly acknowledges the goodwill shown so far in implementing these agreements and calls on all parties to fully implement all aspects of the agreements;
8. *Welcomes* the progress made in the promotion of an all-inclusive political process in Somalia, in particular the conclusion, on 9 June 2008, in Djibouti, of an Agreement between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS), under the auspices of the United Nations, with the support of the AU, other regional organizations and international partners. The Assembly strongly urges all Somali stakeholders to join this process and commit themselves to the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict in Somalia. The Assembly condemns all attempts aimed at undermining the ongoing peace and reconciliation process in Somalia;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to lend increased support to the efforts aimed at bringing to a definite end the violence that has plagued Somalia for about two decades, including the early deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation that would take over from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and support the long-term stabilization and reconstruction of Somalia;*
10. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the work done by the AMISOM and appeals to the Member States and AU partners to provide increased support to the mission to enable it to successfully carry out its mandate;
11. *Expresses deep concern* over the situation prevailing at the border between Djibouti and Eritrea, and the tension in the relations between the two countries. The Assembly strongly condemns the use of force, reiterates the obligation to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Member States, and calls for the return to the situation prevailing at the common border between the two countries before the current tension, including the immediate withdrawal of all the forces positioned there since 4 February 2008;¹
12. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by the PSC and the Commission to facilitate the resolution of this crisis, including the dispatching by the Commission of a mission to Djibouti, from 5 to 9 June 2008, and expresses its sincere appreciation to the Djiboutian authorities for cooperating with the mission and their constant willingness to enter into dialogue in order to find a peaceful solution to the crisis;
13. *Expresses deep concern* at the refusal of the Eritrean authorities to receive the mission from the Commission and urgently appeals to them to extend their full cooperation to the efforts deployed by the AU towards a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Assembly welcomes the support provided by the United Nations Security Council to the AU efforts, as expressed in its Presidential Statement of 12 June 2008;
14. *Welcomes and expresses support* to the decision of the Twelfth IGAD Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 June 2008, on the Eritrea and Djibouti conflict. The Assembly notes the decision taken by the IGAD Summit by recognizing the implications of Eritrea's absence from IGAD for regional peace, security and development, and the consequent designation of a Ministerial Committee to engage Eritrea on the possibility of reconsidering her decision to suspend IGAD membership;
15. *Welcomes* the agreement reached by the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), on 8 June 2008, on a "Road Map for the return of IDPs and Implementation of the Abeyi Protocol", which will pave the way towards the resolution of the Abeyi impasse, and urges the parties to intensify their efforts with a view to addressing all the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA. The Assembly notes the steps taken by the Commission in support of the implementation of the CPA, and requests that immediate steps be taken for the full operationalization of the liaison office in Khartoum with an office in Juba. The Assembly encourages the AU Ministerial Committee for Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Sudan to pursue and intensify its efforts;
16. *Expresses deep concern* at the continued lack of progress in the political process in Darfur, and urges the parties to extend full cooperation to the joint AU-United Nations Mediation so that substantive negotiations can begin in earnest. The Assembly also expresses concern at the continued violence in Darfur and its impact on the civilian population. The Assembly stresses the need for continued efforts towards the full deployment of UNAMID;
17. *Expresses concern* at the continued tensions between Chad and Sudan and calls for renewed efforts to implement the Dakar agreement and previous agreements between the two countries;
18. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts deployed by the Central African Government in the promotion of the Inclusive Political Dialogue. The Assembly commends the conclusion of the preparatory work for the said Dialogue and urges all the parties concerned to participate in it in a constructive manner. The Assembly welcomes the

* Editor's note: This paragraph has been aligned with the French version.

¹ Reservation entered by the State of Eritrea.

signing in Libreville on 21 June 2008, of the Comprehensive Ceasefire and Peace Agreement between the Government and the People's Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD) and the Union for Rally of Democratic Forces (UFDR). The Assembly urges the Democratic Front for the People of Central Africa (FDPC) to sign the said Agreement, and takes note of the decision of the ECCAS Summit to transfer the management of the FOMUC from CEMAC to ECCAS, and expresses its appreciation to all the development partners for their constant support and their commitment alongside the Central African authorities and encourages them to continue and strengthen their support to the consolidation of peace and stability in the CAR;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts deployed towards the implementation of the Joint communiqué signed in Nairobi, on 9 November 2007 by the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwandan Governments, as well as the work achieved by the Joint Monitoring Group established by the Tripartite+ Summit held in Addis Ababa on 5 December 2007. Furthermore, the Assembly urges the Congolese parties to comply with the Goma Statements of Commitment, to strictly implement them with a view to accelerating the re-establishment of State authority in the Kivus, and promote the socio-economic development of the two provinces;

20. *Expresses satisfaction* at the conclusion, in Bujumbura on 26 May 2008, by the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu/FNL, of a Joint Declaration on the Cessations of Hostilities, which relaunches the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement of 7 September 2006. The Assembly appeals to Member States and AU partners to provide all the necessary support to the ongoing efforts, thus contributing to the consolidation of peace in Burundi;

21. *Expresses satisfaction* at the progress being made in the post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts in Liberia, and encourages the larger international community to continue to support the efforts of the Liberian Government;

22. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and welcomes, in particular, the measures taken, on a consensual basis, to hold the presidential elections on 30 November 2008. The Assembly pays tribute to President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, the current Chairperson of ECOWAS, and Facilitator of the Inter-Ivorian Direct Dialogue. The Assembly urges all the Ivorian parties to maintain and consolidate the dynamics of peace prevailing in the country since the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement on 4 March 2007. The Assembly calls on the international community to continue to accompany and support the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire;

23. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 7 April 2008 on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Assembly commends the Republic of South Africa for the sustained efforts that it has made in following up on the Assembly's decision of January 2007 for the funding of AU-led peace support operations through United Nations assessed contributions. The Assembly also expresses appreciation to the other African members of the Security Council for their support and efforts;

24. *Also welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposal, endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008, to set up an African Union-United Nations panel consisting of distinguished persons to consider in depth the modalities of how to support, including financing, peacekeeping operations undertaken by regional organizations, in particular as related to start-up funding, equipment and logistics, and make concrete recommendations. The Assembly requests the Commission to continue to follow up the implementation of this resolution.

Assembly/AU/Dec.194 (XI)

**Decision on the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Commitments of the May 2006 Abuja
Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (ATM)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Commitments of the May 2006 Abuja Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (ATM);
2. *Welcomes* the Malaria Initiative launched by the United Nations Secretary-General and the appointment of a United Nations Special Envoy on Malaria; and requests the AU Commission to work closely with the Envoy in the implementation of the Malaria Elimination Campaign launched by the African Union;
3. *Concerned* that HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria remain major development challenges and thus require sustained political will and commitment in order to reverse their impact;
4. *Deplores* the high costs of medicines for these diseases, and notes with concern the increasing challenges associated with resistance to the medicines and insecticides;
5. *Acknowledges* the particular susceptibility of women, children and other vulnerable groups to HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria;
6. *Urges* Member States to implement their pledge to devote at least 15 per cent of their national budget to health in order to adequately address health and development, especially HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria;
7. *Also urges* Member States to strengthen health systems in the framework of the Africa Health Strategy (2007—2015) as the best approach to promote universal access to HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria services by 2010;
8. *Further urges* Member States to strengthen their respective disease surveillance capacities for effective monitoring and evaluation and to prepare progress reports to the AU organs and other constituencies;
9. *Calls upon* regional and international partners to sustain efforts to support Member States in the implementation of the various commitments on HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria (ATM);
10. *Requests* the Commission to promote regional cooperation while coordinating and harmonizing follow-up on the response to HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria;
11. *Also requests* the Commission in collaboration with development partners to monitor the implementation of this decision and to prepare a review report in 2010 as requested by the Special Summit on ATM.

Assembly/AU/Dec.195 (XI)

**Decision on the Report on the Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa;
2. *Reaffirms* the need to implement the decision adopted by the Banjul Summit in 2006 on legislation that regulates and respects social life in Africa, and urges Member States to make contributions in this regard;
3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to intensify its leadership role and keep the promotion of maternal, infant and child health high on the continental agenda;

4. *Urges* Member States to take action to institutionalize enquiries into maternal, infant and child deaths in Member States; to this effect periodic reports should be submitted to the Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and relevant partners for assessment and analysis of progress and sharing of best practices;
5. *Endorses* the nomination by the Special Session of the AU Conference of African Ministers of Health, on 17 May 2008, of Dr. M. Tshabalala-Msimang, Minister of Health of the Republic of South Africa, as Goodwill Ambassador to champion the Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health in Africa;
6. *Calls upon* the United Nations agencies and other international partners to accelerate actions to improve maternal, infant and child health in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015;
7. *Requests* the Commission to speed up action for capacity-building with the view to strengthening advocacy, resource mobilization, coordination and harmonization, monitoring and evaluation of progress made in the promotion of maternal, infant and child health in Africa;
8. *Also requests* the Commission to develop and disseminate a format to guide Member States with reporting, to enable it to update its statistical data;
9. *Reiterates* its previous decision, requesting the Commission in collaboration with relevant partners, to intensify advocacy and coordination efforts towards the attainment of MDGs 4, 5, and 6 in Africa and to submit progress reports to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, in January 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.196 (XI)

**Decision on the Single Legal Instrument on the Merger of the
African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court of Justice
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. *Adopts* the draft Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights;
3. *Calls on* Member States to sign and ratify the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights as expeditiously as possible so as to enable the Protocol to enter into force and ensure the speedy operationalization of the merged Court.

Assembly/AU/Dec.197 (XI)

**Decision on the Report on Negotiation of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)
(Doc. EX.CL/422 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Commission on the Negotiation of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs);
2. *Endorses* the Declaration on the EPA Negotiations adopted by the Joint Conference of AU Ministers of Trade and Finance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2008;

3. *Requests* Member States that have had to initial individual Interim EPAs to avoid disruption of their trade with the European Union (EU) after the 31 December 2007 deadline, to pursue and finalize within their Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Groupings the negotiation and conclusion of full and comprehensive EPAs;
4. *Further requests* the Member States concerned to ensure that the contentious issues in the Interim EPAs that have been identified by the AU Ministers of Trade and Finance are adequately addressed in the negotiation of full and comprehensive EPAs;
5. *Urges* the European Commission not to put pressure on African governments to ratify the interim agreements without taking into account the concerns raised on the contentious issues;
6. *Invites* the European Commission to honour the commitment made by the Council in Brussels on 27 May 2008 to make EPAs an instrument for the promotion of development, support to regional integration, and gradual integration of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of States in the world economy, and urges the European Commission to fully reflect this commitment in the negotiation and conclusion of full and comprehensive EPAs;
7. *Requests* the AU Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Commission for Africa (ECA) and the RECs, to accelerate the elaboration of a full EPA template to be used as a guideline by all African countries/groups negotiating full EPAs;
8. *Urges* the European Union to consider providing an alternative trading arrangement, that is World Trade Organization (WTO) – compatible but not less favourable than the Lomé/Cotonou trading regime, to African countries/groups that have not initialled interim EPAs and may not be in a position to conclude full EPAs;
9. *Calls on* the AU Commission and the European Union Commission to facilitate an early convening of the high-level Africa-Europe consultations on EPAs, as agreed in Lisbon during the Second Europe-Africa Summit, held in Portugal, in December 2007;
10. *Requests* African negotiating countries and groups to remain united in their engagement with the European Union Commission on EPAs;
11. *Requests* the AU Commission to strengthen its coordination and harmonization of the positions of the countries and groups in the negotiation of full EPAs;
12. *Urges* Member States and the RECs to take full advantage of the European Union Aid for Trade resources.

Assembly/AU/Dec.198 (XI)

Decision on the African Peer Review Mechanism

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* that at its Inaugural Summit, in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, it had adopted a Declaration on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (I)) endorsing the Progress Report and Initial Action Plan (AHG/235 (XXXVIII)), encouraging Member States to adopt the NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance (AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex I) and accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) (AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex II);
2. *Recalls* that the mandate of the APRM is to encourage participating States in ensuring that the policies and practices of participating States conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards, and to achieve mutually agreed objectives in socio-economic development contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;

3. *Notes* that twenty-eight (28) Member States have voluntarily acceded to APRM and invites all Member States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism;
4. *Welcomes* the important role being played by the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government in the APRM ("APRM Forum") and the Panel of Eminent Persons of the APRM ("APRM Panel");
5. *Calls upon* the Government of the Republic of South Africa to grant all facilities to APRM for the discharge of its mandate;
6. *Decides* that APRM structures, namely the APRM Forum, the APRM Panel and the APRM Secretariat shall be part of the processes and structures of the African Union;
7. *Requests* the Commission to negotiate and conclude a host country agreement, with the Government of the Republic of South Africa, for APRM with a view to facilitating the discharge of its mandate.

Assembly/AU/Dec.199 (XI)

**Decision on the Report of the Commission on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction pursuant to the recommendation of the Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 18 April 2008;
2. *Recalls* the Johannesburg Declaration of the Pan-African Parliament dated 15 May 2008;
3. *Recognizing* that universal jurisdiction is a principle of international law whose purpose is to ensure that individuals who commit grave offences such as war crimes and crimes against humanity do not do so with impunity and are brought to justice, which is in line with Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
4. *Noting* the Brazzaville statement by the Interministerial Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region dated 22 May 2008;
5. *Resolves* as follows:
 - (i) The abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction is a development that could endanger international law, order and security;
 - (ii) The political nature and abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by judges from some non-African States against African leaders, particularly Rwanda, is a clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of these States;
 - (iii) The abuse and misuse of indictments against African leaders have a destabilizing effect that will negatively impact on the political, social and economic development of States and their ability to conduct international relations;
 - (iv) Those warrants shall not be executed in African Union Member States;

(v) There is need for establishment of an international regulatory body with competence to review and/or handle complaints or appeals arising out of abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by individual States;

6. *Requests* the Chairperson of the African Union to table the matter before the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly for consideration;

7. *Further requests* the Chairperson of the AU Commission to urgently call a meeting between the AU and European Union (EU) to discuss the matter with a view to finding a lasting solution to this problem and in particular to ensure that those warrants are withdrawn and are not executable in any country;

8. *Also requests* all United Nations Member States, in particular the EU States, to impose a moratorium on the execution of those warrants until all the legal and political issues have been exhaustively discussed between the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations.

Assembly/AU/Dec.200 (XI)

**Decision on the Report of Activities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/446 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);

2. *Adopts and authorizes* in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Charter), the publication of the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Activity Reports of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and their annexes;

3. *Commends* ACHPR for the work accomplished and urges it to pursue and intensify its efforts in this regard;

4. *Reiterates* the need for ACHPR to be provided with adequate resources to remove donor dependence and enable the ACHPR to discharge its mandate effectively and independently;

5. *Expresses appreciation* to the Government of the Republic of the Gambia for the efforts deployed in hosting ACHPR for the past 20 years, and urges the Government to provide a permanent headquarter for ACHPR, in line with the criteria for hosting AU organs adopted in July 2005;

6. *Requests* the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to expedite its consideration of the proposed structure of the Secretariat of ACHPR, with a view to providing it with adequate staff for the effective discharge of its mandate;

7. *Urges* ACHPR to expedite consideration and finalization of its revised Rules of Procedure, ensuring that these rules are consistent with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

8. *Encourages* ACHPR, in collaboration with the AU Commission, to take the necessary steps to have the status of the ACHPR as an organ of the AU regularized;

9. *Requests* ACHPR to prepare proposals on the honorarium, per diem and other allowances to be paid to the Members of ACHPR, for consideration by the AU policy organs;

10. *Also requests* the ACHPR to prepare a paper on how the African Commission works, with a view to enhancing stakeholders' understanding of its working methods and operational modalities;

11. *Takes note* of the observations and reservations made by the Arab Republic of Egypt, regarding the shortcomings of the ACHPR in the translation of documents, in interpretation, and in transmitting documents to Member States, due to human and financial resource constraints, which can result in procedural and substantial shortcomings;

12. *Further requests* the ACHPR to report on the same to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.201 (XI)

**Decision on the Appointment of Members of the African Committee of Experts on
the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/450 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. *Decides* to appoint the following persons as members of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as elected by the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|---------------|
| (i) | Mrs. Agnès Kabore | Burkina Faso; |
| (ii) | Mr. Adrianirainy Rasamoely | Madagascar; |
| (iii) | Mrs. Maryam Uwais | Nigeria; |
| (iv) | Mr. Cyprien Adébayo Yanclo | Benin. |

Assembly/AU/Dec.202 (XI)

**Decision on the Election of Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/451 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. *Decides* to appoint, for a six-year term, the following judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights as elected by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:

- | | | |
|-------|---|----------------|
| (i) | Mrs. Sophia A.B. Akuffo (Ghana) | six-year term; |
| (ii) | Mr. Githu Muigai (Kenya) | six-year term; |
| (iii) | Mr. Joseph Nyamihana Mulenga (Uganda) | six-year term; |
| (iv) | Mr. Bernard Makgabo Ngoepe (South Africa) | six-year term. |

Assembly/AU/Dec.203 (XI)

Decision on the African Diaspora Summit

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Decision on the First African Union Ministerial Diaspora Conference held in Midrand, South Africa, from 16 to 18 November 2007;
2. *Commends* the efforts of the Commission and the Republic of South Africa in implementing this decision, and the progress made so far in organizing the African Diaspora Summit scheduled to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 7 to 11 October 2008;
3. *Urges* the Republic of South Africa and the Commission to continue to collaborate closely in this regard;
4. *Welcomes* the organization of a technical workshop to be held in South Africa from 28 to 30 July 2008, in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministerial Conference, and within the framework of efforts to promote consensus-building in the finalization of the declaration, programme of action and its implementation plan to be adopted at the Diaspora Summit;
5. *Requests* Member States, leaders of the Caribbean community and the African diaspora to continue to support and participate actively in the process leading up to the Summit, and the implementation of the Programme of Action to be adopted thereafter;
6. *Requests* the Commission to ensure that the process of organizing Regional Consultative Conferences (RCCs) continues as part of the Implementation Plan, to include the African diaspora in the Gulf, the Middle East, Oceania and other parts of the world where they have not been held;
7. *Calls on* Member States to provide adequate and necessary resources for the implementation of the programme of action arising out of this summit and the wider diaspora initiative.

Assembly/AU/Dec.204 (XI)

**Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State on the Reform of the Security Council;
2. *Reaffirms* the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations as the basis of any intergovernmental negotiations;
3. *Requests* the Committee of Ten to address other reform issues of the United Nations system, and to present a progress report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly;
4. *Decides* to renew the directive to the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, as stated in the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.184 (X) of January 2008, relating to their participation in intergovernmental negotiations in New York;
5. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee of Ten to meet regularly and requests the African Union Commission to facilitate the meetings.

Assembly/AU/Dec.205 (XI)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Eighteenth NEPAD HSGIC Summit;
3. *Urges* the African Union Commission to complete the process of the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer for the NEPAD Secretariat by the next African Union Summit in January 2009 along the lines of the January 2008 AU Assembly decision and calls on Member States to encourage their citizens to submit applications for the post;
4. *Commends* the hosting of the NEPAD Review Summit by President Abdoulaye Wade in Dakar, Senegal, on 15 April 2008, as well as the initiatives presented by Senegal on the revitalization of the NEPAD programme and urges all Member States to contribute viewpoints on the structure and profile of the new NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Authority;
5. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the AU/NEPAD Coordinating Unit on the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union, particularly the inauguration of the Unit and directs that the Unit should remain guided by the 2003 Maputo AU Assembly Declaration, the conclusions of the Algiers NEPAD Brainstorming Summit of March 2007 and the Addis Ababa January 2008 AU Assembly's decision, which continue to form the basis for the integration of NEPAD into AU structures and processes;
6. *Requests* the Commission to take the necessary measures to speed up the conclusion of the host country agreement for the NEPAD Secretariat with the Government of South Africa and welcomes the assurance by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa that all efforts would be made to conclude the host country agreement before the end of July 2008;
7. *Agrees and urges* the completion of the process of the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union by the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2009;
8. *Accepts* the recommendation of HSGIC to take three key messages of importance for Africa to the G8 Summit scheduled for Hokkaido, Japan, from 7 to 9 July 2008, as follows:
 - (a) That the Africa Action Plan remains the basis for Africa's engagement with the G8;
 - (b) Reactivation of the G8/NEPAD follow-up mechanism as agreed upon at the G8 Heiligendamm Summit of 2007 to ensure prompt and effective fulfillment of all G8 commitments and pledges to Africa;
 - (c) Facilitate better access to concessional loans by African countries for the purpose of economic growth within the context of prudent macroeconomic management as part of the process of reviewing the issues of financing for development. This is all the more important in view of the burden of the hike in prices of oil and inflation in food prices faced by oil importing countries;
9. *Emphasizes* that the Japanese "Cool Earth" Initiative should not compromise or undermine Africa's positions and strategies on climate change being canvassed at the international level through the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC's) Kyoto and post-Kyoto processes;
10. *Underscores* the need for early preparations by Africa for the 2009 G8 Summit in Italy and the 2010 G8 Summit in Canada, and the appropriate engagements at various levels by Africa with the leadership of the two countries for the necessary sensitization towards African priorities, interests and concerns;

11. *Approves* the new membership of the NEPAD HSGIC for the next two years as follows:

Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
Cameroon	Ethiopia	Egypt	South Africa	Nigeria
Congo	Madagascar*	Algeria	Namibia*	Senegal
DRC	Sudan*	Libya	Malawi*	Mali
Gabon	Rwanda	Tunisia	Lesotho*	Benin*

*New members.

12. *Decides* that the country chairing the African Union during its term of office, shall automatically be a member of HSGIC, if not already a member and further decides that the Republic of Tanzania shall be a member of HSGIC.

Assembly/AU/Dec.206 (XI)

Decision on the Report of the Committee of Twelve Heads of State and Government on the Union Government (Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XI))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Committee of Twelve Heads of State and Government which met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 22 to 23 May 2008 and endorses its recommendations;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Members of the Committee and commends them for the work done;
3. *Reaffirms* its decision in the Accra Declaration to “accelerate the economic and political integration of the African continent, including the formation of a Union Government for Africa with the ultimate objective of creating the United States of Africa and endorses the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee of Twelve in this regard;
4. *Requests* the Commission to work out the modalities and details for the implementation of the recommendations on the Union Government of the Committee of Twelve, including a road map and the issues that require clarity, and submit proposals thereon to the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2009;
5. *Decides* to devote a full day of its January 2009 session to consider the report of the Commission on this matter with a view to bringing the debate to a final conclusion.

Assembly/AU/Dec.207 (XI)

Decision on Strengthening the Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The Assembly,

1. *Recognizes* that trafficking in human beings is increasingly becoming a global scourge affecting all countries around the world, especially in Africa;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as the first comprehensive international instrument dealing with this important issue and calling for achieving its universality as soon as possible;
3. *Welcomes* the increased efforts to intensify dealing with this issue in the United Nations General Assembly as well as in other regional organizations, as manifested in the 2004 ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children, the 2005 Convention of the Council of Europe on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2006 AU/EU Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children as well as the ECOWAS Declaration to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2001) and the ECOWAS Initial Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons (2001) and the AU Migration Framework for Africa;
4. *Further welcomes* the establishment in 2007 of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT) to coordinate actions among governments, United Nations organs, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in order to fully ensure protection, prosecution and prevention in dealing with human trafficking;
5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the “Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement” for all its efforts in raising public awareness for this important issue and for all its work to further develop public/private partnership to help African countries in combating human trafficking through ensuring protection, prevention and prosecution, in full cooperation with the United Nations and the African Union and through her global ambitious initiative “End Human Trafficking Now”;
6. *Commends* the efforts exerted by various African Union organs and United Nations entities dealing with the issue of trafficking in human beings, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization on Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and stresses the need for enhancing cooperation and coordination between the Commission and all other organs and stakeholders dealing with this important issue;
7. *Directs* the Permanent Representatives of the Member States of the African Union to the United Nations in New York to propose and start negotiations on a Global Action Plan for combating trafficking in human beings under the auspices of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, taking the 2006 Ouagadougou Action Plan and other regional action plans, in particular the ECOWAS Initial Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons as a basis for the African position, and to coordinate with other interested Member States with similar action plans or similar positions towards achieving our objectives;
8. *Requests* the Commission to provide all necessary support to the Permanent Representatives in New York throughout the negotiation process and to intensify its interaction with all organs and stakeholders dealing with this issue with a view to ensuring the early adoption of the proposed Global Action Plan, and to present a progress report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2009.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI)

Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Eleventh Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008,

Recognizing the importance of water and sanitation for the social, economic and environmental development of our countries and continent,

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles and objectives, stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union aimed at promoting cooperation and integration between our countries in all fields with a view to raising the living standards of our peoples and the well-being of future generations,

Recognizing that water is and must remain a key to sustainable development in Africa, and that water supply and sanitation are prerequisites for Africa's human capital development,

Concerned that there is an underutilization and uneven sharing of water resources in Africa, and that remains a growing challenge in the achievement of food and energy securities,

Reaffirming our commitment to the African Water Vision 2025, the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa, the Declaration on Climate Change in Africa, and the Millennium Development Goal on water supply and sanitation,

Mindful that our Summit is taking place midway to the 2015 water, sanitation and other MDGs targets and aware that not much progress has been made in Africa compared to the rest of the world to achieve the MDGs target, and that based on current trends, Africa needs to accelerate its efforts,

Welcoming the declaration by the international community of 2008 as the year of action on the MDGs, and the declaration by the United Nations of 2008 as the "International Year of Sanitation" which, for Africa, provides an opportunity for accelerating its regional action plans and implementation strategies by adopting concrete decisions at our Heads of State and Government Summit,

Aware of the need to make progress on the challenges of water and sanitation infrastructure financing, water conservation and equitable distribution, closing the sanitation gap, breaking the silence on sanitation and hygiene, adapting to climate change, integrated management of national and transboundary surface and groundwater, investing in information, knowledge and monitoring and institutional development as well capacity-building,

Aware also of the urgent need to develop our water and sanitation infrastructure and institutions in order to provide sufficient and sustainable quantity and quality for all types of services and provide an acceptable level of protection from risks of water-related disasters and the impact of climate change as key for the transformation and socio-economic development, and for public health in Africa,

Recognizing the progress that the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and other institutions and organizations and their development partners have made in the area of water resource management and in the provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to the urban and rural populations of our countries albeit the inadequacies,

Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first Africa Water Week convened by AMCOW and hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Tunis, Tunisia, from 26 to 28 March 2008; and further welcoming the eThekweni Declaration on Sanitation and its accompanying actions adopted in South Africa in February 2008, and the Africa-EU Statement on Sanitation of March 2008,

Acknowledging the work done by AMCOW in mobilizing action towards sustainable and integrated water resource management and in providing policy guidance for coordination of water resources management and for water supply and sanitation initiatives as well as the funding mechanisms put in place for these initiatives,

We commit ourselves to:

- (a) Increase our efforts to implement our past declarations related to water and sanitation;

(b) Raise the profile of sanitation by addressing the gaps in the context of the 2008 eThekweni Ministerial Declaration on sanitation in Africa adopted by AMCOW;

(c) Address issues pertaining to agricultural water use for food security as provided for in the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first African Water Week;

And particularly,

(d) Develop and/or update national water management policies, regulatory frameworks, and programmes, and prepare national strategies and action plans for achieving the MDG targets for water and sanitation over the next seven years;

(e) Create conducive environment to enhance the effective engagement of local authorities and the private sector;

(f) Ensure the equitable and sustainable use, as well as promote integrated management and development, of national and shared water resources in Africa;

(g) Build institutional and human resources capacity at all levels including the decentralized local government level for programme implementation, enhance information and knowledge management as well as strengthen monitoring and evaluation;

(h) Put in place adaptation measures to improve the resilience of our countries to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to our water resources and our capacity to meet the water and sanitation targets;

(i) Significantly increase domestic financial resources allocated for implementing national and regional water and sanitation development activities and call upon ministers of water and finance to develop appropriate investment plans;

(j) Develop local financial instruments and markets for investments in the water and sanitation sectors;

(k) Mobilize increased donor and other financing for the water and sanitation initiatives including national projects and rural water and sanitation initiatives, the African Water Facility, Water for African Cities programme and the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, as committed in the G8 initiatives on water and sanitation;

(l) Promote effective engagement of African civil society and public participation in water and sanitation activities and programmes;

(m) Promote programming that addresses the role and interests of youth and women, given that the burden of poor water and sanitation falls disproportionately on women and children;

(n) Strengthen AMCOW as a key regional mechanism, and other regional stakeholders, as relevant, for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation;

(o) Strengthen AMCOW's initiative on sustainable management of water resources to implement its road map for the African Groundwater Commission;

(p) Strengthen partnership at all levels in our countries and between Regional Economic Communities as well as with the international development agencies and promote public-private partnerships with the view to fast tracking actions towards meeting the MDG on water and sanitation on our continent;

- (q) Request AMCOW to annually report on progress made in the implementation of our commitment on water and sanitation with support from regional partners, and to submit these reports for our consideration;
- (r) Call on African ministers in charge of water and finance in collaboration with the African Development Bank and development partners, to hold a meeting of ministers of water and finance to develop appropriate financing policies;
- (s) Request the Regional Economic Communities and the rivers and lake basin organizations to initiate regional dialogues on climate change and its impacts on the water sector with the aim of designing appropriate adaptation measures;
- (t) Call upon the G8 to reaffirm at its next summit in Japan its commitment to fully implement the G8 initiatives on water in Africa, notably the 2003 Evian Plan on Water, to step up their engagement in the sanitation sector and to enter into a strengthened partnership with the AU Member States, through AMCOW, for achieving the water and sanitation MDGs.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XI)

Declaration on Responding to the Challenges of High Food Prices and Agriculture Development

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Eleventh Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh in the Arab Republic of Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008,

Recalling our decision to adopt the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) at the Maputo Summit in July 2003 as a framework for accelerating agricultural development, the Sirte Declaration on Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Water in Africa in February 2004, and the outcomes of the Abuja Summit on Fertilizer,

Recalling further the Declaration of the Food Security Summit held in Abuja in December 2006 that called for a green revolution in Africa,

Welcoming the Declaration of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its headquarters in Rome, from 3 to 5 June 2008, and in particular the recognition of the need to increase food production in the world, the outcome of the Twenty-fifth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in Nairobi in June 2008,

Concerned by the current crisis caused by the high food prices and its adverse impact on African countries, particularly the poor and vulnerable household segments of the population,

Welcoming the establishment by the United Nations Secretary-General of the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis,

Recognizing that the high food prices will divert the meagre national resources from development activities to meet urgent food imports needed for adequate nutrition,

Mindful that the major causes of the high food prices include rising demand for cereals particularly in rapidly growing economies; grain-based biofuels production and the ensuing competition between food security and energy needs; supply shocks due to the environmental negative impact including climate change, desertification and drought on our capacities to feed a growing global population; low farming productivity as a result of low investment in agriculture especially in Africa; higher energy prices leading to higher input and processing costs, particularly increased prices of fertilizers and transport,

Aware that the crisis can provide an opportunity to build a coalition of responses across the African continent, offering a vehicle for an African agricultural renaissance that raises small scale farmers' incomes, enhances livelihoods, nutrition and ultimately food security for Africa,

Declare our firm commitment to:

1. *Reduce* by half the number of undernourished people in Africa by 2015 and eradicate hunger and malnutrition on the continent;
2. *Take all necessary measures* to increase agricultural production and ensure food security in Africa, in particular through the implementation of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of NEPAD and the Maputo Declaration of July 2003;
3. *Support* the following thematic priority options:
 - (a) Increase food production and productivity for key commodities by improving access to agricultural inputs for diversified cropping and livestock production systems including targeted SMART subsidies (fertilizer, improved seeds, better access to technologies and innovations);
 - (b) Improve production of fertilizers from existing plants and explore the possibility of establishing new ones based on the availability of raw materials in the region;
 - (c) Support national and regional food initiatives to stabilize prices, and serve as emergency stock;
 - (d) Strengthen food security and agricultural information and early warning systems that are sustainable with key stakeholder participation;
 - (e) Introduce and support agricultural insurance systems and microcredit;
 - (f) Increase production by improved sustainable soil fertility management including conservation agriculture technologies;
 - (g) Enhance food processing, credit systems, and use of improved storage, and minimize post-harvest losses;
 - (h) Promote indigenous crops and technologies for production and processing of nutrient-rich crops;
 - (i) Improve logistics capacity to move emergency supplies and agricultural inputs;
4. *Address* the challenges posed by the high food prices through the following measures:
 - (a) Immediate/short terms responses:
 - (i) Immediate assistance to the vulnerable segments of populations through targeted food assistance and safety net measures including cash and/or food transfers to combat hunger and malnutrition;
 - (ii) Intensify agricultural production and productivity through the use of targeted input subsidies, particularly fertilizer and improved seed, and enhance access to water and small scale irrigation;
 - (iii) Improve post-harvest management to minimize crop storage losses and enhance processing;
 - (b) Medium to long-term responses:

- (i) Invest in appropriate social safety nets and interventions that include both protective actions to mitigate short-term risks and preventative actions to preclude long-term negative consequences;
- (ii) Scale up investments for sustained agricultural growth including expanded public spending for rural infrastructure (roads, markets, irrigation and water harvesting techniques, etc.), services (microfinance, market information systems, insurance programmes, etc.), agricultural research and technology development and transfer (increased productivity, post-harvest management, extension, etc.);
- (iii) Enhance sustainable land management practices including soil and water management and conservation;
- (iv) Enhance institutional and human capacities for agricultural development;
- (v) Review biofuel policies to make more grains and oilseeds currently used for fuel available for food and feed.

We call for:

1. A global partnership that deals with the causes and repercussions of the current crisis, tackles the issue of food security within the more comprehensive humanitarian scope and its association with the inalienable human right to food and life, so as to support the efforts on the national, regional, and international levels to curtail the rise in food prices;
2. The successful early conclusion of the Doha Round to provide for rules-based, fair and free international trade particularly in food and agriculture commodities is an indispensable part of a long-term solution. The substantial lowering of barriers to trade in agriculture products coupled with reductions in overall trade-distorting subsidies, particularly in developed countries, will have an impact on food production and investment in agriculture in many developing countries, particularly in Africa;
3. The immediate launching of an International high-level dialogue between food exporters and importers from developed and developing countries aimed at:
 - (a) Concluding an international strategy for the short, medium and long-term handling of the current crisis;
 - (b) Examining the speculation risks pertinent to agricultural commodity prices;
 - (c) Reinforcing the efforts to promote the development of the agriculture sector in the field of land reclamation, boosting productivity, and encouraging the infrastructure needed for transporting and stockpiling crops;
 - (d) Energizing scientific research in the field of fertilizers and new seed varieties, one that scrutinizes the effects of genetically modified seeds on sanitary and phyto-sanitary, human, as well as animal health;
 - (e) Confronting climate change challenges seriously and effectively in its relationship with prevailing consumption and production patterns, and their grave repercussions on drought and land desertification, and their direct consequences on the world's food security;
4. The setting of an international code of conduct that:
 - (a) Reconsiders the current expansion in the production of biofuel as an alternative source of traditional energy;
 - (b) Sets the standards for the responsible utilization of grain based biofuel;

(c) Reassesses the actual social and environmental costs of biofuel, and restricts its production to agricultural waste and specific designated non-food crops;

(d) Reconsiders the current subsidy offered to ethanol and biodiesel producers, and subjects it to rules of world trade. This subsidization is creating hazardous distortion to the present international system of agricultural production and trade.

We further call upon:

1. Multilateral and bilateral development partners, in particular those participating in the next G8 Summit in Hokaido, to provide financial and technical support to assist African countries to increase substantially their food and agricultural production and productivity;

2. The RECs to take proactive measures on their assistance to countries on the short-term, as well as, medium-long term response by identification of the technical assistance required at the regional level;

3. African Union Commission and NEPAD Secretariat to establish a taskforce supported by FAO, WFP, IFAD, World Bank, and RECs that can coordinate active and timely follow-up to actions in this declaration including: facilitating the coordination of development partners support for country-level programming activities in connection with both immediate and longer term responses to the food price crisis and supporting the dialogue with development partners at the national level on responses to the crisis;

4. The African Union Commission, NEPAD Secretariat in collaboration with the FAO, WFP, IFAD, AfDB and the World Bank to develop a short-term action plan to raise production substantially in the next two planning seasons;

We commit ourselves to mobilize all means to alleviate the suffering caused by the situation of rising food prices and to strengthen agricultural development raising production and productivity as a solution to the challenges facing Africa.

Assembly/AU/Tribute (XI)

Tribute to the Late Aimé Césaire, Poet and Humanist from Martinique

We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting in the Eleventh Ordinary Session of our Assembly, deeply saddened by the departure of our brother Aimé Césaire on 17 April 2008 at age 94, hereby pay a special tribute to the memory of one of the greatest humanists in modern times, to the memory of the man who devoted his entire life struggling relentlessly and fearlessly against slavery and colonialism, and for the emancipation of black people around the world.

We, recognize with deep appreciation the action and work of Aimé Césaire; his denunciation of the former slave masters seeking to maintain our people in the shackles of psychological bondage, we salute his unswerving show of solidarity towards Africa as well as his valuable contribution to our continent's struggle to free herself from the yoke of colonialism.

Our brother Aimé Césaire, who was a uniquely talented poet turned politician, maintained brotherly relations with the late Leopold Sedar Senghor, the former President of Senegal, with whom he crafted the concept of "Negritude" that will forever remain the hallmark of their action against prejudice and for the defense of the cultural and spiritual values of black people everywhere; a concept that turns into positive all the negative connotation that some people want to associate to the word "Negro" out of sheer prejudice.

We salute the courage and selflessness of the late Aimé Césaire who, despite the intimidation, the harassment and the isolation which he was subjected to by those who disliked his ideas, has never given up on his strong desire and determination to uphold the values, the rights and the freedom of black people.

For his action and for his work, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to pay a solemn and well-deserved tribute to Aimé Césaire, a brother and a great humanist whose countless writings will, no doubt, inspire future generations in their quest for justice and equality.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XI)

Resolution on Zimbabwe

The African Union Assembly, meeting in its Eleventh Ordinary Session held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008,

Deeply concerned with the prevailing situation in Zimbabwe,

Deeply concerned with the negative reports of SADC, the African Union and the Pan-African Parliament observers on the Zimbabwean President run-off election held on 27 June 2008,

Deeply concerned about the violence and loss of life that have occurred in Zimbabwe,

Considering the urgent need to prevent further worsening of the situation and in order to avoid the spread of conflict with the consequential negative impact on the country and the subregion,

Further considering the need to create an environment conducive to democracy, as well as the development of the people of Zimbabwe,

Expressing its appreciation to SADC, and its organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation, as well as to the Facilitator of the intra-Zimbabwe dialogue, H.E. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, and H.E. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, for the ongoing work aimed at reconciling the political parties,

Recognizing the complexity of the situation in Zimbabwe,

Noting the willingness of the political leaders of Zimbabwe to enter into negotiations to establish a Government of National Unity,

Noting further that preparatory discussions on this matter has already started, under SADC facilitation,

Hereby decide to:

1. *Encourage* President Robert Mugabe and the leader of the MDC Party Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai to honour their commitments to initiate dialogue with a view to promoting peace, stability, democracy and reconciliation of the Zimbabwean people;
2. *Support* the call for the creation of a Government of National Unity;
3. *Support* the SADC Facilitation, and recommend that SADC mediation efforts should be continued in order to assist the people and leadership of Zimbabwe to resolve the problems they are facing. In this regard SADC should establish a mechanism on the ground in order to seize the momentum for a negotiated solution;
4. *Appeal* to States and parties concerned to refrain from any action that may negatively impact on the climate of dialogue.

In the spirit of all SADC initiatives, the AU remains convinced that the people of Zimbabwe will be able to resolve their differences and work together once again as one nation, provided they receive undivided support from SADC, the AU and the world at large.

TWELFTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1 to 3 February 2009**

Assembly/AU//Dec.208 (XII)

**Decision on the Budget for the African Union for the 2009 Financial Year
(Doc. EX.CL/455 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the budget of the African Union (AU) for the financial year 2009 amounting to US\$ 164,256,817 to be distributed as follows:

(i) A total amount of US\$ 93,804,243 assessed to Member States on the basis of the approved scale of assessment;

(ii) A total amount of US\$ 57,412,574 earmarked for the programmes secured from international partners;

(iii) An amount of US\$ 13,040,000 to be financed from 40 per cent of the surpluses from the year 2004 to 2007 budgets;

2. *Adopts* the budget breakdown between the AU organs as follows:

	Operational Budget	Programme Budget	Total (US\$)
Pan-African Parliament (PAP)	9,535,477	3,943,447	13,478,924
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)	2,376,639	1,295,127	3,671,766
African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR)	6,892,269	750,000	7,642,269
Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)	1,606,500	-	1,606,500
African Union Commission (AUC)	75,164,886	62,692,472	137,857,358
Total	95,575,771	68,681,046	164,256,817

3. *Requests* the Commission to develop templates for budget formulation and presentation, and submit it to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) through its Subcommittee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters for consideration;

4. *Decides* that all AU organs, namely PAP, ACHPR, AfCHPR and ECOSOCC, shall work closely with the Commission in the preparation of their respective budgets to ensure that they comply with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the AU Staff Rules and Regulations, as well as the standardized templates of budget formulation and presentations;

5. *Requests* the Commission to ensure that ledger codes of budgets of all AU organs are standardized;

6. *Also requests* the Office of the Internal Audit of the Commission to periodically audit the accounts of all other AU organs;

7. *Requests* the Commission to ensure that the expenses related to the Board of External Auditors be centralized under the Commission budget;

8. *Requests* the Commission to monitor the budget preparation by all AU organs in order to ensure compliance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the AU Staff Rules and Regulations;

9. *Further requests* all AU organs to submit monthly returns to the Commission for the purpose of monitoring budget execution and compliance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations;
10. *Decides* that all AU organs shall submit their requests for virement in conformity with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations to the PRC through its Subcommittee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters for consideration;
11. *Requests* the Commission to verify the recruitment process of staff members within all the AU organs and ensure that the recruitment contracts are standardized;
12. *Also requests* the Commission to discuss future draft budgets with the Bureau of the Subcommittee on Administration, Budgetary and Financial Matters before submitting to the Subcommittee for consideration;
13. *Requests* PAP:
 - (i) To stop applying 58 per cent post adjustment allowance to its staff members as and when their contracts expire, and apply the 40 per cent rate as per the AU Staff Rules and Regulations;
 - (ii) To send to the Commission copies of contracts for the members of staff who will be affected by this decision;
 - (iii) To calculate the post adjustment allowance on the basic salary only without including the housing allowance;
 - (iv) To stop implementing any decisions of the Bureau of PAP which have financial implications until approved by the AU policy organs;
 - (v) To submit the organizational structure of PAP to the Subcommittee on Structures for consideration prior to the July 2009 Summit;
 - (vi) To adhere strictly to the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the Staff Rules and Regulations in the preparation and execution of the budget, as well as the provisions of Article 15 of the PAP's Protocol dealing with budget preparation;
 - (vii) Not to include any unauthorized budget lines in the 2009 budget in particular the sitting, advocacy and communication, coordination and responsibility allowances;
 - (viii) To apply the daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rates as per the AU Financial Rules and Regulations;
 - (ix) To stop paying higher housing allowance rates and apply the AU approved rates.

Assembly/AU//Dec.209 (XII)

**Decision on the Draft Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XII) – a)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of the draft Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL);
2. *Adopts* the Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law;

3. *Requests* the Commission to take all the necessary measures so as to ensure that the first members of the Commission on International Law are elected in July 2009, to facilitate early operationalization of AUCIL.

Assembly/AU/Dec.210 (XII)

**Decision on the Draft African Charter on Statistics
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XII) – b)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of the draft African Charter on Statistics;
2. *Adopts* the African Charter on Statistics;
3. *Calls on* Member States to sign and ratify the African Charter on Statistics as expeditiously as possible so as to enable the Charter to enter into force, and thus provide a regulatory framework for statistics development on the continent.

Assembly/AU/Dec.211 (XII)

**Decision on the African Diaspora Summit
(Doc. EX.CL/483 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the activity report of the Commission on the progress made so far in the preparation for the African Diaspora Summit scheduled to be held in South Africa in 2009;
2. *Also takes note* of the outcome of the Technical Workshop held in Sun City, South Africa, from 27 to 29 August 2008 which provides for a suitable platform for consensus-building as part of the processes of the preparation for the Summit;
3. *Further takes note* of the postponement of the African Diaspora Summit and urges the Commission and the Government of South Africa to continue their close collaboration in order to set a new date for the Summit and ensure its successful conduct;
4. *Requests* Member States, leaders of the Caribbean Community and South America as well as all other States with a significant African diaspora population to continue to support and participate in the process leading up to the African Diaspora Summit;
5. *Further requests* the Commission to ensure that the process of organizing Regional Consultative Conferences (RCCs) continues as part of the Implementation Plan, to include the African diaspora in the Gulf, the Middle East, Oceania, and other parts of the world where they have not been held.

Assembly/AU/Dec.212 (XII)

Decision on the Protocol on the Establishment of the African Investment Bank

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of the draft Protocol for the Establishment of the African Investment Bank;
2. *Adopts* the Protocol for the Establishment of the African Investment Bank;
3. *Calls on* Member States to sign and ratify as expeditiously as possible the Protocol for the Establishment of the African Investment Bank so as to enable the Protocol to enter into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.213 (XII)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Assembly Decision on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.199 (XI) adopted by the Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2008 on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction;
2. *Also takes note* of the work of the African Union-European Union (AU-EU) Technical Ad hoc Expert Group set up by the Eleventh AU-EU Ministerial Troika with the mandate to clarify the respective understanding on the African and EU side on the principle of universal jurisdiction;
3. *Reiterates* its commitment to fighting impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
4. *Expresses its regret* that in spite of its previous Summit decision calling for a moratorium and while the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) were already in discussion to find a durable solution to this issue, a warrant of arrest was executed against Mrs. Rose Kabuye, Chief of Protocol to the President of the Republic of Rwanda, thereby creating tension between the AU and the EU;
5. *Underscores* that the African Union, speaking with one voice, is the appropriate collective response to counter the exercise of power by strong States over weak States;
6. *Reiterates* its appeal to all United Nations Member States, in particular the EU States, to suspend the execution of warrants issued by individual European States until all the legal and political issues have been exhaustively discussed between the AU, the EU and the United Nations;
7. *Requests* the Chairperson of the African Union to follow up on this matter with a view to ensuring that it is exhaustively discussed at the level of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly;
8. *Urges* the AU and EU Commissions to extend the necessary support to the Joint Technical Ad hoc Expert Group;
9. *Requests* the Commission, in consultation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, to examine the implications of the Court being empowered to try international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and report thereon to the Assembly in 2010;
10. *Also requests* the Commission to follow up on this matter with a view to ensuring that a definitive solution to this problem is reached and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.214 (XII)

**Decision on Alternative Sources of Financing for the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/481 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Study on Alternative Sources of Financing for the African Union and the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 January 2009;
2. *Urges* Member States to examine the Study on Alternative Sources of Financing as well as the proposed options and to make appropriate recommendations thereon;
3. *Also urges* Member States to forward their comments and proposals to the Commission by 15 September 2009;
4. *Requests* the Commission to take into account the recommendations put forward by Member States for a new study and present the new document to the Extraordinary Session of African Ministers of Economy and Finance to be held in November 2009;
5. *Also requests* the Commission to present the outcomes of the Extraordinary Session of CAMEF to the Assembly of the Union to be held in January 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.215 (XII)

**Decision on the Development of a Road Map and Plan of Action for Microfinance in Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/481 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 January 2009;
2. *Further takes note* of the Study on Development of a Road Map and Plan of Action for Microfinance in Africa;
3. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Extraordinary Conference of CAMEF on Development of Microfinance in Africa;
4. *Requests* the Commission to deepen the study on Development of a Road Map and Plan of Action for Microfinance in Africa, and draw on Member States' experiences in this area;
5. *Also requests* the Commission to undertake a feasibility study on the creation of a guarantee fund for the development of microfinance in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.216 (XII)

**Decision on the Report of the Implementation Status of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.204 (XI) on
Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the implementation status of its previous decisions on maternal, infant and child health and development in Africa;
2. *Also takes note* of the initiatives of the Commission to advocate, harmonize and coordinate efforts geared towards the promotion of safe motherhood and survival and development of infants and children;
3. *Reiterates* its commitment to keeping maternal, infant and child health at the top on Africa's agenda for sustainable development through the implementation of all relevant national, regional, continental and global initiatives such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programmes of Action, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the African Health Strategy as well as the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;
4. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of Mozambique for the theme of the July 2010 Summit to be on Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa;
5. *Commends* and encourages Dr. Manto Tshabala-Msimang, Goodwill Ambassador for Maternal, Infant and Child Health, to utilize all avenues and platforms to promote maternal, infant and child health in Africa;
6. *Requests* the Commission to continue to follow up on the implementation of the Assembly decisions of January and July 2008 sessions held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, respectively on the issue of maternal, infant and child health and development;
7. *Calls upon* the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), other relevant United Nations agencies and Africa's development partners, including the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), to support the Commission's efforts in the promotion of maternal, infant and child health;
8. *Requests* the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this decision and to report periodically to the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.217 (XII)

Decision on the Financial and Economic Crisis and the Negotiations on the Reform of the International Financial System

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the communiqué of the Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF) on the financial crisis and its impact on African economies, held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 12 November 2008;
2. *Also takes note*, with satisfaction, of the decision of the Conference to constitute a Committee of Ten (10) Ministers and Central Bank Governors (Committee of Ten), representing the five (5) regions of the African Union (AU), to monitor the unfolding trends of the financial and economic crisis, provide regular updated data, comprehensive information and analysis, proffer advice to the AU, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States, and make proposals on how best to contribute to the deliberations on the economic and social impact of the international financial crisis and measures to mitigate the crisis, and report accordingly to the Assembly;

3. *Urges* the Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to continue to jointly render their technical assistance and logistical support towards the functioning of the Committee of Ten;
4. *Invites* Member States to, in the drive to reduce the impact of the economic and financial crisis, intensify their cooperation to harmonize their fiscal and macroeconomic policies, accelerate the implementation of economic integration programmes and strengthen the financial markets' regulatory mechanisms;
5. *Also invites* Member States, particularly the countries hosting the three Pan-African financial institutions created by Article 19 of the Constitutive Act, namely the African Investment Bank, the African Monetary Fund and the African Central Bank (AIB, AMF, ACB), to speed up the establishment of these institutions, by providing the means and resources to facilitate the activities of their respective Steering Committees, in accordance with the memoranda of understanding signed with the Commission;
6. *Urges* the G8 member countries tasked with the responsibility to reform the international financial system, to associate the African Union, represented by its Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Commission, in the negotiations of the enlarged G20;
7. *Supports* the G20 initiative to set up working groups on the themes of negotiations for the urgent reform of the international financial system and requests that the Commission be associated with all the processes established to work out this reform and ensure the implementation of a new international economic and financial order.

Assembly/AU/Dec.218 (XII)

**Decision on the Africa-European Union Dialogue
(Doc. EX.CL/463 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Joint Progress Report on the Implementation of the Africa-European Union (EU) Joint Strategy/First Action Plan adopted by the eleventh Africa-EU Ministerial Troika, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 21 November 2008;
2. *Welcomes* efforts to strengthen the dialogue between the two sides including the College-to-College meeting of the African Union (AU) Commission and the European Commission, held in Brussels, Belgium, on 1 October 2008;
3. *Recalls* the responsibilities entrusted to the African Troika extended to include the lead agencies in the conduct of the partnership with the EU;
4. *Commends* the Joint Experts Groups for the considerable work done so far in the implementation;
5. *Calls upon* all parties to expedite efforts with a view to attaining tangible results within the time frame of the First Action Plan (2008—2010);
6. *Requests* both Africa and the European Union to ensure that the necessary funds are allocated in order to foster effective implementation of the Joint Strategy/First Action Plan;
7. *Urges* Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other stakeholders to take active part in the implementation of the First Action Plan under the coordination of the AU Commission;

8. *Requests* the Commission to ensure the effective involvement of the RECs and other stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring processes;
9. *Further requests* the Commission to engage with the EU to organize a workshop on the modalities for accessing its funds;
10. *Requests* the Commission to submit a special report to each session of the Executive Council on the progress made in the implementation of the partnership with the European Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.219 (XII)

Decision on Zimbabwe

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XI) on the situation in Zimbabwe adopted at its Eleventh Ordinary Session, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008, as well as the efforts undertaken subsequently and which led to the signing by the Zimbabwean parties on 15 September 2008, of the Global Political Agreement (GPA);
2. *Welcomes* the decisions of the Extraordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government, held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 26 to 27 January 2009, regarding the implementation of the GPA, and welcomes the timelines agreed for the formation of an inclusive Government, in particular the adoption of amendment nineteen (19) on 5 February 2009, as well as the swearing-in of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Ministers by 11 February 2009 and that of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers by 13 February 2009;
3. *Further welcomes* the commitments expressed by all the Zimbabwean parties to the GPA in the implementation of the Decision of SADC Extraordinary Summit held from 26 to 27 January 2009;
4. *Commends* and supports the efforts of SADC and its organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, as well as the Facilitator of the Political Dialogue on Zimbabwe, former President of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, and encourages him to continue with those efforts in line with the provisions of the GPA, of which the AU is a guarantor;
5. *Calls upon* AU Member States and partners to lend their full support to the implementation of the GPA, including through adequate support to address the serious socio-economic problems facing Zimbabwe;
6. *Further calls for* the immediate lifting of the sanctions on Zimbabwe to ease the economic and humanitarian situation in the country;
7. *Commends* the Chairperson of the Commission for the efforts he has made in pursuance of the Sharm El Sheikh Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.220 (XII)

Decision on the Resurgence of the Scourge of Coups d'État in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* over the resurgence of the scourge of coups d'état on the continent, which constitutes not only a dangerous political downturn and a serious setback to the democratic processes, but also a

threat to the peace, security and stability of the continent, and calls on Member States to react firmly and unequivocally to put an end to this scourge;

2. *Strongly condemns* the coups d'état that took place in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on 6 August 2008, and in the Republic of Guinea on 23 December 2008, as well as the attempted coup d'état in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on 5 August 2008;

3. *Supports* the decisions taken by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on these three countries, particularly those related to the immediate return to constitutional order, and requests the Commission to see to the strict implementation thereof;

4. *Reiterates* the firm commitment of the African Union (AU) to the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (p), and Article 30 of the Constitutive Act, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, the Algiers Declaration of July 1999 and the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government of July 2000;

5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet signed and ratified/acceded to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance to do so in order to ensure that this important instrument enters into force;

6. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit concrete recommendations relating to the implementation of appropriate preventive measures against unconstitutional changes of government, as well as to the enhancement of efficiency and capacity-building in early warning, good offices and mediation, including the Panel of the Wise;

7. *Further requests* the AU's partners to lend support to the decisions taken by the PSC and other relevant AU organs on unconstitutional changes of government.

Assembly/AU/Dec.221 (XII)

**Decision on the Application by the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor for the
Indictment of the President of the Republic of Sudan**

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the indictment made by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the President of the Republic of Sudan, H.E. Mr. Omar Hassan Ahmed El Bashir;

2. *Cautions* that, in view of the delicate nature of the peace processes underway in Sudan, approval of this application would seriously undermine the ongoing efforts aimed at facilitating the early resolution of the conflict in Darfur;

3. *Endorses* the communiqué issued by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 142nd meeting, held on 21 July 2008, and urges the United Nations Security Council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC, and as requested by the PSC at its above-mentioned meeting, to defer the process initiated by the ICC;

4. *Requests* the Commission to implement this decision by sending a high-level delegation from the African Union for necessary contacts with the United Nations Security Council;

5. *Further requests* the Commission to convene as early as possible, a meeting of the African countries that are parties to the Rome Statute on the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to exchange views on the work of the ICC in relation to Africa, in particular in the light of the processes initiated against African personalities, and to submit recommendations thereon taking into account all relevant elements;

6. *Reiterates* the AU's unflinching commitment to combating impunity and promoting democracy, the rule of law and good governance throughout the entire continent, in conformity with its Constitutive Act;

7. *Condemns* the gross violations of human rights in Darfur, and urges that the perpetrators be apprehended and brought to justice, and supports the decision by the PSC to establish a High-Level Panel of Eminent Personalities under the chairmanship of the former President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, to examine the situation in depth, and to submit recommendations on how best the issues of accountability and combating impunity, on the one hand, and reconciliation and healing, on the other, could be effectively and comprehensively addressed;

8. *Notes* the steps taken by the Republic of Sudan to address human rights violations in Darfur, and reiterates the call by various AU organs for the Government of Sudan to take immediate and concrete steps to investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice, and to take advantage of the availability of qualified lawyers to be seconded by the AU and the League of Arab States, and in this regard calls upon all parties to scrupulously respect the values and principles of human rights.

Assembly/AU/Dec.222 (XII)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts deployed to promote peace, security and stability in Africa, as well as the progress made towards the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, particularly with respect to the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF). The Assembly encourages all parties concerned to redouble their efforts to resolve the ongoing conflicts and consolidate peace where it has been achieved. The Assembly also requests the Commission to continue supporting the ongoing processes and mobilizing the assistance of the international community to that effect;

3. *Stresses* the need for more proactive efforts to prevent conflicts and, in this respect, requests the Chairperson of the Commission to submit to it a comprehensive report on the efforts undertaken so far to prevent conflicts and how best they could be enhanced;

4. *Expresses serious concern* at the resurgence of the scourge of coups d'état on the continent which constitutes a serious political regression and a reversal of the ongoing democratization process on the continent, requiring a firm and unequivocal response on the part of Member States. The Assembly strongly condemns the coups d'état that occurred in Mauritania and Guinea on 6 August and 23 December 2008, respectively, as well as the attempted coup d'état in Guinea-Bissau on 23 November 2008. The Assembly fully supports the decisions of the Peace and Security Council in the three cases as well as the efforts deployed by the Commission towards restoration of constitutional legality in Mauritania and Guinea;

5. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in the process of national reconciliation in the Comoros and encourages the Comorian parties to continue to work together in the spirit of consensus to consolidate these gains, including through the necessary rationalization of the existing institutional architecture of the archipelago and harmonization of the numerous electoral time frames in the country;

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in the political process in Somalia, particularly the signing, on 19 August and 26 October 2008 respectively, of the Djibouti Agreement and the Agreement on the Modalities for the Cessation of Armed Confrontation, as well as the decision to establish an inclusive and expanded Parliament and a Unity Government. The Assembly encourages the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS) to continue with their efforts, and urges all Somali stakeholders that have not yet done so to commit themselves to dialogue and join the peace process. The Assembly strongly condemns those elements seeking to undermine the peace efforts, as well as peace and stability in the region as a whole, and expresses its full support for the decision by IGAD, as endorsed by the PSC, to impose targeted sanctions on all those intent on undermining the ongoing efforts;

7. *Welcomes* the election of a new President for Somalia which represents a major breakthrough in the peace process and expresses its satisfaction over this latest development; urges all Somali stakeholders to work with the TFG and join the peace process. The Assembly strongly condemns those elements that are undermining the peace efforts;

8. *Further welcomes* the extension of the transitional period by two years and calls on the international community to lend increased support to the TFG so that the progress achieved can be sustained in order to bring lasting and durable peace in the country;

9. *Expresses its full support* for the decision of IGAD, as endorsed by the PSC, to impose targeted sanctions on all those intent on undermining the ongoing efforts;

10. *Takes note* of the completion by Ethiopia of the withdrawal of its forces from Somalia in line with the Djibouti Agreement and reiterates the AU's appreciation for the sacrifice made by Ethiopia and its commitment to the search for a lasting solution to the conflict in Somalia. The Assembly pays tribute to AMISOM and the troop contributing countries, namely Burundi and Uganda, for their commitment to the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia;

11. *Also pays tribute* to the AU partners and Member States, in particular Algeria, for providing financial and/or logistical support to AMISOM, and welcomes the adoption by the United Nations Security Council, on 16 January 2009, of resolution 1863 (2008), in which it expressed its intent to establish a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia as a follow-up to AMISOM, subject to a further decision by 1 June 2009, and authorized the provision of a support package to AMISOM. The Assembly urges the Security Council to urgently adopt a resolution authorizing the deployment of the envisaged peacekeeping operation;

12. *Reiterates* its concern at the continued impasse in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and calls for renewed efforts, including by the AU, to assist the two countries to overcome the current situation, normalize their relations and lay the foundation for a comprehensive and lasting peace between them;

13. *Further reiterates* its concern at the persisting tension at the border between Djibouti and Eritrea and in the relations between the two countries. The Assembly recalls the decision adopted by the PSC at its 138th Meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 29 June 2008, as well as its own decision on the matter. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the efforts being deployed by members of the international community, including the adoption by the United Nations Security Council, on 14 January 2008, of resolution 1862 (2008), which, inter alia, demanded that Eritrea withdraw its forces and all their military hardware to the status quo ante position, acknowledge its border dispute with Djibouti, engage actively in dialogue to defuse the tension, as well as in diplomatic efforts leading to a mutually acceptable settlement, and abide by its obligations as a member of the United Nations. The Assembly calls for speedy implementation of this resolution and requests the Commission to maintain consultations with the United Nations and other stakeholders, with a view of contributing to the early resolution of this conflict;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts invested towards the successful outcome of the process of implementing the agreements concluded between the Government of Burundi and PALIPEHUTU/FNL in June and September 2006

respectively, particularly the Declaration adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region, held in Bujumbura on 4 December 2008, and subsequent developments, especially the change of the appellation of PALIPEHUTU/FNL and the release of political prisoners and prisoners of war, as well as the commitment by the parties to resolve all the outstanding issues before 15 February 2009;

15. *Welcomes* the developments in the peace process in the east of the DRC, particularly since the conclusion of the Agreement between the Congolese and Rwandese Governments in Goma on 5 December 2008. The Assembly urges both Governments to speed up the implementation of the Nairobi Agreement of 2007 and calls upon the Congolese parties to the Goma process to scrupulously implement the Actes d'engagement emanating from that process;

16. *Stresses* the need for continued efforts to ensure the timely and faithful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and commends the parties to the CPA for their commitment and spirit of cooperation. The Assembly welcomes the progress made during the period under review, particularly with respect to the preparation of the national elections scheduled to take place in 2009, and the implementation of the Abyei Road Map of 8 June 2008;

17. *Expresses serious concern* at the deteriorating security situation in Darfur and calls upon all the parties to exercise restraint so as to create a propitious climate for the start of political talks. The Assembly welcomes the laudable efforts deployed by the United Nations and the African Union, including through the Joint Chief Mediator, Mr. Djibrill Bassole, in concert with the authorities of Qatar, within the framework of the Afro-Arab Peace Initiative, to get the parties to the conflict to sign a framework agreement together with a cessation of hostilities agreement, and urges them to participate, without delay and without preconditions, in the meeting which the Mediator plans to convene in Doha in the very near future. The Assembly welcomes the recommendations of the "Forum of the people of Sudan" and encourages the Sudanese Government to pursue implementation of these recommendations so as to build trust and confidence among the parties and enhance the search for a lasting solution to the crisis in Darfur. The Assembly also welcomes the progress achieved in the deployment of MINUAD, and expresses satisfaction at the Sudanese Government's cooperation in this regard;

18. *Expresses serious concern* at the current tension in the relations between Sudan and Chad and appeals to both countries to exercise restraint and work towards consolidation of the gains made thanks to the initiatives of the Contact Group set up in pursuance of the Dakar Agreement of March 2008. The Assembly welcomes the dispatch by the Chairperson of the Commission of a high-level delegation led by President Pierre Buyoya as a follow-up to the decision adopted by the PSC at its 138th Meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 29 June 2008. It requests the PSC to meet as quickly as possible to consider this report and take appropriate action;

19. *Welcomes* the holding and the outcomes of the Inclusive Political Dialogue (IPA) in the Central African Republic (CAR), encourages the concerned parties to work together to implement the recommendations put forward by the IPD, and expresses satisfaction at the deployment of the Peace Consolidation Mission of the Security Council in Central Africa (MICOPAX 1) to replace the CEMAC Multinational Force (FOMUC). The Assembly welcomes the support rendered by the African Union towards the peace consolidation process in the CAR in close cooperation with the region, the EU, the IOF and the United Nations, and encourages it to persevere in its efforts;

20. *Notes* that the presidential election could not be held in Côte d'Ivoire as initially planned with the consensus of all the parties and encourages the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to expeditiously set fresh dates for the election, on the proposal of the Independent Electoral Commission, and to take all appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the dates so fixed. The Assembly welcomes the signing on 22 December 2008, of the Fourth Supplementary Agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement which helped to find a solution to the outstanding issues, notably matters relating to the defence and security forces and the effective restoration of State authority throughout the national territory;

21. *Welcomes* the continued progress being made in the post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Liberia, and urges the international community to continue to provide sustained efforts to Liberia. The Assembly welcomes the

decision of the Chairperson of the Commission to dispatch a multidisciplinary team of experts to assess the post-conflict reconstruction needs of Liberia and Sierra Leone and make recommendations on how the AU and its Member States could best support the country;

22. *Notes* that the AU/United Nations Panel established to make concrete recommendations on how the United Nations and the AU could explore the possibility of enhancing the predictability and sustainability of financing United Nations-mandated peace operations undertaken by the AU, has now submitted its report. The Assembly requests the PSC to meet as early as possible to review the report and submit its input prior to its consideration by the United Nations Security Council. The Assembly requests that the African members of the United Nations Security Council, as well as South Africa, which led the process that resulted in the establishment of the Panel, to participate fully in the proposed meeting of the PSC. The Assembly mandates the Africa Group in New York and the African members of the United Nations Security Council to vigorously pursue this matter within the United Nations;

23. *Stresses* the importance of the annual meetings between the AU Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.223 (XII)

**Decision on the Review of the Protocol Relating to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP)
(Doc. EX.CL/459 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Review of the Protocol Relating to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP);
2. *Authorizes* the Commission to initiate the review process of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament;
3. *Requests* the Commission to draft and finalize the terms of reference for the review in consultation with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), taking into account the views of PAP;
4. *Further requests* the Commission to carry out a comprehensive study on the review of the Protocol based on the terms of reference, taking into account the views of the PAP, and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the African Union (AU) policy organs, through the PRC, for consideration at their next ordinary sessions in July 2009;
5. *Also requests* PAP to amend its Rules of Procedure to conform to the legal instruments of the AU;
6. *Finally requests* PAP to urgently fix a term limit for its Bureau drawing inspiration from other AU organs and to immediately hold new elections to renew the mandate of the current Bureau or elect a new one.

Assembly/AU/Dec.224 (XII)

**Decision on the Election of Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption
(Doc. EX.CL/492 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following persons elected by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council as members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption:

	Name	Country
1.	Mr. Nabil Hattali	(Algeria);
2.	Ms. Dorothy Nyagoha Angote	(Kenya);
3.	Ms. Frene Ginwala	(South Africa);
4.	Ms. Henriette Tall Diop	(Senegal);
5.	Mr. Léonidas Havyarimana	(Burundi);
6.	Mr. Costantinos Berhé Tesfu	(Ethiopia);
7.	Ms. Jane Mayemu Ansah	(Malawi);
8.	Mr. Simon-Pierre Nzobabela	(Congo);
9.	Mr. Mazou Seidou Adamou	(Niger);
10.	Mr. James Kahooza	(Uganda);
11.	Mr. Paulus Kalonho Noa	(Namibia).

Assembly/AU/Dec.225 (XII)

Decision on the Third World Festival of Negro Arts (FESMAN III)

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* the Government of the Republic of Senegal for its initiative to organize the Third Edition of the World Festival of Negro Arts (FESMAN III) in Dakar from 1 to 21 December 2009, following the 1966 and 1977 editions of the Festival held in Senegal and Nigeria, respectively;
2. *Recognizes* that this festival contributes to the fostering of African renaissance and the socio-economic integration of the continent. It also facilitates the development of fraternal and friendly relations between Africans on the continent and Africans in the diaspora, and of mutual understanding among the peoples of the world;
3. *Expresses its support* for the Declaration adopted by African Ministers of Culture at their meeting held in Algiers, Algeria, from 19 to 23 October 2008;
4. *Invites* all men and women of culture, artists and creators from Member States and the African diaspora to participate massively in the activities and programmes of the Third World Festival of Negro Arts;
5. *Requests* Member States and Africa's partners to lend their support towards the process of preparation of FESMAN III;
6. *Also requests* the Commission to take all appropriate measures, in consultation with the Government of Senegal, to organize and implement the conclusions of this festival.

Assembly/AU/Dec.226 (XII)

Decision on the Draft Statute on the Establishment of the African Investment Bank

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the draft Statute on the Establishment of the African Investment Bank;
2. *Urges* Member States to communicate their responses on the proposed draft Statute on the Establishment of the African Investment Bank to the Commission by May 2009;

3. *Requests* the Commission to convene a meeting of legal and finance experts to be followed by a Ministerial Conference to consider the draft Statute;
4. *Welcomes* the offer by the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the experts meeting in May 2009;
5. *Requests* the Commission to present the draft Statute to the next Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance and thereafter to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, in July 2009, for consideration.

Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII)

**Decision on the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs)
(Doc. EX.CL/496 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on Specialized Technical Committees (STCs);
2. *Decides* to reconfigure the STCs as follows:
 - (1) Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
 - (2) Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration;
 - (3) Committee on Trade and Industry and Minerals;
 - (4) Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism;
 - (5) Committee on Gender and Women Empowerment;
 - (6) Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs;
 - (7) Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment;
 - (8) Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
 - (9) Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control;
 - (10) Committee on Migration, Refugees and IDPs;
 - (11) Committee on Youth, Culture and Sports;
 - (12) Committee on Education, Science and Technology;
 - (13) Committee on Communication and ICT;
 - (14) Committee on Defence, Safety and Security;
3. *Requests* the Commission to prepare a detailed breakdown of the financial implications of STCs meetings getting out the figures if the STCs were to be convened on an annual or biennial basis;
4. *Also requests* the Commission to prepare detailed activities of the STCs with a view to avoiding overlap and ensuring coherence and harmony with the portfolios of the Commission;

5. *Further requests* the Commission to work with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and make appropriate recommendations on the periodicity of the meetings of the STCs to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.228 (XII)

**Decision on the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival
(Doc. EX.CL/475 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the second African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture, which took place in Algiers, from 19 to 23 October 2008, notably the item on the organization, by Algeria, of the second Pan-African Cultural Festival;
2. *Also takes note* of the statement by the Algerian delegation on Algeria's state of readiness for organizing the second Pan-African Cultural Festival;
3. *Endorses* the date for the organization of the second Pan-African Cultural Festival in Algiers, from 5 to 20 July 2009;
4. *Invites* Member States and the diaspora to ensure effective participation in the second Pan-African Cultural Festival;
5. *Invites* African Union ministers of culture to attend the opening ceremony of the festival in Algiers;
6. *Urges* the Commission to give effective support to ensure the successful organization, by Algeria, of the second Pan-African Cultural Festival;
7. *Extends* its congratulations to Algeria for the efforts made towards the organization of this Pan-African Cultural Festival and for its significant contribution to Africa's cultural renaissance.

Assembly/AU/Dec.229 (XII)

Decision on the African Women's Decade

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council on the African Women's Decade;
2. *Declares* 2010-2020 as the African Women's Decade;
3. *Calls on* Member States and AU organs and Regional Economic Communities to support the implementation of Decade activities.

Assembly/AU/Dec.230 (XII)

**Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XII))**

The Assembly,

TWELFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2009)

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
2. *Reaffirms* the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council adopted in Sirte in July 2005;
3. *Requests* the Commission to facilitate the activities of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations to enable them to actively engage in one voice in the intergovernmental negotiations and to coordinate with other groups on the basis of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;
4. *Also requests* the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the Committee of Ten to liaise regularly with their respective counterparts to the African Union as well as the other African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations on the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations taking place in New York;
5. *Reiterates* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;
6. *Finally requests* the Committee of Ten to present a progress report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.231 (XII)

Decision on the Food Security Summit to Be Held in November 2009

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the statement of the Chairperson of the Commission on the food security situation in the world;
2. *Expresses concern* at the prevailing food security situation in the world and in particular on the African continent;
3. *Notes and welcomes* the proposal by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to organize a World Summit on Food Security in November 2009;
4. *Recalls* the Decision adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 8 to 11 July 2003, to adopt the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as the strategic framework for agricultural development and food security on the continent;
5. *Requests* the Commission to collaborate with FAO and other partners for the success of this summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.232 (XII)

Decision on the Themes of the July 2009, January 2010 and July 2010 Sessions of the Assembly

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Commission on the themes of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly scheduled respectively for July 2009, January 2010 and July 2010;
2. *Decides* that the themes for these sessions will be as follows:

- (i) Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: “Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security”;
- (ii) Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: “Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development”;
- (iii) Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: “Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa”.

Assembly/AU/Dec.233 (XII)

Decision on the Special Session of the Assembly on the Union Government

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its decision adopted during its Special Session on the Union Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 1 February 2009, to transform the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority;
2. *Further recalls* its directive to the Executive Council to elaborate upon this decision;
3. *Takes note and decides* to endorse the recommendation of the Executive Council, which reads as follows:

“Pursuant to the Decision of the Assembly directing the Executive Council to elaborate upon its decision regarding the establishment of the African Union Authority:

The Executive Council received the decision:

1. To transform the African Union Commission into an African Union Authority;
2. To strengthen the AU Authority;
3. That the Authority shall have a structure comprising the President, the Vice-President and Secretaries with portfolios based on areas of shared competencies as agreed upon.

The Executive Council further took note of the report submitted to it by the AU Commission in response to the decision of the Assembly.

The Executive Council recommended as follows:

1. In order to transform the AUC into an Authority, the Constitutive Act should be amended in accordance with the provisions of Article 32 of the said Act and, thereafter, call upon Member States to expedite the ratification of the amendments;
2. There is a need to further study the proposals contained in the report of the Commission with special regard to:
 - (a) The functions of the African Union Authority;
 - (b) The size of the Authority;
 - (c) The functions of the Secretaries;
 - (d) The financial implications of establishing such Authority.

In view of the above, the Executive Council requests the Assembly to note that the time allocated for this assignment was inadequate. The Executive Council, therefore, recommends that the Assembly allows time for an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council to be convened within the next three months to consider these proposals and submit a report to the next Assembly.”

Assembly/AU/Dec.234 (XII)

**Decision on the Establishment of the African Permanent Secretariat for Sustainable Development
and the African Fund for Sustainable Development
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XII) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations of the Sixth World Forum on Sustainable Development held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 27 to 30 October 2008;
2. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the initiatives to promote the harmonious and sustainable development of the continent;
3. *Encourages* Member States to be represented by a single delegation in order to negotiate with one voice at international conferences on sustainable development related issues;
4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Sixth World Forum on Sustainable Development concerning the establishment of an African Permanent Secretariat for Sustainable Development and an African Fund for Sustainable Development;
5. *Welcomes* the offer by the Republic of Congo to host the headquarters of the African Permanent Secretariat for Sustainable Development and the offer by Burkina Faso to host the Second Session of the African Forum on Sustainable Development in October 2009, and urges Member States to participate in the Forum;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other relevant institutions to carry out feasibility studies on the establishment of an African Permanent Secretariat for Sustainable Development as well as the African Fund for Sustainable Development and report thereon to the ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.235 (XII)

**Decision on the Proposal by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to Host
the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XII) Add.5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Government of Equatorial Guinea to host the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation;
2. *Recalls* the AU Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.161 (VIII) declaring 2007 as the launching year of building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa;

3. *Acknowledges* that Member States and the RECs, as the chief stakeholders, should take the lead in the domestication of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and foster its implementation throughout its Lighthouse Projects;
4. *Recognizes* the need to establish an African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation and its role in promoting science and technology for the sustainable development of the continent;
5. *Welcomes* the commitment and proposal by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation as part of the Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) implementation, as approved by the AU Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, in January 2007;
6. *Appreciates* the offer of Equatorial Guinea consisting in providing office space and a financial contribution in the amount of US\$ 3,600,000 for the implementation of the African Observatory project under the supervision and management of the AUC;
7. *Invites* Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UNESCO, the European Union (EU), non-governmental organizations and partners to support this African initiative, including with financial assistance, in order to ensure its sustainability;
8. *Requests* the Commission to work closely with the Government of Equatorial Guinea, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to supervise and manage the establishment of the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation in Equatorial Guinea.

Assembly/AU/Dec.236 (XII)

**Decision on the African Common Position on Climate Change
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XII) Add.6)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the declaration of the Algerian delegation on the deliberations of the Conference of African Ministers of Environment on Climate Change, held in Algiers from 19 to 23 November 2008;
2. *Recalls* that it is in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Group, during the Bali Conference on Climate Change, that Algeria organized the Conference of African Ministers of Environment on Climate Change;
3. *Approves* the Algiers Declaration on Climate Change adopted in the form of the Common African Position to serve as the platform of the Common African Position for African countries in the negotiation process for the new global climate change regime for the period after 2012, the year of expiry of the Kyoto Protocol;
4. *Recalls* that the international negotiations on climate change are expected to be held under the auspices of the United Nations;
5. *Emphasizes* that the global carbon trading mechanisms that are expected to emerge from international negotiations on climate change should give Africa an opportunity to demand and get compensation for the damage to its economy caused by global warming and underlines in this regard the fact that despite contributing virtually nothing to global warming Africa has been one of the primary victims of its consequences;
6. *Approves* that Africa needs to be represented by one delegation, which is empowered to negotiate on behalf of all Member States, with the mandate to ensure that resource flow to Africa is not reduced, and mandates the Commission to work out modalities of such representation and report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2009;

7. *Invites* AU Member States to promote the Algiers Declaration within the framework of their participation in the World Summit on Climate Change, scheduled to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009;
8. *Requests* the Commission to make the Algiers Declaration a working document on the issue of climate change.

Assembly/AU/Dec.237 (XII)

Decision on the Candidature of Mr. Farouk Hosni to the Post of Director General of UNESCO

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Algiers Declaration adopted by the Second Conference of Ministers of Culture (CAMC II) held in Algiers, Algeria, from 19 to 23 October 2008, which supported and endorsed the candidature of Mr. Farouk Hosni, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for the post of Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
2. *Further takes note* of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.484 (XIV) on African Candidatures for Posts within the International System, which took note of the Algiers Declaration endorsing this candidature;
3. *Endorses* the candidature of Mr. Farouk Hosni, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for the post of Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and invites Member States to support this candidature.

Assembly/AU/Dec.238 (XII)

Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the offer by the Republic of Madagascar to host the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Antananarivo, Madagascar;
2. *Decides* that the dates of the ordinary sessions of the Assembly will be as follows:
 - (i) Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee: 24 to 25 June 2009;
 - (ii) Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 28 to 29 June 2009;
 - (iii) Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 1 to 3 July 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.239 (XII)

Decision on the Threat of Drug Trafficking in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the concern expressed by both the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations in their speeches at the opening session of the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, on the increasing threat of drug trafficking in Africa, particularly in West Africa;
2. *Recognizes* that this phenomenon is becoming a major challenge to security and governance in Africa, in general and West Africa in particular;

3. *Commends* the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for its concerted efforts and actions to combat drug trafficking in the West Africa region;
4. *Expresses appreciation* to the international community, particularly the United Nations and individual partner countries, for the assistance provided in this area;
5. *Calls on* all Member States to join in the fight against drug trafficking in all regions of the continent;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations, its specialized agency on drug control (UNODC), as well as ECOWAS and other Regional Economic Communities to intensify the fight against drug trafficking in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.240 (XII)

Decision on the Hissène Habré Case

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.127 (VII) taken in Banjul, Gambia, in July 2006, mandating the Republic of Senegal "to prosecute and ensure that Hissène Habré is tried, on behalf of Africa, by a competent Senegalese court with guarantees for fair trial";
2. *Reiterates* its commendation of the Government of the Republic of Senegal for having taken constitutional, legal and regulatory measures to carry out the mandate;
3. *Takes note* that despite the establishment of the budget for the case by the European Union, which offered to be a partner, together with the Government of the Republic of Senegal, the resources needed for the prosecution are not yet available;
4. *Considers* that the final budget of the case should be prepared and adopted by the African Union, in conjunction with the Government of the Republic of Senegal and the European Union;
5. *Calls on* all Member States of the African Union, the European Union and partner countries and institutions to make their contributions to the budget of the case by paying these contributions directly to the African Union Commission;
6. *Requests* the Commission to report on the status of execution of this decision to the Thirteenth Assembly of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.241 (XII)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
2. *Endorses* the conclusion of the Twentieth NEPAD HSGIC Summit;

3. *Reaffirms* the 13-point conclusion of the Algiers NEPAD Brainstorming Summit of March 2007, subsequently reinforced by the outcomes of the Dakar NEPAD Review Summit of April 2008 and further reiterates that the Algiers and Dakar outcomes constitute the basis and road map for AU/NEPAD integration, with the necessary flexibilities as underlined in the 2003 Maputo AU Assembly decision;
4. *Welcomes* the commencement of the study on the structure and profile of the incoming NEPAD Authority following the appointment of the consultant in December 2008;
5. *Re-emphasizes* the need for the consultancy study, to be guided, in particular, by the Algiers and Dakar Outcomes and agrees that the consultant's draft Report and Recommendations on AU/NEPAD integration should be circulated to all AU/NEPAD governance structures, for consideration, to ensure broad and adequate consultation, before submission to the Assembly, for final pronouncement;
6. *Reiterates* that the NEPAD vision and its programme, from inception, has been an intrinsic part of the African Union system and should remain so, and calls upon the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat to harmonize their work programmes and smoothen working relations in the interim period leading to integration;
7. *Notes* the urgency of an early conclusion of the integration process and agrees that the whole process of integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union, should be completed prior to the next Thirteenth Assembly in June/July 2009;
8. *Urges* all Member States, who are yet to submit their suggestions on the structure and profile of the NEPAD Authority to the African Union Commission, to do so as soon as possible;
9. *Welcomes and endorses* the appointment of Dr. Ibrahim Hassan Mayaki of the Republic of Niger as the new Chief Executive Officer for the NEPAD Secretariat in line with the Tenth African Union Assembly decision of January 2008 and entrusts him with the mandate to lead the transformation of the NEPAD Secretariat into the NEPAD Authority;
10. *Welcomes* the signing of the host country agreement for the NEPAD Secretariat in October 2008 and commends the South African Government and the African Union Commission for facilitating the conclusion of the Agreement, which grants legal status to the Secretariat as an international organization in South Africa while urging the swift and smooth implementation of the Agreement;
11. *Decides* that the NEPAD Secretariat will, henceforth, use the African Union emblem, concurrently with the NEPAD emblem in all documentation, so as to retain the brand identity of NEPAD and the existing reporting structures of the Secretariat, pending the final determination on the NEPAD Authority;
12. *Appeals* to all Member States to continue to donate generously towards the budget of the NEPAD Secretariat in the transition period to integration, to enable it to continue to perform its programmatic operations, and strongly urges Member States who are yet to fulfill their pledged contributions made at the January 2008 Tenth AU Assembly, to do so;
13. *Emphasizes and directs* the consultancy study on the NEPAD Authority to recommend and identify effective, innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms and sources for the NEPAD Authority;
14. *Agrees* on the need for continued interaction and strengthened engagement with the G8/OECD partner countries, underscoring the essence of institutionalizing the Follow-up Mechanism, which was agreed to at the 2008 Hokkaido Toyoda G8 Summit in Japan, as a means of stimulating better G8-Africa Outreach engagement; and proposes that Africa's representation and agenda at the upcoming G8-Africa Outreach meeting should reflect a systemized and institutionalized arrangement;

15. *Notes* the 2008 Report on the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness (MRDE), jointly produced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as presented by the Executive Secretary of the ECA, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, and requests Member States to study the report and offer their views to the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, for discussion at the next NEPAD Summit;

16. *Expresses appreciation* to the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Secretariat, Ambassador Olukorede Willoughby, and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Hespina Rukato, comprising the interim management team, for their dedication and diligence in leading the Secretariat for the past one year.

Assembly/AU/Dec.242 (XII)

Decision on the Proposal of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the Issue of Palestine

The Assembly,

Takes note of the proposal of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the issue of Palestine.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XII)

**Declaration on the Development of the Transport and Energy Infrastructure in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XII))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twelfth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 3 February 2009,

Considering the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991,

Bearing in mind the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in Lomé, Togo, on 11 July 2000,

Considering the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2008 to organize the Twelfth Assembly of the African Union on the theme: Infrastructure Development in Africa,

Considering the declarations of the various African Union Conferences of Ministers responsible for Transport and Energy, endorsed by the Executive Council,

Considering the vital role of infrastructure and related services in the political and socio-economic development and the integration of the continent, as well as in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Recognizing the need to speed up development of infrastructure as well as energy and transport services in Africa, and to put in place harmonized sector policies and programmes,

Welcoming the various initiatives on infrastructure development in Africa, including:

1. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
2. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA);
3. The Africa-European Union Infrastructure and Energy Partnerships, as defined in the New European Union Strategy for Africa;

Concerned by:

1. The slow pace of implementation of the NEPAD Infrastructure Short-Term Action Plan;
2. The enormity of gaps in transport and energy infrastructure in Africa and the huge financing needs of this infrastructure;
3. The high costs of energy and transport services in Africa, which are seriously affecting the competitiveness of the continent;
4. The qualitative and quantitative shortage of energy supply;
5. The poor access of African populations to modern energy and transport services, particularly for the low-income social segments;
6. The formality constraints to inter-State transit in Africa, particularly the proliferation and complexity of cross-border procedures;
7. The slow pace of implementation by Member States of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa;
8. The poor resource mobilization for preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects;
9. The deteriorating transport safety and security situation particularly in the maritime and air transport subsectors;
10. The impact of the global financial crisis on infrastructure development in Africa;

Underscoring:

1. The leadership, coordination, harmonization, facilitation and advocacy roles devolving on the African Union Commission in building economic infrastructure for Africa's development;
2. The decisive role of the Regional Economic Communities and specialized Institutions in the implementation of the programmes for development of transport and energy infrastructure;
3. The need to establish and strengthen the institutional coordination structures of the various actors for implementation of infrastructure development policies and programmes in Africa;
4. The role of the private sector in the development of transport and energy infrastructure in Africa;

Reaffirm:

1. Our determination to pool our efforts to develop efficient infrastructure networks as well as affordable transport and energy services;
2. The urgent need to enhance access to transport and energy infrastructure and services for the majority of the African population;

Undertake to:

1. Include in our national priorities the various regional and continental interconnection infrastructure network projects and programmes;

2. Harmonize regulations and standards to promote interconnection, and efficient operation of networks and market development;
3. Create appropriate institutional framework for development of the major integration projects and carry out the necessary reforms to ensure better operation and maintenance of these projects;
4. Contribute financially to the NEPAD Infrastructure Projects Preparation Facility;
5. Increase public financing of infrastructure and promote public-private partnerships to speed up the development of transport and energy infrastructure;
6. Enhance the production of and inter-State trade in energy by implementing major integrative hydroelectric power projects and high capacity oil refineries as well as gas and oil pipelines projects;
7. Develop renewable energy resources in order to provide clean, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly energy;
8. Enhance institutional and research capacities to develop a non-traditional alternative source of energy to meet Africa's long-term energy needs, more specifically nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;
9. Accelerate the facilitation of inter-State transport through harmonization of laws and simplification of transit procedures to promote efficiency and safe operation of transport in Africa;
10. Improve connectivity of the air transport networks between Member States of the Union through comprehensive implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision;
11. Give high priority to environmental protection and to transport and energy safety and security to promote sustainable development of infrastructure and related services;

Resolve to:

1. Support the development of infrastructure in Africa within the framework of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
2. Develop, as a matter of priority, the major regional and continental hydroelectric power projects, to ensure energy security in Africa;
3. Take all appropriate measures to complete the missing sections in the major transport corridors and remove all physical and non-physical barriers to the development of inter-State transport in Africa;
4. Institute appropriate institutional, legal and regulatory reforms, conducive for private sector investment in infrastructure development;
5. Promote innovative financing mechanisms to speed up the development of transport and energy infrastructure;

Invite the African Union Commission to take all necessary measures to:

1. Formulate and implement, under its coordination, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa as well as capacity-building in the transport and energy sectors;
2. Take appropriate measures to promote the execution of integrative hydroelectric power interconnection projects;

3. Speed up the facilitation of inter-State trade in Africa;
4. Promote projects and strategies aimed at enhancing connectivity as well as safety and security in the transport sector;

Urge:

1. Member States of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities to foster inter-African and international cooperation in the transport and energy sectors;
2. The African Union Commission to deploy its best efforts to ensure expeditious implementation of this Declaration;

Launch an appeal to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union and all development partners to support the implementation of this Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XII)

Addis Ababa Declaration on the International Financial Crisis

Preamble

We, the African Heads of State and Government, meeting on 3 February 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, have considered the unfolding of the current international financial crisis and its economic and social implications for our countries,

Conscious of the fact that the current international financial crisis will continue to slow down global demand for basic commodities, reduce the volume of capital flows, both public and private, towards Africa, and affect the competitiveness of our economies,

Concerned over the fact that the development and scope of this crisis continue to slow down economic growth, further worsen our balance of payments situation, aggravate our budget deficits and turn round our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Commending the various initiatives being taken worldwide and in Africa to mitigate the contagious effects of the crisis and contain its impacts,

Referring to the content of the final communiqué issued by the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and Governors of Central Banks held on 12 November 2008 in Tunis, Tunisia,

Referring to the content of the final communiqué issued by the meeting of the Committee of Ten, held on 16 January 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa,

Recalling the commitments of our States to promote the development and integration of African economies, notably through the establishment of three financial institutions, namely the African Monetary Fund, the African Central Bank and the African Investment Bank, which will monitor and coordinate African responses to future crises,

Declare as follows:

1. *Recognize* the need to strengthen all efforts aimed at mobilizing additional resources and underscore the necessity to pursue the sound regulation of the African financial system and step up financial supervision;

2. *Encourage* the strengthening of measures taken by our governments, regional and continental organizations as well as international institutions to notably enhance the mobilization of domestic resources and stabilize our finances to prevent a deep slowdown and economic upheavals;
3. *Call for* equally vigorous, flexible and innovative action to be taken to address the threats posed by the current crisis to growth and Africa's development;
4. *Express our satisfaction* with the fruitful cooperation between the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank in Africa's mobilization against the current financial crisis, and call for the continued mutual exchange of information and ideas on the situation;
5. *Support* the communiqué issued by the G20 on 15 November 2008 appealing to the international financial institutions to play an anti-cyclical role in support of the public and private sectors, transcending their traditional role of stimulators of economic growth;
6. *Commend* the African Development Bank for the responses proposed through the Emergency Liquidity Facility (ELF), the Trade Financing Initiative (TFI) and other innovative programmes to help African countries in mitigating the effects of the crisis;
7. *Invite* the shareholders of the African Development Bank to consider as a priority increasing the capital of the Bank so that it can further step up its support to our countries, while respecting their diversity and according to their needs;
8. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the integration of African stock exchanges which can help to boost efficiency in the mobilization of domestic resources;
9. *Remain fervently convinced* that, through voluntary policies, we can mitigate the worst effects of the crisis and defend our priorities and concerns within the scope of the ongoing global dialogue which aims to reform the international monetary and financial system;
10. *Convinced* of Africa's role in the resolution of the crisis, deplore the fact that Africa was totally marginalized in the deliberations which led to the establishment of the current international financial system, giving rise to a situation that encouraged the present financial crisis;
11. *Express our gratitude* to South Africa as a member of G20 for having clearly expressed Africa's opinions during the G20 process;
12. *Reiterate* our call for an in-depth reform of the global financial system, based on an inclusive approach which fully integrates, in all legitimacy, the voice of Africa;
13. *Reaffirm* that Africa must be fully represented in deliberations on the financial crisis while calling for the G20 framework to be revised to include all the Member States of the United Nations system. In the meantime, the African Union should have a seat at the G20;
14. *Recognize* the need to speed up the economic integration of the continent to highlight the enormous resilience potential of the African continent by giving concrete expression to political and economic integration;
15. *Invite* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Member States and all the other stakeholders to quickly finalize the Minimum Integration Programme and diligently carry out its concerted implementation with the aim of integrating our continent politically and economically;

16. *Invite* the African Union Commission to fast track and quickly finalize the preparatory work for the establishment of the African Investment Bank, the African Monetary Fund and the African Central Bank;
17. *Invite* the African Union Commission to put in place an appropriate multilateral monitoring system for the continent, geared towards providing coherent statistical information on the macroeconomic and financial development of African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities, with a view to establishing the African Central Bank leading up to the creation of a single African currency;
18. *Call for* a real voice to be given to Africa in the reform of the international financial institutions aimed at better management of economic shocks and ensuring predictability of resource flows and the effectiveness of aid;
19. *Underline* the need for improvement of the effectiveness of aid to Africa including by removing outdated conditionalities on aid and ensuring objectivity and transparency in the determination of criteria for resource flows from international financial institutions to Africa;
20. *Underline further* that the current global financial crisis should not be used as an excuse to cut development assistance to Africa and insists that developed countries ought to give no less attention to the needs of African countries than they have given to their financial institutions that have encountered crisis;
21. *Recall* that the international negotiations on climate change are expected to be held under the auspices of the United Nations;
22. *Emphasize* that the global carbon trading mechanisms that are expected to emerge from international negotiations on climate change should give Africa an opportunity to demand and get compensation for the damage to its economy caused by global warming and underlines in this regard the fact that despite Africa contributing virtually nothing to global warming Africa has been one of the primary victims of its consequences;
23. *Convinced* that Africa needs to be represented by one delegation which is empowered to negotiate on behalf of all Member States, with the mandate to ensure that resource flow to Africa is not reduced, mandate the African Union Commission to work out modalities of such representation and report thereon to the next summit;
24. *Underline further* that the current fall in consumer demand, particularly in developed countries, resulting in job losses does not result in protectionism that would exclude products, particularly from Africa and the developing world;
25. *Reaffirm* that the Doha Development Round be completed to ensure that the developing countries have access to the markets of the developed world.

Assembly/AU/Message (XII)

Message of Congratulations to H.E. Mr. Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

The Assembly of the African Union meeting in its Twelfth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, wishes to congratulate H.E. Mr. Barack Obama over his resounding victory and assumption of the high office of President of the United States of America.

The Assembly wishes to underscore the great importance the African Union and its Member States attach to the strengthening and consolidation of relations with the United States of America, a great country which plays a leading role in world affairs.

The Assembly of the African Union is confident that under the dynamic and wise leadership of President Obama and with his reaffirmed commitment to the promotion of dialogue on all strategic issues of interest to the future of humanity and his sensitivity to the global challenges confronting the world, a new hope for change in the world

will be created. Furthermore, this change will also create a conducive opportunity in boosting peace, security and sustainable development in the world, and particularly in Africa, for the benefit of all humanity.

While looking forward and committed to strengthening the excellent relations which exist between Africa and the United States of America, the Assembly welcomes the administration of President Obama which opens a new chapter for America, Africa and indeed the entire world.

Assembly/AU/Motion (XII)

Motion

During the session of the Assembly on 3 February 2009, the following motion was made by a Member State for consideration of the Assembly:

“Yesterday, 2 February 2009, this Assembly was addressed by a so-called Representative of the Traditional Kings of Africa. The action contravened the Rules of Procedure governing the conduct of business by the Assembly.

Rule 10, subrule 3 states:

“The Assembly may invite any other personality to address the Assembly at the opening and closing ceremonies”

Rule 13 states:

“All the sessions of the Assembly shall be closed. The Assembly may, however, decide by simple majority whether any of its sessions shall be open.”

The above quoted rules were flouted because at no point did the Assembly agree to invite the so-called Representative of Traditional Kings of Africa to address the Assembly.

The Assembly should therefore note that the address by the so-called Representative of the Traditional Kings of Africa contravened the Rules of Procedure and should be expunged from the records of the Assembly.”

During the ensuing discussion, the motion was seconded and adopted by the Assembly on 3 February 2009.

THIRTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Sirte, Libya
1 to 3 July 2009**

Assembly/AU/Dec.243 (XIII) Rev.1.

**Decision on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.199 (XI) adopted by the Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2008, as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.213 (XII) on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2009;
2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Executive Council;
3. *Reiterates* its appeal to the Chairperson of the African Union to follow up on this matter with a view to ensuring that it is exhaustively discussed at the level of the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as the European Union;
4. *Reiterates* its previous positions articulated in Decisions Assembly/Dec.199 (XI) and Assembly/Dec.213 (XII) adopted in Sharm El Sheikh and Addis Ababa in July 2008 and February 2009, respectively, to the effect that there has been blatant abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction, particularly by some non-African States, and expresses its deep concern that indictments have continued to be issued in some European States against African leaders and personalities. To this end, it calls for immediate termination of all pending indictments;
5. *Further reiterates* its conviction on the need for an international regulatory body with competence to review and/or handle complaints or appeals arising out of abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by individual States;
6. *Calls upon* all concerned States to respect international law and particularly the immunity of State officials when applying the principle of universal jurisdiction;
7. *Expresses appreciation* to the Chairperson of the African Union and the Chairperson of the Commission for efforts made so far towards ensuring that this matter is exhaustively discussed at the level of the United Nations General Assembly and with the European Union, respectively;
8. *Requests* the Commission to follow up on this matter and to report to the Assembly on progress made in the implementation of this decision, in January/February 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.244 (XIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
(Doc. EX.CL/533 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Decides* to appoint for a term of six (6) years, the following persons as members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) as elected by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in June 2009:

Name	Country
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Mr. Mohammed Fayek	Egypt;
Ms. Zainabo Kayitesi	Rwanda;
Mr. Mohamed Béchir Khalfallah	Tunisia.

Assembly/AU/Dec.245 (XIII) Rev.1

**Decision on the Report of the Commission on the Meeting of African States Parties
to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Meeting of the African States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC);
2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the indictment issued by the Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC against President Omar Hassan Ahmed El Bashir of the Republic of Sudan;
3. *Notes with grave concern* the unfortunate consequences that the indictment has had on the delicate peace processes underway in Sudan and the fact that it continues to undermine the ongoing efforts aimed at facilitating the early resolution of the conflict in Darfur;
4. *Reiterates* the unflinching commitment of Member States to combating impunity and promoting democracy, the rule of law and good governance throughout the continent, in conformity with the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
5. *Requests* the Commission to ensure the early implementation of Decision Assembly/Dec.213 (XII), adopted in February 2009 mandating the Commission, in consultation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to examine the implications of the Court being empowered to try serious crimes of international concern such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, which would be complementary to national jurisdiction and processes for fighting impunity;
6. *Encourages* Member States to initiate programmes of cooperation and capacity-building to enhance the capacity of legal personnel in their respective countries regarding the drafting and safety of model legislation dealing with serious crimes of international concern, training of members of the police and the judiciary, and the strengthening of cooperation among judicial and investigative agencies;
7. *Further takes note* that any party affected by the indictment has the right of legal recourse to the processes provided for in the Rome Statute regarding the appeal process and the issue of immunity;
8. *Requests* the Commission to convene a preparatory meeting of African States parties at expert and ministerial levels (foreign affairs and justice) but open to other Member States at the end of 2009 to prepare fully for the Review Conference of States Parties scheduled for Kampala, Uganda, in May 2010, to address among others, the following issues:
 - (i) Article 13 of the Rome Statute granting power to the United Nations Security Council to refer cases to the ICC;
 - (ii) Article 16 of the Rome Statute granting power to the United Nations Security Council to defer cases for one (1) year;

- (iii) Procedures of the ICC;
- (iv) Clarification on the immunities of officials whose States are not party to the Statute;
- (v) Comparative analysis of the implications of the practical application of Articles 27 and 98 of the Rome Statute;
- (vi) The possibility of obtaining regional inputs in the process of assessing the evidence collected and in determining whether or not to proceed with prosecution, particularly against senior State officials; and
- (vii) Any other areas of concern to African States parties;

9. *Deeply regrets* that the request by the African Union to the United Nations Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against President Bashir of Sudan in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC, has neither been heard nor acted upon, and in this regard, reiterates its request to the United Nations Security Council;

10. *Decides* that in view of the fact that the request by the African Union has never been acted upon, the AU Member States shall not cooperate pursuant to the provisions of Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC relating to immunities, for the arrest and surrender of President Omar El Bashir of Sudan;*

11. *Expresses concern* over the conduct of the ICC Prosecutor and further decides that the preparatory meeting of African States parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC scheduled for late 2009 should prepare, inter alia, guidelines and a code of conduct for exercise of discretionary powers by the ICC Prosecutor relating particularly to the powers of the Prosecutor to initiate cases at his own discretion under Article 15 of the Rome Statute;

12. *Underscores* that the African Union and its Member States reserve the right to take any further decisions or measures that may be deemed necessary in order to preserve and safeguard the dignity, sovereignty and integrity of the continent;

13. *Finally requests* the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this decision and submit a report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in January/February 2010 and in this regard authorizes expenditure for necessary actions from arrears of contributions.

Assembly/AU/Dec.246 (XIII)

**Decision on the Hissène Habré Case
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XIII) Rev.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.240 (XII) adopted by the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2009 on the Hissène Habré case;
2. *Also takes note* of the final estimated budget for the trial;

* Reservation entered by Chad.

3. *Expresses its regret* that in spite of its previous Assembly decision calling on all Member States of the African Union (AU) to make voluntary contributions to the budget of the Hissène Habré case, there has been no positive reaction from Member States;
4. *Reiterates* its appeal to all Member States to contribute to the budget of the trial and extend the necessary support to the Government of Senegal in the execution of the AU mandate to prosecute and try Hissène Habré;
5. *Decides* that the AU should make a token contribution to the budget of the trial for a sum to be determined following consultations between the Commission and the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC);
6. *Requests* the Government of Senegal and the Commission in collaboration with the partners, particularly the European Union, to consider the possibility of organizing a donors' conference as soon as possible;
7. *Invites* all partner countries and institutions to support this process and participate in the Donors Round Table that will be organized in this regard in Dakar, Senegal, during the last quarter of 2009;
8. *Requests* the Commission to closely monitor the implementation of this decision and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in February 2010; and in this regard, authorizes expenditure for necessary actions from arrears of contributions.

Assembly/AU/Dec.247 (XIII)

**Decision on the African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2009 to 2012
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Executive Council as contained in Decision EX.CL/Dec.481 (XIV) adopted at its Fifteenth Ordinary Session in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in June 2009;
2. *Adopts* the Strategic Plan 2009—2012;
3. *Requests* the Commission and the other organs in collaboration with Member States, the Regional Economic Communities as well as key partners and stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to work in synergy in order to implement the 2009—2012 Strategic Plan;
4. *Requests* the Commission to draw up appropriate support structures, programmes, projects and budgets to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009—2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.248 (XIII)

**Decision on the Accession of the African Union to the United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the concept note on the justifications for the African Union accession to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol;
2. *Also takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council as contained in Decision EX.CL/Dec.501 (XV) adopted in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in June 2009;

3. *Authorizes* the African Union to accede to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and requests the Commission to take all necessary measures to expedite the process of accession and to report to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in January/February 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.249 (XIII)

**Decision on the Report on the Election of Members of the African Union Commission on International Law
(Doc. EX.CL/534 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the results of the elections conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Decides* to appoint the persons listed hereunder as members of the African Union Commission on International Law as elected by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya:

Name	Country	Term of Office
Mr. Rafaa Ben Achour	Tunisia	3 years;
Mr. Ebenezer Appreku	Ghana	5 years;
Mr. Nkurunziza Donatien	Burundi	3 years;
Mr. Minelik Alemu Getahun	Ethiopia	5 years;
Mr. Filali Kamel	Algeria	5 years;
Ms. Lilian Bokeeye Mahiri-Zaja	Kenya	3 years;
Mr. Adelardus Kilangi	Tanzania	5 years;
Mr. Kholisani Solo	Botswana	3 years;
Mr. Blaise Tchikaya	Congo	5 years;
Mr. Atanazio Kayafa Tembo	Malawi	3 years;
Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Thiam	Senegal	5 years.

Assembly/AU/Dec.250 (XIII)

**Decision on the Proclamation of 2010 as International Youth Year
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XIII) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recognizes* the primordial role of the youth and the need for their participation in forging the future of humankind;

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2. *Recalls* the African Youth Charter adopted on 20 June 2006 by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Banjul, Gambia;
3. *Also recalls* the Strategic Framework of Action of the 2004 New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Youth Programme which aims at youth capacity-building and development;
4. *Commends* Member States and the Commission for the activities undertaken as part of the celebration of the African Youth Year, and the efforts deployed towards the entry into force of the African Youth Charter;
5. *Also commends* H.E. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, for his proposal to proclaim 2010 "International Youth Year" and to hold during the said year, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the assistance of the relevant international organizations, a World Youth Congress to be attended by youth from across the world to discuss issues of interest to the youth, and which should lead to the adoption of an international pact that would establish the unequivocal attachment of the youth of the world to common universal values;
6. *Requests* all Member States and the African Group in New York to give their firm support to efforts geared towards the adoption of a draft resolution proclaiming 2010 "International Youth Year" to be submitted to the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2009;
7. *Appeals* to all Member States of the United Nations and other international organizations to support this initiative and contribute to its adoption when it is tabled before the United Nations General Assembly;
8. *Requests* that the Commission follows up on the implementation of this decision and report to the ordinary session of the Assembly in 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.251 (XIII)

**Decision on the Situation of the African Investment Bank
(Doc. EX.CL/514 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Second African Union (AU) Commission-United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Joint Conference of African Ministers of Economy, Finance and Planning on the draft Statute of the African Investment Bank (AIB), held in Cairo, Egypt, in June 2009;
2. *Also takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the draft Statute of AIB, as contained in Decision EX.CL/Dec.504 (XV) adopted in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 1 July 2009;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in consultation with Member States' experts and other stakeholders, to elaborate the planned annexes to the Statute and present the same for consideration and validation at a meeting of legal and financial experts to be organized before October 2009, prior to submission for adoption by the Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Economy, Finance and Planning due to take place in November 2009 and thereafter to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January/February 2010 through the Executive Council;
4. *Adopts* the Statute of the African Investment Bank and calls on Member States to ratify the Protocol of the African Investment Bank and the Statute annexed to it.

Assembly/AU/Dec.252 (XIII)

Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and

**the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa, including the report of the Panel of the Wise;
2. *Welcomes* the efforts deployed by the current Chairperson of the Union, Brother Leader Muammar Qaddafi, the PSC, the Panel of the Wise and other concerned actors to promote peace, security and stability in Africa, as well as the progress achieved in the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture, and extends its full support to these efforts. The Assembly encourages all the concerned parties to intensify their efforts to resolve the crisis and conflict situations on the continent and to consolidate peace where it has been made. The Assembly also requests the Commission to continue to support the ongoing processes and mobilize international community assistance to this end;
3. *Also welcomes* the progress achieved in the implementation of the Agreements concluded in 2006 between the Government of Burundi and Palipehutu-FNL. In this regard, the Assembly congratulates the Burundian parties for their political will, as well as the Regional Initiative and the South African Facilitation, for their unwavering support to the peace process. The Assembly expresses gratitude to the international community for its support and urges all concerned actors to invest all efforts to ensure that the 2010 elections are conducted in a peaceful, fair and transparent atmosphere, thus resulting in definitive end to the crisis in Burundi;
4. *Welcomes* the conclusion, on 23 March 2009, of the Goma Agreements between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on the one hand, and the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP) and the armed Congolese groups operating in North and South Kivu, on the other. The Assembly invites the parties to these agreements to implement them without delay, and expresses satisfaction at the restoration of trust and confidence among the countries of the region, in general, and between the DRC and Rwanda, in particular;
5. *Notes with satisfaction* the successful conduct and the outcomes of the Inclusive Political Dialogue (DPI), which took place in Bangui, Central African Republic, from 8 to 20 December 2008, as well as the measures taken to implement the recommendations thereof. At the same time, the Assembly expresses its serious concern at the resurgence of armed attacks and highway banditry, as well as the proliferation of political/military groups in the country. The Assembly strongly condemns these attacks and calls upon the concerned armed groups to put an immediate end to their attacks and join the political process, and thus consolidate peace and stability in CAR. The Assembly appeals to Member States and the international community to provide the financial and technical assistance required to facilitate the effective implementation of the recommendations of the DPI and the socio-economic recovery of CAR;
6. *Welcomes* the signing of the Agreement of Good Will and Confidence-Building for the Settlement of the Problem of Darfur between the Government of Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement, and encourages them to continue the current talks aimed at finding practical ways and means to implement this important instrument for the Darfur peace process, in order to pave the way for discussions on the framework agreement and the cessation of hostilities and, ultimately, discussions on substantive issues. The Assembly calls on all the parties to recommit themselves to dialogue and to refrain from any action likely to further complicate the situation;
7. *Reiterates* its strong support for the ongoing work of the AU High-Level Panel on Darfur led by Thabo Mbeki, former President of South Africa, aimed at finding a balanced way to address concomitantly the questions of peace, justice and reconciliation, and urges all the Sudanese stakeholders to assume an active role in the proceedings of the Panel. The Assembly looks forward to the recommendations of the Panel and is confident that they will greatly assist the ongoing efforts to bring about lasting peace and reconciliation in Darfur;

8. *Underscores* the need for renewed efforts in promoting relations of good neighbourliness and trust between Sudan and Chad and calls for the scrupulous implementation of the agreements concluded between the two countries. The Assembly encourages the efforts deployed to facilitate the normalization of the relations between Chad and Sudan, and urges the co-Chairs of the Contact Group to resume its functioning, and thereby conclude the excellent work that it set in motion within the context of the Dakar Agreement;

9. *Supports* the decisions of the PSC on the unconstitutional changes of government that occurred in Mauritania, Guinea and Madagascar. The Assembly welcomes the signing, on 4 June 2009, of a Framework Agreement for a way out of the crisis in Mauritania, pays tribute to President Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi for his high sense of the general interest, particularly his voluntary decision to hand over his presidential mandate to the people of Mauritania, thus making a historic contribution to the crisis exit process in the country, calls upon the concerned parties to implement their commitments in good faith and in strict compliance with African Union principles on unconstitutional changes of government and urges AU partners to lend their full support to the AU's decisions on this issue. The Assembly looks forward to the holding of free, fair and transparent presidential elections, in accordance with the Dakar Framework Agreement;

10. *Expresses satisfaction* at the efforts deployed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the AU Commission, as well as by the Chair of the Union, and at the invaluable role being played by the International Contact Group on Guinea, invites the authorities emanating from the coup d'état to respect their commitments and to bring the transition process to a successful conclusion in keeping with the road map agreed by the Guinean parties, and requests AU Member States and the international community to provide the financial and technical assistance needed to prepare and organize the legislative and presidential elections that should conclude the transition;

11. *Expresses its serious concern* at the lack of progress in restoring constitutional legality in Madagascar, supports the elements for a way out of the crisis, as articulated by the International Contact Group on Madagascar at its meeting held in Addis Ababa on 30 April 2009, and encourages the Chairperson of the Commission to pursue and redouble his efforts to achieve a speedy return to constitutional order, in close consultation with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), as well as the United Nations, the Organization of Francophonie (OIF) and the EU. The Assembly welcomes the appointment by SADC of former President Joaquim Chissano as its Special Envoy for Madagascar and looks forward to the outcome of the planned meeting of the Contact Group on Madagascar before the end of July 2009 to review the situation and mobilize further support for the efforts aimed at ensuring a speedy return to constitutional order;

12. *Condemns* in the strongest possible terms the spiral of violence which resulted in the assassination of the President of Guinea-Bissau, João Bernardo "Nino" Vieira, and his Chief of Army Staff, General Batista Tagme Na Wai, in March 2009, and more recently on 5 June 2009, the assassination of Baciro Dabo, candidate for the presidential election scheduled for 28 June 2009, and of Helder Proença, former Defence Minister. The Assembly urges the armed and security forces to refrain from all interference in political issues, supports the efforts deployed by the Chairperson of the Commission, including through his Special Envoy for Guinea-Bissau, Mr. João Bernardo de Miranda, to backstop the process of stabilization in the country, and encourages him to pursue these efforts and intensify coordination with ECOWAS and the United Nations so as to achieve a speedy resolution of the crisis in Guinea-Bissau;

13. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in Côte d'Ivoire in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement (APO) and the Agreements Supplementary to the APO, including the Presidential Decree of 14 May 2009 on the convening of the Electoral College and setting the date for the first round of the presidential election on 29 November 2009. The Assembly urges the Ivorian parties to continue to demonstrate the political will required to create a climate propitious for the presidential elections and to deploy all efforts to honour their commitments. The Assembly encourages Member States of the African Union and the international community at large to pursue and intensify their support for Côte d'Ivoire;

14. *Welcomes* the significant progress made by President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed in the political process in Somalia, and urges all Somali stakeholders yet to commit to the dialogue, to do so and join the peace process. The Assembly strongly condemns the recent spate of attacks on the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and the civilian population by armed groups and foreign elements bent on undermining the reconciliation process and regional stability, demands that they put an end to such attacks which are tantamount to attempts at an unconstitutional change of government, expresses its full support for the TFG as the legitimate authority in Somalia, and urges the countries of the region, other Member States and the international community as a whole to provide all the necessary support to the TFG to enable it face up to the situation. In particular, the Assembly expresses support to the efforts being deployed by IGAD to ensure the viability of the TFG;

15. *Urges* AU Member States to provide the necessary military and police personnel to enable AMISOM to reach its authorized strength, pays tribute to AMISOM and the troop contributing countries, namely: Burundi and Uganda; requests Member States which have promised to provide troops for AMISOM to honour these promises as soon as possible and expresses gratitude to all the Member States and partners providing support to AMISOM;

16. *Calls on* the United Nations Security Council, in line with the AU PSC and IGAD communiqués, to take immediate measures, including the imposition of a no-fly zone and blockade of sea ports, to prevent the entry of foreign elements into Somalia, as well as flights and shipments carrying weapons and ammunitions to armed groups inside Somalia which are carrying out attacks against the TFG, the civilian population and AMISOM, and also to impose sanctions against all those foreign actors, both within and outside the region, especially Eritrea, providing support to the armed groups engaged in destabilization activities in Somalia, attacks against the TFG, the civilian population and AMISOM, as well as against the Somali individuals and entities working towards undermining the peace and reconciliation efforts and regional stability;*

17. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on the border crisis between Djibouti and Eritrea, as well as the negative evolution of the crisis, as described to the Assembly, expresses grave concern at the total absence of progress regarding the implementation by Eritrea of the successive decisions taken at the Eleventh and Twelfth Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly, held respectively in July 2008 and February 2009, as well as resolution 1862 of the United Nations Security Council regarding the border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea. The Assembly, once again, reaffirms its different decisions and resolutions mentioned above and urges Eritrea to urgently and fully comply with the repeated demands of the AU and the international community on the border crisis between Eritrea and Djibouti;

18. *Expresses its serious concern* at the mounting insecurity in the maritime spaces around Africa, and Somalia in particular, and strongly condemns all illegal activities in these regions, including piracy, illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste. The Assembly welcomes the initiatives undertaken by the Commission to develop a comprehensive and coherent strategy to combat these scourges and requests it to submit reports thereon to the competent organs of the African Union, on a regular basis;

19. *Welcomes* the report of the Panel established by the AU and the United Nations to make concrete recommendations on how the United Nations could support AU-led peace support operations, underlines the need for continued efforts to ensure predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for AU-led peace support operations and encourages the Commission to continue working closely with the United Nations Secretariat to follow up on the issue;

20. *Reiterates* the need for continued support by the United Nations to the efforts being deployed by Africa towards the promotion of peace, security and stability. In this respect, the Assembly stresses the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Assembly/AU/Dec.253 (XIII)

* Reservation entered by Eritrea.

**Decision on the Prevention of Unconstitutional Changes of Government and
Strengthening the Capacity of the African Union to Manage Such Situations
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Interim Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Prevention of Unconstitutional Changes of Government and Strengthening the Capacity of the African Union (AU) to Manage such Situations, submitted pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.220 (XII) on the Resurgence of the Scourge of Coups d'état, adopted during the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 4 February 2009;
2. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to initiate consultations with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and other relevant AU organs and institutions on the ways and means of strengthening the capacity of the AU to deal with the scourge of unconstitutional changes of government and submit, in light of these consultations, as well as relevant international experiences, a final report together with comprehensive recommendations on the matter, to its next ordinary session in January/February 2010;
3. *Reiterates*, in the meantime, the AU's strong commitment to the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (p), and Article 30 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the July 1999 Algiers Decision and the July 2000 Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government. In this respect, the Assembly urges all Member States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to sign/ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance adopted by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 January 2007 in order to strengthen the capacity of the AU to deal with the scourge of unconstitutional changes of government.

Assembly/AU/Dec.254 (XIII) Rev.1

**Decision on the Report of the Panel of the Wise on Strengthening the Role of the African Union in the
Prevention, Management and Resolution of Election-Related Disputes and Violent Conflicts in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XIII) Annex II)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Panel of the Wise on Strengthening the Role of the African Union in the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Election-Related Disputes and Violent Conflicts in Africa;
2. *Commends* the Panel of the Wise for having chosen, as part of its thematic reflection for the year 2008, an issue relevant to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Africa, the problem of election-related disputes and conflicts. The Assembly considers the report of the Panel as a significant contribution to the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.187 (X), in which the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa from 31 January to 2 February 2008, stressed the need to initiate a collective reflection on the challenges linked to the disputes and tensions that often characterize electoral processes in Africa, including the strengthening of African capacity at the national, regional and continental levels to observe and monitor elections;
3. *Requests* the Commission to take all necessary steps to implement the recommendations of the Panel and to report to it regularly on the progress made in this respect.

Assembly/AU/Dec.255 (XIII)

**Decision on the African Union Accession to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
(Doc. EX.CL/512 (XV) Add.3)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, for the livelihood of millions of Africans affected by land degradation, desertification and drought;
2. *Takes note* of the proposal by H.E. President Idriss Deby Itno of the Republic of Chad calling on the African Union to accede to UNCCD;
3. *Also takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council as contained in Decision EX.CL/Dec.515 (XV) adopted in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in June 2009;
4. *Authorizes* the African Union to accede to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

**Assembly/AU/Dec.256 (XIII)
Decision to Combat the Payment of Ransom to Terrorist Groups**

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses grave concern* over the growing phenomenon of piracy, hostage-taking and the resultant demands for ransom;
2. *Considers* that the payment of ransom constitutes one of the main methods of financing international terrorism;
3. *Recalls* resolution 1373 of the United Nations Security Council on the Financing of Terrorists and Combating Terrorism, as well as resolution 1267 on the Financing of the Activities of Terrorist Groups;
4. *Also recalls* the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, the OAU Convention and its Protocol on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, and the Algiers Plan of Action for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism;
5. *Reaffirms* its determination to combat terrorism as a threat to international peace and security, and to strive to curb all sources of financing this phenomenon;
6. *Also reaffirms* the urgent necessity to consolidate the existing legal arsenal to combat terrorism and to adopt restrictive legal measures to combat the payment of ransom to terrorist groups;
7. *Strongly condemns* the payment of ransom to terrorist groups for hostages to be freed;
8. *Requests* the international community to consider the payment of ransom to terrorist groups a crime;
9. *Requests* the Security Council to adopt a restrictive resolution against the payment of ransom in order to consolidate legal provisions put in place, particularly by resolutions 1373 and 1267, as well as international and African conventions;
10. *Further requests* the United Nations General Assembly to include this issue in its agenda and to initiate negotiations with a view to elaborating a supplementary protocol to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism or to the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages which prohibits the payment of ransom to terrorist groups;

11. *Also requests* the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this decision and to report to the Assembly in June/July 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.257 (XIII) Rev.1

Decision on the African Common Position on Climate Change including the Modalities of the Representation of Africa to the World Summit on Climate Change

(Doc. EX.CL/525 (XV))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.236 (XII) adopted by the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2009;
2. *Approves* the recommendations of the Executive Council on the African Common Position on Climate Change, including the modalities of the representation of Africa at the World Summit on Climate Change scheduled for Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009, as contained in Decision EX.CL/500 (XV) adopted in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
3. *Urges* Member States to vigorously champion the African Common Position on Climate Change;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to take note of the schedule of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations and other important meetings towards the Conference of Parties (COP 15) and ensure active participation of the delegated African negotiators and experts and that the African Common Position on Climate Change is taken into account;
5. *Welcomes* the offer by H.E President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso to host a World Forum on Sustainable Development under the theme “Climate Change: Opportunities for Sustainable Development?” scheduled for Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 19 to 22 October 2009, as an important step towards preparations for the Copenhagen Summit;
6. *Calls on* Africa’s development partners to support Africa in its efforts towards implementation of this decision;
7. *Requests* the Commission to take all the necessary measures to implement this decision and to report to the Assembly, on a regular basis.

Assembly/AU/Dec.258 (XIII)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Defence Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XIII) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the proposal of the Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to establish an African Defence Council;
2. *Takes note* of the importance of the functions of the African Defence Council in predicting possible external threats to the countries and peoples of the continent and alerting them to such threats;
3. *Decides* to include the functions of the African Defence Council into the African Union Authority.

Assembly/AU/Dec.259 (XIII)

**Decision on the Establishment of the African Agency for the Protection of
the Territorial and Economic Waters of African Countries
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XIII) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the proposal by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the establishment of an African agency to protect regional waters and the economies of African countries;
2. *Underscores* the need for Africa to have an effective instrument to help countries of the continent to protect its own regional waters and economies and to put an end to the illegal exploitation of the resources and organizing the process of its exploitation for the interest of its own inhabitants;
3. *Decides* to include the functions of the African agency to protect regional waters and the economies of African countries into the functions of the African Union Authority.

Assembly/AU/Dec.260 (XIII)

**Decision on the Preparation of the G8 Summit
(Doc. EX.CL/508 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the invitation extended to the Chairperson of the African Union by the current Chairman of the G8 to participate in the July 2009 Summit of the G8 to be held in l'Aquila, Italy;
2. *Mandates* the Chairperson of the African Union to speak before the G8 Summit on behalf of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.261 (XIII)

**Decision on the Preparation of the G8 Summit
(Doc. EX.CL/508 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (HSGIC) on the preparation of the G8 Summit scheduled for l'Aquila, Italy, in July 2009;
2. *Requests* the Chairperson of HSGIC to ensure:
 - (i) Leadership in the G8 process, on behalf of NEPAD; and
 - (ii) Monitoring of the implementation of the commitments of previous G8 Summits and keep Member States regularly informed;
3. *Also requests* the Commission to elaborate, as soon as possible, for the attention of Member States, an exhaustive report on the implementation of the G8 commitments;

4. *Further requests* the Commission to submit a report on the implementation of this decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for January/February 2010, through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.262 (XIII)

Decision on the Situation in Zimbabwe

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the report presented by President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), on efforts being deployed to support the implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) signed by the Zimbabwean parties in Harare in September 2008;

2. *Further welcomes* progress made in the implementation of the GPA and urges the Zimbabwean parties to continue to display the necessary political will and determination to ensure the successful conclusion of the ongoing efforts;

3. *Makes once again an urgent appeal* to all the concerned members of the international community for the immediate lifting of the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe in order to facilitate the implementation of the GPA, as well as the socio-economic recovery of the country, and alleviate the suffering of the population;

4. *Appeals* to Member States and the larger international community to provide the necessary assistance to the Zimbabwean Government, and requests the Commission, working closely with SADC, to pursue the efforts being deployed to that end, as well as those aimed at the immediate lifting of the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe. In this respect, the Assembly commends SADC and its Member States for the steps taken in support of the implementation of the GPA and the socio-economic recovery of Zimbabwe.

Assembly/AU/Dec.263 (XIII)

**Decision on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Conclusions of the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council on the Modalities for the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.233 (XIII) on the transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority;

2. *Endorses* the said recommendations as amended and adopted by the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

3. *Requests* the Commission to take all necessary measures to prepare the following:

(i) The legal instruments for amendments to the Constitutive Act, the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Peace and Security Council, the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), and the Statute of the Commission related to the Creation of the African Union (AU) Authority, and in this regard, requests the Commission to convene a meeting of government experts to consider them;

(ii) The structure of the new AU Authority, taking into account the mandate given to the Authority, in collaboration with the PRC;

(iii) The financial implications of the transformation of the Commission into the AU Authority, in collaboration with the PRC;

4. *Further requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this decision and to submit the necessary legal instruments to the Assembly through the Executive Council at its ordinary session in June/July 2010 for consideration, adoption and subsequent ratification by Member States, and in this regard authorizes the expenditures for the necessary actions from arrears of contributions.

Assembly/AU/Dec.264 (XIII)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report by the Chairperson of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Twenty-first NEPAD HSGIC Summit;
3. *Commends* the review of the African Union (AU)/NEPAD Action Plan 2010—2015 undertaken jointly by the Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and endorses the flagship programmes and projects outlined in the Plan as a means of advancing regional and continental integration;
4. *Takes note* of Africa's preparations and engagement with G8 Partners towards the G8/Africa Outreach scheduled for L'Aquila, Italy, on 9 and 10 July 2009, including the programme for the L'Aquila Summit provided to guide the participation of African leaders and the four thematic areas for discussion;
5. *Welcomes* progress made in the dialogue between the G8 African representatives and the African side towards ensuring appropriate follow-up and implementation of G8 Summit decisions on Africa and urges the continuation of this dialogue for future G8 Summits, along with concrete concerns identified by Africa, through such systematic approach;
6. *Takes note* of the efforts to reform the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) and urges stronger commitment by development partners to making APF more effective and responsive to African concerns and interests.

Assembly/AU/Dec.265 (XIII)

Decision on the Report on Member States' Contributions

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on Member States' contributions;
2. *Calls on* Member States to pay their contributions in a timely manner;
3. *Requests* the Commission to reduce the number of missions it undertakes in light of the global financial crisis;
4. *Also requests* the Commission to hold discussions with the Republic of Seychelles to work out a plan for the rescheduling of its arrears of contribution;

5. *Further requests* the Commission to undertake consultations with all Member States affected by sanctions so as to find an acceptable solution with regard to payment of their arrears;
6. *Decides* that the temporary exemptions granted to Burundi and Sierra Leone from sanctions be maintained so long as they honour their agreed payment schedule and urges these Member States to continue to comply with the agreed rescheduling plan;
7. *Requests* the Commission to draw up an exhaustive inventory on the status of partners' contributions to enable Member States to be appraised of the exact status of such contributions, the programmes financed and the amounts thereof;
8. *Also requests* the Executive Council to review the scale of the assessment of contributions by Member States in conformity with Decision EX.CL/Dec.223 (VII) adopted by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in July 2005;
9. *Decides* to impose sanctions on the following Member States in accordance with Article 126, subparagraph (a), of the Financial Rules and Regulations of the African Union:
 - (i) Eritrea;
 - (ii) Democratic Republic of Congo;
 - (iii) Seychelles.

Assembly/AU/Dec.266 (XIII)

Decision on the Holding of a Special Session on Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the invitation by Brother Leader Muammar al-Gaddafi on the holding of a special session of the Assembly of the Union in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 31 August 2009 on the margins of the celebrations marking the fortieth anniversary of the Libyan Revolution;
2. *Accepts with appreciation* the invitation to this special session, which will be devoted to the consideration and resolution of conflicts in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.267 (XIII)

**Decision on the New African Union Flag
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on the new African Union flag;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Panel of Experts that conducted the selection process, as well as all the participants in the competition;
3. *Decides* to adopt proposal No. 3B by Ato Yadessa Zewge Bojia of Ethiopia as the new flag of the African Union and warmly congratulates him, and decides to award him the cash prize of US\$ 10,000;

4. *Requests* the Commission to take all necessary measures to reproduce the new flag with all the islands represented, distribute it to all Member States and popularize it among partner countries and other parts of the world;
5. *Further requests* the Commission to take the necessary measures for the registration of the new flag with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and directs that all the financial implications for the above activities be met from arrears of contributions;
6. *Decides* that the new flag will be launched officially during the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January/February 2010.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XIII) Rev.1

Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa

We, the Heads of States and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Thirteenth Ordinary Session in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 3 July 2009,

Reaffirming the commitments we have made to poverty eradication with the view to raising the living standards of our peoples and the well-being of our future generations,

Recognizing the centrality of land to sustainable socio-economic growth, development and the security of the social, economic and cultural livelihoods of our people,

Aware of the rich heritage of Africa's land and related resources especially its unique natural ecosystems,

Further aware of the diversity and complexity of the systems under which land and related resources are held, managed and used,

Noting the diversity of issues and challenges facing access to, use and management of land resources, and the threat relating to land and related resources including those arising from changes in the global, political and economic environment,

Conscious of the need for strong systems of land governance rooted in principles of sustainability in an effort to ensure preservation, protection and renewability of Africa's land and related resources,

Further noting the steady progress which our countries have made in the initiation, review, revision or comprehensive development of land policies and their implementation in order to ensure that their various land sectors play an important role in development,

Welcoming the joint initiative taken by the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) with support from development partner organizations, in drafting a continental framework and guidelines on land policy development and implementation for use as a resource by AU Member States in their efforts to improve the performance of their various land sectors,

Acknowledging the comprehensive consultations and discussions that have been conducted and the experts inputs made in the course of the preparation of the continental Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in the five regions of Africa,

Considering the Report of the African Union Joint Conference of Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Land and Livestock held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 24 April 2009, and the recommendations therein endorsed by the Executive Council,

Undertake to:

1. Prioritize, initiate and lead land policy development and implementation processes in our countries, notwithstanding the extent of multi-stakeholder contribution to such processes involving also civil society and the private sector;
2. Support the emergence of the institutional framework required for the effective development and implementation of land policy and implementation;
3. Allocate adequate budgetary resources for land policy development and implementation processes, including the monitoring of progress;

Resolve to:

1. Ensure that land laws provide for equitable access to land and related resources among all land users including the youth and other landless and vulnerable groups such as displaced persons;
2. Strengthen security of land tenure for women which require special attention;

Requests the Commission in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities, the ECA, the AfDB and other partners to:

1. Work towards the establishment of an appropriate institutional framework to provide coordination of follow-up activities and facilitate mutual learning by Member States as they develop/review their land policies in accordance with the Framework and Guidelines;
2. Take measures for the establishment of a fund to support follow-up activities to promote land policy development and implementation;
3. Undertake measures for the establishment of mechanisms for progress tracking and periodic reporting by Member States on progress achieved;

Invites the Regional Economic Communities to:

1. Convene periodic regional platforms to facilitate experience sharing, lessons learned and dissemination of best practices in land policy formulation, implementation and monitoring based on Member States' experiences;
2. Appropriately capture and address issues of land policies within their respective common agricultural policy framework;

Urges Member States to:

1. Review their land sectors with a view to developing comprehensive policies which take into account their peculiar needs;
2. Build adequate human, financial, technical capacities to support land policy development and implementation;
3. Take note of the steps outlined in the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa for their land policy development and implementation strategies;

Requests the Commission, in collaboration with the ECA and the AfDB, to carry out studies on the establishment of an appropriate institutional framework that can support Member States in their efforts towards reviewing,

developing and implementing land policies including mechanisms for progress tracking and reporting, as well as for the establishment of an African Fund for Land Policy, and report thereon to the ordinary session of the Assembly in June/July 2010.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XIII) Rev.1

**Sirte Declaration on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (VIII))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Thirteenth Ordinary Session in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 3 July 2009,

Recalling within the context of the theme of the Thirteenth AU Summit, Africa's collective responsibility and commitment to advance Africa's agriculture with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as its framework for bringing about the required institutional and policy reforms, capacity development and increased investments thereby enhancing agricultural performance with direct impact on food security and socio-economic growth,

Commending Member States advancing in embracing CAADP implementation and the facilitating support being provided by the Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, Regional Economic Communities and development partners,

Welcoming the strong support to and alignment with the CAADP agenda by a growing number of bilateral and multilateral development agencies,

Aware and concerned that hunger is a drain on economic development, a threat to global security, a barrier to human dignity and to the improvement of the standard of living of the people, and therefore every effort at the national, regional, continental and global levels should be made as a matter of urgency to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target on reducing hunger in Africa,

Acknowledging the importance of proactive measures and interventions to increase financing for Africa's agriculture and continue to improve sector policies for accelerated economic growth and the attainment of the continent's food security targets,

Aware that smallholder friendly value-chain development and access to markets and to financial services should be key elements to enhancing financial sustainability and growth of the agriculture sectors and related wealth creation,

Mindful of the fact that climate variability and climate change is and will be a key factor to the agricultural development agenda and that it is imperative for Africa at all levels to raise productivity and improve resilience in agricultural systems,

Noting that land degradation undermines food security, and increases the vulnerability of African economies to climate variability and change while, on the other hand, sustainable agricultural land management approaches can raise productivity and improve Africa's resilience to climate hazards,

Acknowledging the potential contribution to investment financing through remittances (estimated at US\$ 17 billion per year and which could raise to US\$ 45 billion per year), knowledge, skills and related networks that could be realized by facilitating and harnessing increased participation of Africa's diaspora in Africa's development agenda,

Noting the importance to identify the most vulnerable sections of society, including women, children and the physically challenged, and to ensure that their special needs to participate in economic activities are embraced and supported in agricultural development strategies and investment programmes,

Welcoming the commitment of the United Nations High-Level Task Force (UN-HLTF) to join other bilateral and multilateral agencies to strengthen CAADP and to operationalize the Global Plan of Action on Food Security (GPAFS) through CAADP in Africa,

Considering the Report of the African Union Joint Conference of Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Land and Livestock held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 24 April, 2009, and the recommendations therein endorsed by the Executive Council,

Recalling and relating to past rural economy and agricultural development AU Summit decisions and declarations,

Undertake to:

1. Meet our individual and collective responsibilities and commitments to provide necessary leadership on comprehensive and Africa-wide approaches to address the root causes of poverty and hunger, and accelerate progress towards achieving the growth and budgetary targets set out in the CAADP Agenda and Framework;
2. Support relevant policy and institutional reforms that will stimulate and facilitate accelerated expansion of agriculture related market opportunities by modernizing domestic and regional trading systems, removing obstacles to transborder trades, and increasing access by smallholder farmers to inputs and the necessary commercial infrastructure and technical skills to fully integrate them into the growing value chains;
3. Develop and implement continental and regional level strategies that embrace climate change mitigation and adaptation measures as integral components in our agriculture development agendas and ensure that Africa's positions and interests are recognized in the global dialogue on climate change, starting with the forthcoming post-Kyoto Protocol negotiations;
4. Expand investments in specially targeted social protection policies and measures through predictable public support best suited for the local circumstances with special focus on the most vulnerable and poor sections of society, including gender programmes;

Request the Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to:

5. Continue to mobilize the necessary technical expertise and financial resources to support capacity development and related policy reforms to accelerate CAADP implementation in all Member States, including signing country CAADP compacts indicating the policy measures, investment programmes, and required funding to achieve the 6 per cent growth and 10 per cent budget share targets for the agricultural sector;
6. Create the tools and instruments to mobilize expertise and build capacity to support, within the CAADP Framework, agricultural and other national planning entities to:
 - (i) Support countries build capacity in project preparation;
 - (ii) Integrate and strengthen the use of tools to improve transparency of spending through periodic public expenditure reviews, public expenditure tracking surveys, and output/results-based budgeting;
 - (iii) Reform and strengthen spending patterns, service delivery modalities, and budget execution in general to improve efficiency and effectiveness of spending in the agricultural sector;
7. Undertake major initiatives within the context of CAADP to modernize regional trading systems and promote regional integration by:
 - (i) Establishing regional commodity exchanges to facilitate trade;

- (ii) Setting up mechanisms to monitor and enforce the application of regional trade arrangements and policies;
 - (iii) Building regional and country level capacities for quality management and certification services;
 - (iv) Strengthening capacity in international trade advocacy and negotiations skills;
8. Facilitate the creation of agricultural investment and enterprise development platforms in Member States and the organization of agribusiness joint venture fairs to:
- (i) Promote the required public-private partnerships and business-to-business alliances to accelerate the development of competitive value chains and raise market shares in domestic, regional, and foreign export markets;
 - (ii) Foster commercial bank financing for all segments of the agribusiness value chain, in particular support the expansion of financial services to the rural areas;
9. Accelerate the emergence of cost competitive input procurement and delivery systems by:
- (i) Fast tracking the implementation of the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism, in particular making the required contributions to bridge the US\$ 2.5 million gap for its immediate operationalization;
 - (ii) Scaling up ongoing regional seeds alliances to ensure broad access by smallholder farmers;
10. Facilitate increased investment in agriculture research and development (ARD) and support to strengthen Africa's scientific and technical information and knowledge base, including:
- (i) The creation of centres of excellence for agricultural research and development along the value chain of strategic agricultural commodities and animal resource products;
 - (ii) The establishment, in rural areas, of vocational training and workforce development systems to upgrade smallholder farming skills, raise long-term competitiveness, and encourage the youth to participate in the agriculture sector;
11. Establish a "South to South Forum for Agricultural Development in Africa" and expand engagement with the diaspora through the Commission's Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) to unlock additional sources of technology and investment financing in African agriculture;
12. Develop an African agricultural-based climate change mitigation and adaptation framework providing strategic guidance and tools to national and regional level initiatives along programmatic approaches on technology transfer, knowledge management and financing to scale up adoption of sustainable land and agricultural water management;
13. Rally expert input and scientific knowledge to advance the recognition and integration of carbon sequestration on agricultural landscapes and carbon financing in global climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through the post-Kyoto Protocol negotiations and other global and regional dialogue;
14. Establish an inter-ministerial mechanism bringing together ministries of agriculture, environment, and water to advance an inter-sectoral approach in addressing the climate change agenda;
15. Facilitate analytical support to Member States on the integration of gender in agriculture development agendas;

Urge Member States to:

16. Recommit to the Maputo Declaration of allocating at least 10 per cent of their annual national budgets to the agriculture sector by 2015 to articulate the important role of agriculture in national development strategies for adequate resource allocation;

17. Scale up efforts to accelerate the implementation of the CAADP agenda at the country level, in particular the organization of country round tables and the signing of CAADP compacts;

Call upon international development partners, and regional and non-regional stakeholders to:

18. Harmonize and align their investment support to African agriculture through and along national and regional CAADP priorities and, in particular, join member governments in mobilizing the necessary funding to meet the resource requirements of the priority investment programmes identified in the regional and country CAADP compacts;

19. Ensure that agriculture financing initiatives are enhanced through African institutions and made accessible at the country level;

Request the Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and other partners, to work with Member States on the implementation of the actions contained in this declaration and report on progress to the ordinary session of the Assembly in June/July 2010;

Also requests regional and non-regional stakeholders to ensure that the African Development Bank and other African financial institutions have the necessary resources to deliver the requested assistance.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XIII) Rev.1

Declaration on the Confederations Cup and the Preparations towards the 2010 FIFA World Cup

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at the meeting of our Thirteenth Ordinary Session in Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 3 July 2009,

Recalling the declaration we made at our January 2007 Summit, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to declare the ushering of the 2010 FIFA World Cup as an African event,

Appreciating the briefing by South Africa on its excellent hosting of a safe and secure 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup whose participation included South Africa as the host, Italy as the 2006 World Cup Champions, Spain as the Euro 2008 Champions, USA as the 2007 COCACAF Gold Cup Champions, Brazil as the 2007 Copa America Champions, Iraq as the 2007 AFC Asian Cup Champions, Egypt as the 2008 African Cup of Nations Champions and New Zealand as the 2008 OFC Nations Cup Champions,

Further appreciating and affirming South Africa's state of readiness to host a memorable 2010 FIFA World Cup, for the first time in the history of the African continent, which is a legitimate recognition of Africa's contribution to the advancement of world sports,

Pursuant to our commitment to ensuring the success of the 2010 World Cup tournament on our continent,

Recognizing the role of sport in the promotion of peace, solidarity, social cohesion and sustainable socio-economic development,

Further recognizing the supportive role of sports in Africa's effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

We therefore:

Congratulate South Africa for its successful hosting of the Confederations Cup;

Request the Commission to cooperate with South Africa's Local Organizing Committee of the World Cup to ensure the effective implementation and follow-up of the Africa legacy programme, including the establishment of a web link, and to report on the progress of the preparations to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January/February 2010;

Reaffirm our commitment to make the 2010 World Cup a truly African World Cup, by committing our countries to the full and substantive involvement in the preparations leading to the 2010 World Cup;

Commit ourselves to provide all round support to the Government and people of South Africa in their efforts to organize the 2010 World Cup tournament successfully and efficiently;

Urge FIFA, CAF and the rest of the FIFA Regional Associations, the international sporting community, the African diaspora and friends of Africa to provide the necessary support to South Africa in its preparations for the epic 2010 World Cup;

Request South Africa to update the Assembly on the final preparations of hosting the World Cup at its next ordinary session in January/February 2010.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XIII)

Declaration on the Celebration of the 100th Birthday Anniversary of Kwame Nkrumah

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Assembly of the African Union, meeting at our Thirteenth Ordinary Session in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 3 July 2009, hereby call on all Member States to celebrate on 21 September 2009, the 100th birthday anniversary of President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, an advocate of Pan-Africanism who played a vital role in the establishment of our continental organization and the liberation of the continent.

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XIII)

Declaration of the Assembly of the Union on the Coup d'État in Honduras

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Assembly of the Union, meeting at our Thirteenth Ordinary Session, held in Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 3 July 2009 were briefed on the situation in Honduras,

Stressing that Africa, which continues to suffer from the scourge of unconstitutional changes of government and maintains a strong partnership, based on shared values, with Latin America and the Caribbean, has a keen interest in the early resolution of the crisis, as well as in the respect of legality and democratic principles,

Noting that the coup d'état that took place in that country on 28 June 2009 was a clear violation of the provisions of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, stresses the need to ensure the restoration of constitutional order and the respect for legality and democratic norms,

Welcomes the unanimous rejection by the region of this unconstitutional change of government and expresses its full support to the efforts being undertaken by the Organization of American States (OAS),

Condemns the coup d'état that took place and that led to the overthrow of the democratically-elected President Jose Manuel Zelaya,

Calls on all the political and social actors of Honduras to embark on a constructive dialogue to peacefully resolve the problems facing their country, with the view to strengthening democracy and the rule of law in the country.

**SPECIAL SESSION ON THE CONSIDERATION AND
RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS IN AFRICA**

**Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
31 August 2009**

SP/Assembly/PS/Decl.1

Tripoli Declaration on the Elimination of Conflicts in Africa and the Promotion of Sustainable Peace

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting in Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 31 August 2009, on the occasion of the Special Session on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, as agreed in Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.252 (XIII), have reviewed the state of peace and security on our continent and the steps we need to take to hasten the attainment of our common objective of a conflict-free Africa.
2. The decision to convene this Special Session reflects our growing concern at the persistence of conflict and crisis situations on the continent, despite the many efforts deployed thus far to resolve them. It also bears testimony to our renewed determination to give further impetus to the implementation of relevant AU decisions and promote lasting peace, security and stability on the continent, for without such an environment our vision of the political and economic integration and development of Africa will not materialize.
3. Our meeting is taking place at a time when significant efforts are being made to end conflict and promote peace and security on the continent. We have come a long way since we launched the AU in Durban, in July 2002, and inaugurated the Peace and Security Council (PSC), in Addis Ababa, in May 2004. Today, we have the necessary institutional and normative framework to address the scourge of conflicts, and the AU has demonstrated a renewed dynamism in dealing with issues of peace and security on the continent.
4. We note that the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as articulated in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, is well on course, as shown by the effective functioning of the PSC, the launching of the Panel of the Wise and the establishment of key components of the African Standby Force (ASF) and the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS).
5. We also note that, consistent with the spirit and letter of the AU Constitutive Act, we have, over the years, adopted a number of instruments on human rights, governance, democracy, disarmament, terrorism, and good neighbourliness, which represent a consolidated framework of norms and principles, whose observance would reduce considerably the risk of conflict and violence on the continent and consolidate peace where it has been achieved.
6. Finally, significant strides have been made in the resolution of conflicts in Africa, as evidenced by the remarkable achievements in countries such as Burundi, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sudan (South Sudan), as well as the advances recorded in the search for peace in a number of other countries and regions. These developments have brought hope and enhanced the prospects for development and renewal, which now need to be enhanced through sustained efforts at peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.
7. While we take pride in these achievements, we remain, nevertheless, deeply concerned at the continued prevalence of conflict, insecurity and instability in large parts of the continent, with its attendant humanitarian consequences and socio-economic impact. Indeed, armed conflicts in Africa kill thousands of people every year; create humanitarian disasters; wipe out livelihoods and wealth that ordinary people have worked hard to accumulate over their lifetimes; and make sustainable economic development impossible. There is also a more profound loss: the destruction of hope for a better future.
8. In addition, we note with concern the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government, which constitutes a serious setback to the democratization process, as well as the emerging trend of election-related violence and conflicts; the threats posed by terrorism, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, piracy, and illicit exploitation of natural resources to fuel conflicts; and the persistence of the border disputes and conflicts. We reiterate our commitment, in conformity with the decision adopted in Sirte, in July 2009, to cut off the sources of funding for terrorism, in particular those originating from the payment of ransom in situations of hostage-taking. Of equal concern are the implications of climate change and its resulting consequences (food insecurity,

scarce water resources, damage to coastal infrastructure and cities, reduced agricultural yields and environmentally-induced migration) for our quest for peace and the efforts being made in this respect.

9. Against this background, we are determined to deal once and for all with the scourge of conflicts and violence on our continent, acknowledging our shortcomings and errors, committing our resources and our best people, and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. We, as leaders, simply cannot bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans.

10. To this end, we recommit ourselves to accelerate the full operationalization of the APSA, including the further refinement of existing provisions, where necessary, to facilitate their implementation. In this respect, we agree to increase our contributions, both financial and technical, in support of the APSA. We request the Chairperson of the Commission to take all steps necessary to strengthen the Commission's capacity to better address the challenges of peace, security and stability on the continent, including through the speedy recruitment of necessary additional staff, bearing in mind that additional resources are needed.

11. We undertake to make renewed efforts to address the root causes of conflicts in a holistic and systematic manner, including through implementing existing instruments in the areas of human rights, the rule of law, democracy, elections, good governance, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation and good neighbourliness. This requires that all Member States that have not yet done so speedily sign and/or ratify those instruments and that the Commission actively monitor their implementation. We request the Commission to take all necessary steps to sensitize the Member States concerned and to undertake a thorough and systematic review of the status of implementation of these instruments and to submit to the Assembly concrete proposals on how to improve compliance.

12. In particular, we reiterate our total rejection of unconstitutional changes of government and undertake to enhance both prevention of, and response to, this phenomenon. In this vein, we reiterate the need for Member States to promote good governance, to abide by the rule of law and to respect their own constitutions, especially when it comes to introducing constitutional reforms, bearing in mind that failure to do so can lead to situations of tension, which could, in turn, precipitate political crisis. Equally, we shall take all necessary measures, including the condemnation of, and imposition of sanctions against any African country that would encourage, support or host armed groups whose objective is to destabilize another State. We commit ourselves to abide by the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-use of force, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of our external relations.

13. We reiterate our determination to ensure that, at all times, Africa moves first and in a timely manner to deal with the scourge of conflicts on our continent. We also reiterate our commitment to exercise utmost restraint, to systematically resort to peaceful means to settle all disputes, and to be responsive to mediation and other preventive diplomacy endeavors.

14. We are resolved to ensure that sufficient troops and observers are made available for rapid deployment when and where they are required.

15. Driven by our determination to transform the geopolitical landscape of Africa for the benefit of all its peoples, by promoting the development and integration of the continent, we shall take a series of concrete and effective measures to accelerate the implementation of solutions already agreed to for the settlement of a number of conflicts, and the promotion of fair and equitable solutions to situations for which no agreement has yet been reached by the parties concerned, as well as for post-conflict reconstruction, to provide the peoples concerned with peace dividends.

16. We reiterate our full support to all ongoing peace efforts on the continent and urge all concerned parties to leave no stone unturned to end the conflicts they are party to, bring hope to their people and build sustainable peace. In line with the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, as well as the PSC Protocol, we commit ourselves, where parties to a conflict stubbornly refuse to live up to their

obligations and cooperate towards the promotion of peace, to impose sanctions and ensure their scrupulous implementation throughout the continent, while seeking the support of our partners within the international community, including the United Nations Security Council.

17. We commit ourselves, within the framework of the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), to show the required solidarity with the African countries emerging from conflicts, to assist them in consolidating their hard-won peace and avoiding relapse into violence.

18. We stress the need for all Member States to extend full cooperation and support to the PSC, bearing in mind that, in carrying out its duties under the Protocol, the PSC acts on behalf of the entire membership of the AU. Equally, we commit ourselves to increase substantially our contribution to the Peace Fund, for Africa to truly own the ongoing efforts to promote peace, security and stability on the continent. In this respect, we request the Commission to take the necessary preparatory steps for the increase of the statutory transfer from the AU regular budget to the Peace Fund from 6 to 12 per cent. We also encourage all Member States in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund. We request the Commission to submit to the Assembly, in June 2010, a comprehensive report on how best to mobilize increased resources from within the continent to support our peace efforts.

19. Making and sustaining peace and security is also an intellectual challenge. We therefore undertake to build the capacity of our universities and research institutes to explore the nature of African conflicts, to investigate what succeeds and what fails in conflict resolution efforts, and to arrive at African-centred solutions, drawing from our own distinctive and unique experience.

20. To achieve our objective of an African continent that is not only at peace with itself but is also at peace with the rest of the world, we need to continue to strengthen our relations with our major partners. We value the support provided by our bilateral and multilateral partners in the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, and call on them to continue working closely with us in achieving our goals, understanding that peace and security are indivisible.

21. At the same time, we reiterate our determination to ensure that these partnerships are fully based on Africa's leadership, because without such leadership, there will be no ownership and sustainability; because we understand the problems far better than those who come from far away; because we know which solutions will work, and how we can get there; and because, fundamentally, these problems are ours, and we will live with their consequences.

22. We call on the African civil society to continue to play its role in promoting peace, security and stability as partners of government, as we seek to ensure that the AU, as called for in its Constitutive Act, respects the principle of participation of the African peoples in the activities of the Union.

23. We declare the year 2010 as the Year of Peace and Security on the Continent. In this regard, we request the Chairperson of the Commission to prepare a detailed programme which would identify concrete steps that could be taken to promote peace, security and stability on the continent, and to submit it to the next ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union.

24. We solemnly adopt the Tripoli Declaration, and pledge our full commitment to its effective implementation so as to open a new chapter in our collective action in favor of peace, security, stability and shared prosperity throughout Africa and the rest of the world.

FOURTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
31 January to 2 February 2010**

Assembly/AU/Dec.268 (XIV)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. *Recalls* the Tripoli Declaration on the Elimination of Conflict and the Promotion of Sustainable Peace in Africa (SP/ASSEMBLY/PS/DECL(I)) and the Plan of Action (SP/ASSEMBLY/PS/MAP), adopted at its Special Session held in Tripoli, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 31 August 2009;
3. *Welcomes* efforts by the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), with the support of the international community, for the effective establishment of the continental Peace and Security Architecture, as well as for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the consolidation of peace. The Assembly notes with satisfaction the progress made in this regard and urges all stakeholders to persevere in their efforts and work towards the effective implementation of the Tripoli Plan of Action;
4. *Expresses concern* over the impasse in the implementation of the Maputo Agreement of 8 and 9 August 2009, and the additional Act of Addis Ababa of 6 November 2009, for the return to constitutional order in Madagascar. The Assembly notes the crisis-exit proposals presented to the Malagasy parties by the Chairperson of the Commission on 20 and 21 January 2010 in Antananarivo. The Assembly also urges the AU and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to continue to work together with relevant continental, regional and international institutions in assisting the negotiation process in Madagascar;
5. *Reiterates* the importance of SADC in continuing to lead the mediation process in the country, given its regional responsibilities and comparative advantages, as well as the role of H.E. Joaquin Chissano, former President of Mozambique, as facilitator, and requests the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to meet at the appropriate time to review the situation and take steps required, on the basis of the relevant AU instruments;
6. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts to consolidate the national reconciliation process in the Comoros and the promotion of stability, including the holding of elections to the National Assembly and to the Councils of the three autonomous islands on 6 and 20 December 2009, and encourages the Comorian parties, particularly the Union authorities, to pursue a consensual approach in the implementation of institutional reforms introduced by the new Constitution adopted by referendum on 17 May 2009, in order to preserve the achievements made;
7. *Reaffirms* the AU's full support to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia and its efforts towards the implementation of the Djibouti Peace Process; reiterates its strong condemnation of the continued attacks and other terrorist acts being perpetrated against the TFG, the Somali people and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) by the armed groups bent on undermining the peace and reconciliation process, as well as the actions of Al Shabaab to deny the needy population access to humanitarian aid and services;
8. *Welcomes* the adoption, by the United Nations Security Council on 23 December 2009, of resolution 1907 (2009), which imposes sanctions on Eritrea, namely an arms embargo, travel restrictions and a freeze on the assets of political and military leaders for, among other things, providing political, financial, and logistical support to armed groups engaged in undermining peace and reconciliation in Somalia and regional stability;
9. *Stresses* the need to pursue vigorously the effective implementation of resolution 1907 (2009); calls upon the United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committee to urgently designate the relevant Eritrean military and political leaders and other persons and entities as required, to allow for an effective sanctions regime to be

implemented, and urges the Security Council to speedily act on its earlier request for the imposition of a no-fly zone and the blockade of sea ports to prevent the entry into Somalia of foreign elements and the supply of logistical and other support to the insurgency;

10. *Reiterates its appreciation* to the troop contributing (namely, Burundi and Uganda) and police contributing countries to AMISOM, and welcomes the pledge by Djibouti to contribute forces to AMISOM, as well as the pledge by Burundi and Uganda to each deploy one additional battalion, and reiterates its call to Member States to provide the troops required for AMISOM to reach its authorized strength. The Assembly stresses the need for predictable, reliable and timely provision of resources to the AU by all partners, and reiterates its call to the Security Council to take the necessary steps for the United Nations to play a role commensurate with the gravity and complexity of the situation on the ground;

11. *Expresses concern* at the continued impasse in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea and reiterates the readiness of the AU to assist the two countries to overcome, through dialogue, the current stalemate, normalize their relations and lay the foundation for a comprehensive and durable peace between them;

12. *Reiterates* its earlier decisions on the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea, and its grave concern at the total absence of progress regarding the implementation by Eritrea of these decisions, as well as of resolutions 1862 (2009) and 1907 (2009), and urges Eritrea to urgently and fully comply with the demands contained therein;

13. *Welcomes* the remarkable progress in the peace process in Burundi, and urges all Burundian parties to continue their efforts, including working to create conditions conducive to the organization and holding of general elections between May and September 2010. The Assembly also welcomes the improved security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the continuing efforts to consolidate peace in the country and to strengthen relations between the DRC and Rwanda. The Assembly reiterates its call to the international community to provide the support required for post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding in Burundi and DRC, and in this respect, welcomes the Multidisciplinary Assessment Mission deployed by the AU Commission to these two countries within the framework of monitoring the implementation of relevant decisions of the PSC and the Tripoli Plan of Action;

14. *Notes* that Sudan will hold national elections in April 2010 and the referendum on self-determination for Southern Sudan in January 2011; reiterates its full support to Sudan and hails the steps taken thus far to ensure free and fair elections. The Assembly further notes with satisfaction the progress made in the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur and calls for the intensification of efforts so as to reach a lasting political settlement to allow Darfurians to participate fully in the upcoming elections;

15. *Also notes* the need to intensify current initiatives to assist the people of Sudan to achieve lasting peace and stability. In this regard, the Assembly urges Member States, the Commission and international partners to support and cooperate with these initiatives, including the AU Ministerial Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) in Sudan;

16. *Welcomes* the report of the AU High-Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD), and the recommendations contained therein, which provide a clear and sound road map for achieving peace, justice, reconciliation and healing in Darfur, and thereby contribute to the overall objective of promoting sustainable peace and stability in Sudan, endorses the communiqué adopted in this respect by the PSC at its 207th meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 29 October 2009, and reiterates that the AUPD recommendations shall be the basis of AU engagement in Darfur and its interaction with its international partners. The Assembly expresses its full support to the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan and stresses the need for all stakeholders to extend full cooperation to the Panel in the discharge of its mandate. In this context, the Assembly reiterates the AU's support to the efforts of the Joint AU/United Nations Mediation and the facilitation provided by Qatar. The Assembly expresses its appreciation to all African countries, such as Libya, that are contributing to the search for peace in Darfur, in particular the process of unification of the Darfurian movements;

17. *Also welcomes* the appointment of Professor Ibrahim Gambari as the AU/United Nations Joint Special Representative and the Head of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID);
18. *Further welcomes* the progress made towards appeasement and normalization of relations between Chad and Sudan, through the signing in N'Djamena, on 15 January 2010, of the Agreement on Normalization between Chad and Sudan, as well as the Additional Protocol on the Securitization of Borders, and encourages the two countries to maintain dialogue and implement the commitments made;
19. *Notes with satisfaction* the significant progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Inclusive Political Dialogue in the Central African Republic (CAR) and urges the Central African stakeholders to persevere in their efforts, particularly by providing the necessary cooperation towards the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme (DDR) and working towards the establishment of conditions conducive to the holding of the free, fair and transparent legislative and presidential elections slated for April and May this year. The Assembly appeals once again to the international community to lend the necessary support for the consolidation of peace, including the implementation of the Programme for the Reform of the Security Sector (RSS), and the socio-economic recovery of the CAR;
20. *Urges* the Ivorian parties to redouble efforts to successfully complete the peace and reconciliation process in their country, including the holding, within the set timeframe, of legislative and presidential elections which will conclude the process aimed at bringing the crisis to an end;
21. *Takes note* of the ongoing mediation process in Niger and commends the efforts of General Abdulsalami Abubakar, former Head of State of Nigeria and Mediator on the Inter-Nigerien Dialogue. The Assembly calls on all parties to fully cooperate with the Mediator, in particular during the upcoming meeting scheduled to be held in Niamey, Niger, on 4 February 2010;
22. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued progress being made towards post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding in Liberia, and urges the international community to continue to provide the necessary support to the ongoing efforts. The Assembly commends the Government of Liberia for initiating a process to formulate the best strategy for implementing the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC);
23. *Reiterates the firm condemnation* by the African Union of the deliberate massacres and acts of violence perpetrated by elements of the Guinean armed and security forces against unarmed civilians in the Conakry Stadium on 28 September 2009, and stresses the need to bring to justice the authors of these massacres and those who ordered them, in conformity with the AU principles on combating impunity. The Assembly welcomes the signing in Ouagadougou, on 15 January 2010, of the Joint Ouagadougou Declaration, under the aegis of President Blaise Compaoré, in his capacity as Mediator of the Guinean crisis, which marks a significant step in the process for the return to constitutional order and the resolution of the crisis in Guinea, in accordance with the relevant AU and ECOWAS decisions. The Assembly pledges the commitment of the AU to mobilize support required for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration, and expresses its appreciation to President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso for his efforts towards resolving the crisis;
24. *Commends* the work of the International Contact Group (ICG), under the co-chairmanship of ECOWAS and AU, for its ongoing efforts aimed at resolving the crisis in Guinea. In that regard, the Assembly takes note of the outcome of the most recent meeting of the ICG, held on 26 January 2010, in particular its invitation to the AU, ECOWAS and all AU partners to review the sanctions imposed on Guinea, in the course of the crisis, in light of recent positive developments in that country;
25. *Commends* the return of Mauritania to constitutional order, and the mediation role played by the President of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, with the support of the international community, through the International Contact Group on Mauritania under the leadership of the AU. The Assembly encourages the holding, during the first half of 2010, of a meeting with bilateral and multilateral partners for the purpose of

mobilizing financial and economic support for Mauritania, and further encourages the Mauritanian parties to fully implement the Dakar Agreement;

26. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the process for the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau since the presidential elections of June-July 2009, and requests the Chairperson of the Commission, in close collaboration with ECOWAS, to continue to work towards the implementation of the provisions of the Tripoli Plan of Action on Guinea-Bissau, particularly those on the reconstruction and reform of the security sector, through the deployment of a joint AU-ECOWAS Stabilization Mission. The Assembly urges the bilateral and multilateral partners to participate in the Donors Roundtable for Guinea-Bissau, scheduled to be held during the first half of 2010, and appeals to the international community to provide the necessary assistance to the country in the fight against drug trafficking;

27. *Welcomes* the entry into force, on 15 July 2009, of the African Nuclear-Weapon- Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), and looks forward to the Conference of the States' Parties to the Treaty, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, in April 2010, to establish the African Commission on Nuclear Energy. The Assembly also welcomes the entry into force, in December 2009, of the Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact, and encourages the Commission to take all steps required for the implementation of the Pact. The Assembly notes that these two instruments enrich the AU normative framework for the structural prevention of conflicts;

28. *Requests* the Peace and Security Council, in close collaboration with the Chairperson of the Commission, to spare no effort, within the framework of the Year of Peace and Security, to significantly advance the different peace processes on the continent and to take the necessary initiatives for more dynamic action in the area of conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction.

Assembly/AU/Dec.269 (XIV)

**Decision on the Prevention of Unconstitutional Changes of Government and
Strengthening the Capacity of the African Union to Manage Such Situations
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Prevention of Unconstitutional Changes of Government and the Strengthening of the Capacity of the African Union (AU) to Manage such Situations;

2. *Recalls* its previous decisions on the issue of unconstitutional changes of government, particularly Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.220 (XII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.253 (XIII) adopted at its Twelfth and Thirteenth Ordinary Sessions held, respectively, in Addis Ababa, from 1 to 4 February 2009, and in Sirte from 1 to 4 July 2009, as well as the Tripoli Declaration on the Elimination of Conflicts in Africa and the Promotion of Sustainable Peace, especially paragraph 8 thereof, adopted by the Special Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Tripoli, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 31 August 2009;

3. *Reiterates* the African Union's total rejection of unconstitutional changes of government, and its determination to put a definitive end to this scourge which undermines the progress achieved in the ongoing democratization processes on the continent and constitutes a threat to peace and security in Africa. To this end, the Assembly reaffirms the importance of the Algiers Decisions of July 1999, the Declaration on the Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government adopted by the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU held in Lomé, Togo, from 10 to 12 July 2000, as well as the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council;

4. *Takes note* of the initiatives taken by the Commission to follow up on Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.253 (XIII), including the consultations with the various stakeholders to seek their views on the issue, including the strengthening of coordination with the AU, and the conclusions of the Peace and Security Council Retreat held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, from 17 to 19 December 2009;

5. *Considers* that the AU is endowed with the instruments required to tackle the scourge of unconstitutional change of government and that the objective should be to promote the effective implementation of these instruments by, where necessary, refining, enriching and updating them, rather than elaborating new instruments. The Assembly also emphasizes, in conformity with the relevant AU instruments, the need for a comprehensive approach to the issue of unconstitutional changes of government based on zero tolerance for coups d'état but also for violations of democratic standards, the persistence and reoccurrence of which could result in unconstitutional changes;

6. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in the report of the Chairperson of the Commission and, more specifically, agrees on the following measures:

(i) Enhancing the effectiveness of the AU response to unconstitutional changes and modalities for accompanying transitions:

(a) Reiterates its appeal to all the Member States concerned to take, without delay, the measures required of them to become parties to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which considerably strengthens the provisions regarding unconstitutional changes of government, and requests the Commission, working closely with the relevant structures of the Union, particularly the Pan-African Parliament, to pursue and step up its efforts at raising the awareness of all the concerned stakeholders to speed up the entry into force of the Charter;

(b) Decides that, in cases of unconstitutional changes of government, in addition to the suspension of the country concerned, the following measures shall apply:

a. Non-participation of the perpetrators of the unconstitutional change in the elections held to restore constitutional order;

b. Implementation of sanctions against any Member State that is proved to have instigated or supported an unconstitutional change in another State;

c. Implementation by the Assembly of other sanctions, including punitive economic sanctions;

(c) Decides also that Member States should, upon the occurrence of an unconstitutional change of government, not recognize the de facto authorities; and calls on all non-African international bodies, including the United Nations and its General Assembly, to refrain from granting accreditation to such authorities, thus strengthening the automatic suspension measures taken by the AU against those countries in which unconstitutional changes of government have taken place;

(ii) Revitalization of the mechanism for structural prevention of unconstitutional changes of government:

(a) Underscores strongly the importance of the signing and ratification by Member States that have not already done so, of the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and of adhering to the principles of good neighbourliness and non-subversion. With respect to good governance and the rule of law in particular, the Assembly reiterates the need for Member States to uphold the rule of law and abide by their own constitutions, especially with regard to constitutional reforms, bearing in mind that failure to respect these provisions could lead to situations of tension which, in turn, could trigger political crisis;

(b) Requests the Peace and Security Council, pursuant to the provisions of Article 7, subparagraph (m), of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC, which stipulates that this body, in collaboration with the Chairperson of the Commission, shall “follow up, within the framework of its conflict prevention responsibilities, the progress towards the promotion of democratic practices, good governance, the rule of law, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the sanctity of human life by Member States”, to examine regularly progress made in the democratization processes, on the basis of a report prepared by an independent Rapporteur to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission, who will be given the necessary support in terms of personnel and expertise. The Assembly decides that, for 2010, Year of Peace and Security in Africa, this review shall be effected by a meeting of PSC at the ministerial level;

(c) Requests the Commission to redouble its efforts to ensure the follow-up and effective implementation of the recommendations made by the Panel of the Wise in its Report on the Strengthening of the Role of the African Union in the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Elections-Related Tensions and Violent Conflicts in Africa, as endorsed by the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union (Document Assembly/AU/6 (XIII) Rev.1), considering the fact that differences concerning the conduct of an electoral process contribute to the occurrence of an unconstitutional change of government;

(d) Underscores the need to build the AU’s proactive capacity, through a much more dynamic direct preventive action. In that connection, the Assembly encourages the Chairperson of the Commission to make full use of the powers conferred on him by the provisions of Article 10, paragraph 2 (b), of the Protocol establishing the PSC and to work, as necessary, with the Panel of the Wise and other eminent African personalities to diffuse tensions and resolve crises which could lead to unconstitutional changes of government. The Assembly underscores the obligation on the part of Member States to provide all the assistance and cooperation required to that end;

(iii) Coordination at the regional and international levels:

(a) Reiterates the primacy of the Union's responsibility in the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent, in accordance with the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC, and decides, therefore, that whenever the AU takes a decision on an unconstitutional change of government, it must do so in close consultation with the Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution as provided for under Article 16 of the above referred Protocol. The Regional Mechanisms must conform with the decision thus taken and, in particular, refrain from admitting States suspended from participating in the AU activities. The Assembly further decides that, in discharging its mandate, the PSC should take into account the fundamental role of the RECs and their rules and practices governing unconstitutional changes of government;

(b) Requests AU partners, both bilateral and multilateral, including the United Nations and the European Union, to strongly support the decisions taken by the AU in situations of unconstitutional change of government and to refrain from any action which could undermine the efforts of the AU and send conflicting signals to the perpetrators of unconstitutional changes;

(c) Recognizes the important role played by international contact groups in mobilizing the support of AU partners and the international community as a whole to AU positions on unconstitutional changes of government, and encourages the Commission to establish, as and when necessary, such groups under AU leadership, in order to mobilize the broadest support possible for decisions taken by the Union in accordance with the relevant instruments of the AU;

7. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to follow up and implement this Decision and to report regularly on efforts deployed to this end.

Assembly/AU/Dec.270 (XIV)

Decision on the Report of the Second Meeting of States Parties to the

**Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (ICC)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Ministerial Preparatory Meeting on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 6 November 2009 in conformity with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.245 (XIII) adopted in Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in July 2009, to prepare for the Review Conference of States Parties scheduled for Kampala, Uganda, in May-June 2010;
2. *Endorses* the recommendations contained therein and, in particular, the following:
 - (i) Proposal for amendment to Article 16 of the Rome Statute;
 - (ii) Proposal for retention of Article 13 as is;
 - (iii) Procedural issues: Guidelines for the exercise of prosecutorial discretion by the ICC Prosecutor;
 - (iv) Immunities of officials whose States are not parties to the Rome Statute: the relationship between articles 27 and 98; and
 - (v) Proposals regarding the crime of aggression;
3. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
4. *Also takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Eighth Assembly of States Parties of the ICC (ASP) held in The Hague, Netherlands, from 16 to 26 November 2009 and the outcome of the ASP meeting;
5. *Welcomes* the submission by the Republic of South Africa, on behalf of the African States parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC of a proposal which consisted of an amendment to Article 16 of the Rome Statute in order to allow the United Nations General Assembly to defer cases for one (1) year in cases where the United Nations Security Council would have failed to take a decision within a specified time frame;
6. *Underscores* the need for African States parties to speak with one voice to ensure that the interests of Africa are safeguarded;
7. *Welcomes* Resolution ICC-ASP/8/Res.6 on the Review Conference that establishes a working group of the ASP for the purpose of considering, as from its Ninth Session, amendments to the Rome Statute including among others the proposal for amendment to Article 16 of the Rome Statute together with the proposals from other States parties or group of States parties;
8. *Takes note* of the fact that the other proposals made by the Second Meeting of the African States Parties to the Rome Statute will not be considered during the Review Conference and requests accordingly, the African States parties to raise the issue of the immunities of officials whose States are not parties to the Rome Statute (the relationship between articles 27 and 98 under the topic "Cooperation" at the level of the Working Group of New York of the Bureau of ASP as well as during the stocktaking exercise of the Review Conference;
9. *Also takes note* of the fact that there was no debate on the crime of aggression during the Eighth ASP;
10. *Deeply regrets* that the request by the African Union to the United Nations Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against President Bashir of Sudan, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the

ICC on deferral of cases by the United Nations Security Council, has not been acted upon and, in this regard, reiterates its request to the United Nations Security Council;

11. *Urges* the African States parties to the Rome Statute to follow up on the concerns raised by Member States;

12. *Takes note* of the Review Conference of States Parties to the International Criminal Court scheduled to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 31 May to 11 June 2010, and calls upon African Member States parties to attend and effectively participate in the Conference;

13. *Requests* the African Group in New York and the African Members of the Bureau of ASP, to follow up on the implementation of this Decision in collaboration with the Commission and to ensure that the concerns raised by the Assembly of the Union and its Member States are properly addressed through consultations with other regional groups with a view to finding a durable solution and to report to the Assembly through the Commission on actions taken;

14. *Also requests* the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.271 (XIV)

**Decision on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction
(Doc. EX.CL/540 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.243 (XIII) adopted in Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in July 2009;

2. *Also takes note* of United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/117 on the Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction adopted on 16 December 2009 by the United Nations General Assembly and invites all Member States to submit to the United Nations Secretary-General, before 30 April 2010, information and observations on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction, including information on the relevant applicable international treaties, their domestic legal rules and judicial practice;

3. *Reiterates* its previous positions articulated in Decisions Assembly/Dec.199 (XI), Assembly/Dec.213 (XII) and Assembly/Dec.243 (XIII) adopted in Sharm el Sheikh, Addis Ababa and Sirte in July 2008, February 2009 and July 2009, respectively, to the effect that there has been blatant abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction particularly by some non-African States and reiterates its call for immediate termination of all pending indictments;

4. *Further reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

5. *Urges* the European Union (EU) and its Member States to extend the necessary cooperation to the African Union to facilitate the search for a durable solution to the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction;

6. *Also reiterates* its conviction of the need for an international regulatory body with competence to review and/or handle complaints or appeals arising out of abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by individual States;

7. *Calls upon* all concerned States, particularly European States, to respect international law and particularly the immunity of State officials when applying the principle of universal jurisdiction;
8. *Expresses appreciation* to the Chairperson of the African Union and the Chairperson of the Commission for efforts made so far towards ensuring that this matter is exhaustively discussed at the level of the United Nations;
9. *Urges* Member States affected by the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by non-African States to respond to the request made by the Chairperson of the Union and to communicate to the Commission the list and details of pending cases in non-African States against African personalities;
10. *Requests* the African Group in New York to follow up on the implementation of this Decision in collaboration with the Commission and to ensure that the concerns raised by the African Union and its Member States are properly addressed with a view to finding a durable solution and to report to the Assembly through the Commission on actions taken;
11. *Also requests* the Commission to follow up on this matter with a view to ensuring that a definitive solution to this problem is reached and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.272 (XIV)

**Decision on the Hissène Habré Case
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.240 (XII) and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.246 (XIII) adopted by the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2009 and in Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in July 2009, respectively, on the Hissène Habré Case;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Also takes note* that in spite of its previous Summit decisions calling on all Member States to make voluntary contributions to the budget of the Hissène Habré Case there has been no positive reaction from the majority of Member States;
4. *Reiterates* its appeal to all Member States to contribute to the budget of the trial and extend the necessary support to the Government of Senegal in the execution of the African Union (AU) mandate to prosecute and try Hissène Habré;
5. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/246 (XIII) adopted in Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in July 2009, calling for the African Union to make a token contribution to the budget of the trial for a sum to be determined following consultations between the Commission and the Permanent Representatives Committee;
6. *Requests* the Government of Senegal, the Commission and partners, particularly the European Union, to continue with consultations with the view to ensuring the holding of the Donors Round Table as soon as possible;
7. *Invites* all partner countries and institutions to support this process and the Donors Round Table that will be organized in Dakar, Senegal, in 2010;

8. *Requests* the Commission to monitor the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.273 (XIV)

Decision on the Terrorist Attack against the Togolese National Football Team

The Assembly,

1. *Strongly condemns* the terrorist act of 8 January 2010 against the Togolese National Football Team attending the African Nations Cup tournament in the Angolan Province of Cabinda, on the border between the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Congo;
2. *Reaffirms* that terrorism is an abominable and condemnable act aimed at destabilizing the peace and security of all peoples;
3. *Recalls* the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the 1999 OAU Convention on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (Algiers Convention) and the 2004 Protocol, the relevant legal instruments of the United Nations and other international conventions relating to the fight against terrorism, all of which equally condemn the support, sheltering and financing of terrorists groups;
4. *Reaffirms* its resolve to fight terrorist acts in Africa and in the world, and appeals to all African and non-African countries to abstain from promoting, protecting, supporting, sheltering and harbouring terrorists groups;
5. *Urges* countries from where the terrorist act was organized, planned and later claimed to cooperate with the Government of Angola in arresting and bringing to justice those responsible for the act;
6. *Encourages* those countries not to allow permanent residence in their territories to those with known terrorist backgrounds and to take necessary measures to prevent the use of their territories for planning and carrying out terrorist attacks against African countries;
7. *Calls on* the international community, notably Member States and relevant international organizations, to fully cooperate with the Angolan authorities in bringing the perpetrators of this heinous act to justice.

Assembly/AU/Dec.274 (XIV)

Decision on the Proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of the Youth

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.250 (XIII) requesting all Member States and the African Group in New York to give their support to efforts geared towards the adoption of a draft resolution proclaiming 2010 “International Year of the Youth”;
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.250 (XIII) inviting all Member States of the United Nations Organization and other international organizations to support this initiative to proclaim 2010 as International Year of the Youth, and to contribute to its adoption when it is tabled before the United Nations General Assembly;
3. *Takes note* of the effective adoption on 18 December 2009 by the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly of resolution 64/131 entitled “2010 International Year of the Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding” to proclaim the year and to organize a World Youth Conference as the highlight of the Year, and invites the President of the General Assembly to conduct open-ended consultations with Member States with a view to determining the modalities of the Conference and the expected outcomes;

4. *Expresses its full satisfaction* and great pride following the unanimous adoption, on the initiative of H.E. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, of the appeal to proclaim 2010 as the International Year of the Youth;
5. *Commends* the Republic of Tunisia and its President, H.E. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, for the special interest given to the role of the youth, in general, and the African Youth, in particular, in the task of developing and consolidation mutual understanding;
6. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to support this initiative while actively participating in consultations that will be led by the President of the United Nations General Assembly on the modalities for organizing the World Youth Conference;
7. *Urges* Member States to organize and undertake national actions and participate in regional and international activities to mark the International Year of the Youth;
8. *Also urges* Member States to work with the Commission to launch and implement the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps;
9. *Requests* the Commission to get actively involved in the popularization of the theme of the International Year of the Youth, "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding", in the implementation of the appropriate activities and in the monitoring of actions undertaken by Member States and Regional Economic Communities;
10. *Also requests* the Commission to report to the ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in January 2011 on the status of the overall implementation of actions relating to the celebration of the International Year of the Youth.

Assembly/AU/Dec.275 (XIV)

**Decision on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. *Recalls* the Tripoli Declaration on the Elimination of Conflicts in Africa and the Promotion of Sustainable Peace (SP/Assembly/PS/Decl.(I)), adopted by the Special Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, held in Tripoli, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 31 August 2009, in particular paragraph 23 of the Declaration in which the Heads of State and Government decided to proclaim 2010 as the Year of Peace and Security in Africa;
3. *Further recalls* that, while notable gains have been made and the number of violent conflicts on the continent has been reduced significantly in recent years, nevertheless far too many African countries remain trapped in a vicious cycle of conflict with devastating consequences;
4. *Underlines* the need for the full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, in order to enhance the capacity of the continent to successfully address the challenges of peace and security;
5. *Stresses* that the Year of Peace and Security will be an opportunity for African peoples and leaders, as well as African institutions, in partnership with the international community, to review current efforts towards peace

on the continent, with a view to strengthening them and, where appropriate, launching new initiatives, in particular by:

- (i) Giving added momentum to peace and security efforts on the continent;
- (ii) Giving greater visibility to past and ongoing efforts by the African Union (AU) on the ground;
- (iii) Speeding up the implementation of commitments made by Member States in various AU instruments relating to peace and security;
- (iv) Making synergies between official efforts to promote peace and security with those being undertaken on the ground by grassroots communities; and
- (v) Mobilizing resources to support peace and security efforts on the continent;

6. *Expresses its full support* for the steps and initiatives envisaged by the Chairperson of the Commission as contained in his report on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa. The Assembly commends the Commission for the steps already taken towards the implementation of the Year of Peace and Security, in particular the building of the required partnerships, the mobilization of resources and outreach activities;

7. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to pursue those efforts and to urgently take all the required measures for the successful celebration of the Year of Peace and Security, in particular by mobilizing human, technical and financial resources, ensuring the active involvement of all relevant AU structures, including the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and AU specialized institutions, among others, mobilizing the African private sector and civil society, as well as the support of the AU's bilateral and multilateral partners and other relevant stakeholders. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the partnership between the AU and the Confederation of African Football (CAF), as well as the financial and technical support provided by the German Government through GTZ, and the commitment of the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF) to work with the AU towards the successful celebration of the Year of Peace and Security;

8. *Underlines* the crucial role of Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and urges them to seize the opportunity of the Year of Peace and Security to highlight the actions undertaken in promoting peace and security and intensify their efforts in this regard, including by signing and ratifying relevant AU instruments and effectively implementing the commitments contained therein. The Assembly welcomes the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty and of the Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact, which enrich the AU normative framework for structural conflict prevention and, once again, appeals to all Member States that have not yet done so to speedily take the steps required to become parties to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;

9. *Further urges* Member States to take the necessary measures for the success of the campaign and to take other steps in support of the Year of Peace and Security, including issuing special stamps, providing free air time and space for advertisements in State media and facilitating the successful tour of the Flame of Peace;

10. *Requests* the Peace and Security Council to undertake specific activities in support of the Year of Peace and Security, in particular by holding meetings in countries affected by conflicts, making further visits in the field, so that PSC members can observe at first hand the realities of these countries, and becoming both more proactive in considering situations of potential and incipient conflict, while remaining engaged in countries that are emerging from conflict. The Assembly also requests the PSC to devote special sessions to the theme of Women and Youth in Conflicts. Recognizing that women and children continue to be the most affected by the conflicts that ravage parts of our continent and recalling the launch of the African Women's Decade, as decided at the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, declares that the laudable intentions contained therein should be reinforced by the Declaration of 2010 as the African Year of Peace and Security in Africa, and that its objectives continue to

permeate throughout the coming Women's Decade, reinvigorating and strengthening the attainment of lasting peace, security and prosperity on the continent;

11. *Notes* that, in the next twelve (12) months, seventeen (17) African countries will be celebrating their fiftieth anniversaries as independent States and that these celebrations should mark a new beginning, heralding a new era for the continent, specially through renewed efforts to address the challenge of peace and security;

12. *Calls on* the African countries concerned to seize the opportunity of their respective national days to work with the Commission in carrying out programmes collaboratively in support of the Year of Peace and Security;

13. *Appeals* to all AU partners and other stakeholders to extend full support to the AU to ensure the successful celebration of the Year of Peace and Security and encourages them to jointly identify with the Commission activities that could be undertaken in this respect;

14. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit to it a progress report on the implementation of the Year of Peace and Security campaign at the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council in July 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.276 (XIV)

Decision on the African Common Position on the Fifteen-Year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the African Common Position on the Fifteen-Year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Calls on* the United Nations to consider and incorporate the Common African Position on the Fifteen-Year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, during the global review.

Assembly/AU/Dec.277 (XIV)

Decision on the Establishment of the Fund for African Women

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council to launch the Fund for African Women;

2. *Decides* to launch the Fund for African Women in accordance with Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.143 (VIII) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2007.

Assembly/AU/Dec.278 (XIV)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its earlier acceptance of the invitation by the Republic of Uganda to host the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Kampala during the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008;

2. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Uganda, for its offer to host the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly;
3. *Accepts* the dates proposed by the Republic of Uganda and the Commission for the holding of the Summit meetings in Kampala as follows:
 - (i) 19 to 20 July 2010: Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee;
 - (ii) 22 to 23 July 2010: Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
 - (iii) 25 to 27 July 2010: Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.279 (XIV)

Decision on Madagascar

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses deep concern* over the continuing political crisis in Madagascar;
2. *Recognizes* the importance and validity of the Maputo Agreement and the Additional Act of Addis Ababa;
3. *Stresses* that these agreements remain the only road map for a comprehensive solution to the Madagascar crisis and urges their speedy and faithful implementation;
4. *Urges* the illegal regime in Madagascar to desist from attempts to impose unilateral solutions to the current crisis thereby circumventing the Maputo Agreement and the Additional Act of Addis Ababa;
5. *Recognizes* the efforts being made by the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to restore constitutional order in Madagascar;
6. *Welcomes* the various summit meetings and decisions of the SADC leaders; the meetings convened in Maputo on 8 and 9 August 2009, and Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 November 2009;
7. *Requests* the Commission and SADC to continue to work together in assisting the negotiation process in Madagascar;
8. *Underscores* the leading role played by SADC in the mediation process, given its regional responsibilities and comparative advantages;
9. *Stresses* the need for the establishment of the Follow-up Mechanism provided for in paragraph 12 of the Additional Act of Addis Ababa of 6 November 2009;
10. *Expresses full support* to H.E. Joaquim Chissano, former President of the Republic of Mozambique and SADC Mediator, and his mediation team for their endeavours towards re-establishing constitutional order in Madagascar;
11. *Notes* the proposals presented by the Chairperson of the Commission to the Malagasy parties during his mission to Madagascar from 21 to 22 January 2010 and urges the parties to respond expeditiously to these proposals;
12. *Requests* the Peace and Security Council to meet in due course to review the situation and take the required decisions in light of the relevant AU instruments;

13. *Appeals* to the international partners to continue to extend full support to the efforts being made towards the resolution of the crisis in Madagascar and the restoration of constitutional order within the institutional framework approved by the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.280 (XIV)

**Decision on the Election of the Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/578 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following five (5) Members of the Peace and Security Council for a three-year term as of 1 April 2010:

Name	Region
Equatorial Guinea	Central Region;
Kenya	Eastern Region;
Libya	Northern Region;
Zimbabwe	Southern Region;
Nigeria	Western Region;

3. *Also appoints* the following ten (10) Members of the Peace and Security Council for a two-year term as of 1 April 2010:

Name	Region
Burundi	Central Region;
Chad	Central Region;
Djibouti	Eastern Region;
Rwanda	Eastern Region;
Mauritania	Northern Region;
Namibia	Southern Region;
South Africa	Southern Region;
Benin	Western Region;
Côte d'Ivoire	Western Region;
Mali	Western Region.

Assembly/AU/Dec.281 (XIV)

**Decision on the Fifteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of H.E Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Coordinator of the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), on the conduct and outcomes of the Fifteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009;

2. *Endorses* the provisions of the Copenhagen Accord and encourages all Member States that may wish to do so, to make individual submissions to the Secretariat of UNFCCC supporting the Accord in the context of the common but differential responsibilities and supported with the means of implementation;

3. *Reaffirms* its continued stand to remain united in all future negotiations on climate change; and endorses that the leadership of H.E Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as Coordinator of CAHOSCC, be extended to lead CAHOSCC for the next two (2) Conferences of Parties (COP 16 in Mexico and COP 17 in South Africa, in 2010 and 2011 respectively);

4. *Requests* CAHOSCC to establish a streamlined single negotiating structure at the ministerial and expert levels to replace the current coordinating mechanism;

5. *Also requests* CAHOSCC to hold a post-COP 15 Meeting before the Conference in Bonn, Germany, in May 2010 in order to prepare for all the other meetings identified in the report of the CAHOSCC Chairperson;

6. *Further requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to register the African Union as a party to the UNFCCC, for purposes of negotiation but consistent with the sovereign right of its Member States.¹

Assembly/AU/Dec.282 (XIV)

Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Report by the Chairperson of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

2. *Notes and welcomes* progress made in the implementation of the NEPAD Programme, particularly on the African Union (AU)/NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) through the signing of CAADP compacts and the finalization of the NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) as a common reference and integrated tool to address capacity challenges in Africa;

3. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.241 (XII) of the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly on the need for a coherent, systematized and institutionalized partnership engagement with the G8 and notes the outcomes of the L'Aquila G8/Africa Outreach of July 2009 including the launch of the US\$ 20 billion L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI), the Pittsburgh G20 Summit of September 2009 and the conclusions of the Thirteenth Africa Partnership Forum (APF);

4. *Observes* that the evolving global context with respect to the G8 and G20, and the latter serving as the premier forum for international economic cooperation, has necessitated an in-depth review of Africa's partnership strategy within this new global governance architecture. In this regard, notes that the G8 has established an accountability mechanism with Africa and therefore agrees that Africa should undertake an independent assessment of G8/Africa partnership as a contribution to the next G8/Africa Outreach;

¹ Reservation entered by Egypt.

5. *Requests* the Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the Africa Development Forum to undertake this assessment and submit its findings by the June 2010 G8 Summit;
6. *Urges* the adoption of a new strategic approach focusing on partnership dialogue on Africa's development policy issues and calls for the institutionalization of Africa's engagement within the G20, and the effecting of the desired paradigm shift from management of poverty on the continent to economic transformation for Africa to emerge as a new growth pole to address existing imbalances and play a significant role in the integrated world economy.

Assembly/AU/Dec.283 (XIV)

Decision on the Integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the Structures and Processes of the African Union including the Establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls and reaffirms* the Decision of the Second Session of the Assembly in Maputo of July 2003, the 13-Point Conclusions of the Algiers New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Brainstorming Meeting of March 2007 as endorsed by the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Addis Ababa in February 2008 and the outcomes of the Dakar NEPAD Review Summit of April 2008 as the basis for the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union (AU);
2. *Further recalls* the adoption of NEPAD as a programme of the AU by the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001 and reiterates that the NEPAD vision and programme has since inception remained an intrinsic part of the African Union;
3. *Notes* the key recommendations contained in the consultancy-study report on AU/NEPAD Integration commissioned in December 2008 and the similarity of views of the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat on the recommendations as well as the broad consultations with various African stakeholders;
4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Twenty-first NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) as resubmitted by the Twenty-second HSGIC on the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union;
5. *Hereby approves:*
 - (a) The establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) as a technical body of the African Union in replacement of the NEPAD Secretariat with the mandate to:
 - (i) Facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the continental and regional priority programmes and projects;
 - (ii) Mobilize resources and partners in support of the implementation of Africa's priority programmes and projects;
 - (iii) Conduct and coordinate research and knowledge management;
 - (iv) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and projects; and
 - (v) Advocate on the AU and NEPAD vision, mission and core principles/values;
 - (b) The main features of the NEPAD Governance structures:

- (i) The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), with a change of name to the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC);
 - (ii) The HSGOC is a subcommittee of the AU Assembly that provides political leadership and strategic guidance on the NEPAD programme and reports its recommendations to the Assembly for endorsement;
 - (iii) The HSGOC is the essence and spirit of NEPAD with the lead function of high-level coordination of the NEPAD priority sectors;
 - (iv) An intermediary body to interface between the HSGOC and the new agency, consisting of the NEPAD Steering Committee;
 - (v) The Chairperson of the African Union Commission exercises supervisory authority over the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, while giving the new agency adequate and necessary flexibilities to carry out its mandate and thereby maintaining the corporate brand identity of the NEPAD programme within the African Union;
 - (c) Financing the NPCA and its programmatic activities will be through:
 - (i) Established budget from the statutory sources of the African Union Commission;
 - (ii) Continuation of voluntary contributions by AU Member-States;
 - (iii) Additional budgetary support from development partners and the private sector in conformity with AU financial rules and regulations;
 - (d) *Urges* the early conclusion of a permanent host country agreement for the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) between the South African authorities and the Commission, in consultation with the NEPAD entity;
 - (e) The Chairpersons of HSGOC and the Commission should mandate the CEO of NEPAD to work out the modalities and road map for the effective and smooth take-off and functioning of the new NEPAD agency in collaboration with the Commission by the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2010;
6. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States, the Chairperson of the Commission, the RECs, African institutions and other stakeholders for their contributions to the process of NEPAD integration into the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.284 (XIV)

Decision on the Response to the Global Financial and Economic Crisis

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on initiatives and responses to the global financial and economic crisis by international financial institutions; the multilateral development banks, including the African Development Bank (AfDB); as well as the African countries;
2. *Commends* the role played by the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in pushing Africa's position regarding the crisis within various international fora such as the G8 and the G20;

3. *Expresses concerns* regarding the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on African countries, despite their economies being less integrated into the international financial system;
4. *Further commends* efforts made by developed countries, the international financial institutions, African countries, and regional and multilateral development banks, among others, aimed at mitigating the impact of the crisis;
5. *Welcomes* the outcome of the G20 Summit held in Pittsburgh, USA, in September 2009, including the need for increased voice and representation at the Bretton Woods Institutions; general capital increase for regional and multilateral development banks, including the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank; sale of gold; debt relief; review of the Debt Sustainability Framework; the need to deliver on ODA commitments; increasing policy space; trade, including conclusion of Doha Round/Trade Negotiations; climate change; and support for regional integration in Africa;
6. *Calls upon* developed countries as well as international financial institutions to urgently implement the recommendations and commitments made during the Pittsburgh G20 Summit;
7. *Commends* the AfDB and the World Bank for front-loading ADF 11 and IDA 15, respectively, and developing new facilities to support African countries, particularly the low-income countries, to cope with the crisis;
8. *Supports* the acceleration of ADF 12 and IDA 16 replenishments, in view of the fact that both AfDB and the World Bank have front-loaded ADF 11 and IDA 15 respectively;
9. *Notes with concern* that the crisis has increased the demand for African Development Bank and World Bank resources and that these banks may soon have inadequate resources to support low-income countries to mitigate the impact of the present crisis and resume growth;
10. *Recalling* the necessity for African countries to attain the MDGs by the target date of 2015, calls for strong and timely replenishment of ADF 12 and IDA 16, and early general capital increases for the two institutions to, among others, provide support for the low-income countries; and
11. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the AfDB and UNECA, to continue monitoring the impact of the crisis on African countries, as well as the implementation of the G20 Summit Commitments.

Assembly/AU/Dec.285 (XIV)

Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
2. *Reaffirms* the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the reform of the United Nations Security Council containing the African Common Position, and calls for its intensive promotion to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice on the issue of Security Council reform;
3. *Takes note* of current developments in the intergovernmental negotiations and encourages the Committee of Ten Heads of State to continue to promote and defend Africa's interest in the Security Council reform process;
4. *Requests* the Committee of Ten Heads of States to meet regularly in order to keep abreast of developments, with a view to updating African leaders accordingly;

5. *Also requests* the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the Committee of Ten to work closely with other African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations as well as with other interest groups in the context of the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the Security Council reform process;

6. *Further requests* the Commission to continue to facilitate the activities of the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the Committee of Ten to enable them to defend Africa's interest on the basis of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;

7. *Calls on* the Committee of Ten to remain seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives and report on progress made at the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.286 (XIV)

Decision on the Annexes to the Statute of the African Investment Bank

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.550 (XVI) of the Executive Council recommending the adoption of the annexes to the Statute of the African Investment Bank;

2. *Adopts* the annexes to the Statute of the African Investment Bank (AIB) including the selection of scenario B, as amended on the distribution of capital and voting rights of the AIB among Member States, and the choice of special drawing rights (SDRs) of the International Monetary Fund as unit of account of the AIB, until the creation of the African single currency;

3. *Requests* the Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Protocol and the annexes to the Statute of the African Investment Bank.

Assembly/AU/Dec.287 (XIV)

**Decision on the Budget of the African Union for the 2010 Financial Year
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the budget of the African Union for the Year 2010 amounting to US\$ 250,453,697:

(i) A total amount of US\$ 111,763,676 assessed to Member States on the basis of the current scale of assessment, which includes the balance of the programmes budget amounting to US\$ 11,171,000;

(ii) A total of US\$ 5,000,000 from the fund allocated from the purchase of the Washington Office; and

(iii) A total amount of US\$ 133,690,021 earmarked for the programmes is secured from international partners;

2. *Adopts* the budget breakdown among the AU organs to be as follows:

	Operational Budget in (US\$)	Programmes Budget in (US\$)	Total in (US\$)
African Union Commission (AUC)	82,047,121	135,415,745	217,462,866

FOURTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION (2010)

Pan-African Parliament (PAP)	9,129,736	5,019,514	14,149,250
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)	2,968,874	1,960,978	4,929,852
African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR)	6,169,591	1,769,784	7,939,375
Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)	1,531,500		1,531,500
African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL)	225,000		225,000
NEPAD	3,020,854		3,020,854
Advisory Board on Corruption	500,000		500,000
Peace and Security Council		695,000	695,000
Total	105,592,676	144,861,021	250,453,697

3. *Requests* the Commission to implement the decision to increase Member States' contribution towards the Peace Fund from six per cent (6%) to twelve per cent (12%) over a period of three (3) years starting from 2011;

4. *Further requests* the Commission and the organs to scale down anticipated activities in 2010 including;

- (i) Extraordinary sessions, meetings and seminars of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; and
- (ii) The sessions of the African Union Commission on International Law;

5. *Decides* to postpone to 2011 the full operationalization and implementation of new organs and programmes;

6. *Decides* to remove the budgetary allocation of election monitoring under the Pan-African Parliament and any other organ, following the decision that the Commission should harmonize the organization of joint election observation missions with other organs;

7. *Decides* to allocate US\$ 3,020,854 to NEPAD as the initial budget for its integration into African Union structures and processes pending:

- (i) The approval of its structure by the policy organs;
- (ii) Continued harmonization of its programmes with those of the Commission to avoid duplication and ensure coherence.²

Assembly/AU/Dec.288 (XIV)

Decision on Zimbabwe

The Assembly,

² Reservation entered by Tunisia.

1. *Recalls* Decision EX.CL/Dec.252 (XIII) adopted in Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in July 2009 on the immediate lifting of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe;
2. *Deplores* the absence of the effective implementation of this Decision by the international community;
3. *Draws the attention* of Member States and the international community to the harmful consequences of the non-application of the said Decision on the economic and social stability of Zimbabwe as well as on the well-being of the populations of that country;
4. *Invites* all Member States and the international community to give priority to the immediate and permanent lifting of the international sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to ensure the speedy and immediate implementation of this Decision and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2010, on all actions undertaken in this regard.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XIV)

**Addis Ababa Declaration on Information and Communication Technologies in Africa:
Challenges and Prospects for Development
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XIV))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 31 January 2010 and from 1 to 2 February 2010,

Considering the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles and objectives as enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and our collective commitment to achieve the development of the continent through the promotion of research in all fields, particularly in the area of science and technology,

Determined to take all the necessary steps to strengthen our common institutions and provide them with the necessary resources to enable them to fulfil their mission efficiently, including the implementation of the Action Plan of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS),

Recalling our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to achieve the sustainable development of our continent,

Reaffirming our determination to eliminate poverty, improve public health and education, increase agricultural production, as well as attain the MDGs,

Aware that the attainment of these goals depends not only on the ability of our States to make use of the enormous potential offered by information and communications technologies but also on their will to provide this sector with increased and sustained investment,

Convinced of the powerful catalyzing role that information and communication technologies can play in the development and integration process in Africa, especially in the establishment of a legal and regulatory framework that is harmonized and attractive for investments, shared telecommunications and ICT infrastructure and the convergence of networks, services and administrations,

Welcoming the various initiatives concerning the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the two phases of the World Summit on Information Society as well as the international partnerships, including in particular the Connect Africa Initiative, launched in Kigali, Rwanda, during the Connect Africa Summit held from 29

to 30 October 2007, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, NEPAD, the Africa-EU Partnership for Science, Information Society and Space, the African Information Society Initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Global Digital Solidarity Fund,

Recalling the Decision of the Executive Council which adopted the Oliver Tambo Declaration to establish a mechanism to accelerate and monitor the implementation of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), the Reference Framework for Harmonization of Policies and Regulations on Telecommunications and ICTs in Africa, the Strategies and Action Plans for the Development of the Postal Sector in Africa,

Declaring the ICT sector as a sector of top priority in our development programmes and therefore encouraging Member States and development partners to consider telecommunications and ICT infrastructure and services, as a basic public utility infrastructure,

1. *Undertake* to:

(i) Intensify the activities to implement the Reference Framework for Harmonization of Telecommunication and ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa, the action for the development of the postal sector as well as the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy;

(ii) Strengthen national programmes and regional cooperation for the development and interconnection of broadband infrastructures, the deployment of Regional Internet Exchange Points, and the improvement of rural area connectivity based on the principles of technological neutrality, non-discrimination and open access, in support of the PIDA and through the use of synergies with the transport and energy sectors;

(iii) Accord, in our telecommunications/ICT development policies and strategies, particular attention to the postal sector, a vital vehicle for reaching out to our populations in rural areas and the digitalization of the broadcasting technology in Africa;

(iv) Develop programmes and actions on training, acquisition of basic competences in communication and information technologies and on capacity-building, particularly for national and regional regulatory organs;

(v) Promote research and development actions as well as an environment favourable to innovation and entrepreneurship in the sector with a view to finding solutions and services suited to the conditions and needs of African users;

(vi) Support the effective operationalization of the Forum of Telecommunications Regulators' Assembly as a non-binding body, and the activities to create local content and socio-economic services adapted to Africa's development imperatives and implement cyber-strategies that guarantee security, freedom, confidentiality and the development of each and every one;

(vii) Encourage harmonization and efficient management of radio frequency spectrum, at both the national and the regional levels, of the scarce resources of the sector (radiofrequency spectrum, numbering plans, etc.) and promote a coordinated approach for the efficient development of broad band services;

(viii) Promote a favourable regulatory environment for the implementation of innovative public-private partnership and financing models, the sharing of infrastructure, favourable taxation on ICT equipment as well as all the measures needed at national and regional levels to lower the tariffs and provide better quality of service in the sector;

2. *Request* the Commission to:

- (i) Set, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the International Telecommunication Union, higher education and research institutions and the ICT-sector specialized institutions in Africa, an African digital agenda identifying the main stages towards the establishment of a harmonized African ICT market by 2020;
 - (ii) Develop a coherent and integrated approach as well as a coordination mechanism involving the key African stakeholders and development partners for the implementation and follow-up of this Declaration;
3. *Appeal* to the development partners, especially the financing institutions, to support the implementation of this Declaration and integrate telecommunications and ICT into their priorities by granting them financing conditions similar to those of other basic public utility infrastructures.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XIV)

Declaration of the Assembly of the African Union on the Situation in the Republic of Haiti

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 31 January 2010 and from 1 to 2 February 2010,

Deeply touched by the tragedy that has struck the people of Haiti since the earthquake on 12 January 2010 with particularly devastating consequences,

Considering the manifold and great hardships that the people of Haiti have suffered over so many years,

Concerned by the seriousness of the humanitarian situation currently existing in the country,

Conscious of the strong ties and age-old bonds that unite Africa and Haiti as well as their common heritage,

1. *Expresses* its solidarity with the Government and people of Haiti, offers its deepest sympathy to the populations who have been affected and its condolences to those families that have been afflicted;
2. *Pays tribute* to the memory of Mr. Hedi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the memory of all the representatives of the international community who died during this horrifying tragedy;
3. *Commends* all efforts made by the international community to provide the victims of the earthquake of 12 January 2010 with generous assistance and contribute to the reconstruction of Haiti;
4. *Expresses its gratitude* to those African States which have been supporting these efforts by making financial and material contributions;
5. *Urges* all Member States to show active solidarity towards Haiti and take action to provide a collective response to the challenge brought about by the earthquake;
6. *Encourages* Member States to provide scholarships to Haitian students affected by the disaster;
7. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to set up, as quickly as possible, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, an African Humanitarian Fund for Haiti to which all Member States are requested to make a contribution;
8. *Further requests* the Chairperson to undertake bold action to mobilize funds from all segments of the African society;

9. *Calls on* Africans of the diaspora to contribute to this Fund;
10. *Further requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to examine the modalities of establishing an African humanitarian mechanism to provide a rapid response, in a coordinated, harmonized and efficient way, to serious humanitarian situations which could occur in Africa and in other parts of the world;
11. *Requests* the African Union to send a mission to Haiti as soon as possible, to offer the sympathy and express the solidarity of all the peoples of Africa to the Haitian people.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XIV)

Declaration of the Assembly of the African Union on the Ethiopian Airlines Plane Crash on 25 January 2010

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 31 January to 2 February 2010,

1. *Express our deep sorrow and regret* for the loss of life caused by the tragic air crash on 25 January 2010 involving an Ethiopian Airlines aircraft Flight 409 flying from Beirut, Lebanon, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
2. *Convey our heartfelt condolences and sympathy* to the Government and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ethiopian Airlines and the families of all the victims of that tragic air crash.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XIV)

Resolution on the Decision of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to Suspend Togo from the Next Two African Cup of Nations Tournaments

The Assembly,

1. *Conveys its heart-felt condolences and sympathy* to the Government and people of the Republic of Togo and the families of the victims of the terrorist attack of 8 January 2010 against the Togolese National Football Team attending the African Cup of Nations Tournament in the Angolan Province of Cabinda;
2. *Notes* that the Togolese team suffered from the incident, loss of lives, injury and major psychological shock which can neither be erased nor ignored;
3. *Also notes with regret* the decision by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to suspend the Togolese National team from the next two (2) African Cup tournaments on account of its withdrawal from the competition after the terrorist attack on the team;
4. *Further notes* the CAF rules barring interference by governments in the running of football and is of the view that such rules cannot apply in this case because governments ultimately have the responsibility for the welfare and security of their citizens;
5. *Calls on* CAF and its governing body to reconsider its decision to suspend Togo, in order to maintain the spirit of football aimed at bringing people together in the African spirit of unity, compassion and solidarity.

Assembly/AU/Res.2 (XIV)

Resolution on Solar Energy in the Sahara

The Assembly,

Considering the development of solar energy which tends to be a substitute for thermal energy, the sources of which will dwindle,

Considering the many inconveniences related to atomic energy,

Considering that the Sahara is an inexhaustible source of solar energy,

Considering that developed countries are in the process of establishing increasingly powerful solar stations in the Sahara as an alternative source of energy,

Considering the fact that Africa's tardiness in the competition for access to solar energy will result in lack of competitiveness on the part of the continent with a negative impact on its economy,

Decides to:

1. *Request* all countries which have part of the Sahara within their territories to consider that the solar energy potential in this part of our continent is a precious asset which should be managed for the benefit of our continent;
2. *Request* the Commission to conduct a study on the solar energy issue at the technical experts level to backstop efforts to harness solar energy and to report to the Assembly at its ordinary session in January 2011 through the Executive Council and the Permanent Representatives Committee on the financial implications for the implementation of this Resolution.³

³ Reservation entered by Algeria.

FIFTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Kampala, Uganda
25 to 27 July 2010**

Assembly/AU/Dec.289 (XV)

**Decision on the Preparations for the Third Africa-European Union Summit
(Doc. Assembly/AU/16 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the preparations for the Third Africa-European Union (EU) Summit scheduled to be held in the Great Jamahiriya on 29 and 30 November 2010;
2. *Requests* the Commission to work closely with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and its relevant Subcommittee to elaborate a second action plan, jointly with the EU side on the basis of guidelines endorsed by the Fourteenth Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meeting held in Luxembourg on 26 April 2010;
3. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with Member States to engage the EU side to discuss the possibility of adopting “Economic Growth, Job Creation and Investment” as the overarching theme of the Summit;
4. *Also requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in January 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.290 (XV)

**Decision on the Establishment of the Pan-African University
(Doc. EX.CL/579 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the progress achieved towards the establishment of the Pan-African University and the recommendation of the Executive Council thereto;
2. *Decides* to create the Pan-African University, in accordance with the model proposed by the Commission;
3. *Also decides* the allocation of the thematic areas to the following regions and countries:
 - (i) Western Africa: Nigeria for Life and Earth Sciences;
 - (ii) Eastern Africa: Kenya for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation;
 - (iii) Central Africa: Cameroon for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences;
4. *Urges* the Southern and Northern regions of Africa to finalize consultations and nominate the country with the capacity to host the thematic areas of Space Sciences and Water and Energy Sciences including climate change institutes respectively by the next ordinary session scheduled for January 2011 for consideration and adoption by the Assembly through the Executive Council;
5. *Requests* the Commission to draft the Statute of the Pan-African University and to submit it, in conformity with the established rules and procedures, to the Assembly, through the Executive Council at its next ordinary session in January 2011 for consideration.

Assembly/AU/Dec.291 (XV)

**Decision on the Five-Year Review of the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards
Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa**

(Doc. EX.CL/592 (XVII))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report on the Five (5)-Year Review of the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria (ATM) Services by 2010;
2. *Reaffirms* the commitments undertaken at the Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in 2000, 2001 and 2006, as well as the commitments made under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Decade for Roll Back Malaria;
3. *Welcomes* the solidarity, support and encouragement by partners and stakeholders at national, regional and international levels;
4. *Endorses* the Progress Report on the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Services in Africa;
5. *Decides* to extend the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa (the Abuja Call) to 2015 to coincide with the MDGs;
6. *Urges* Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Abuja Call through the strengthening of health systems, financing of health research, partnerships with relevant stakeholders; and a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to disease control;
7. *Calls upon* development partners and stakeholders at national, regional and international levels to provide sustained, well-coordinated and harmonized support, including fulfilling their commitment for adequate funding;
8. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with other African Union (AU) organs, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and partners to revise the reporting framework and disseminate it to Member States after consideration by the Fifth Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health;
9. *Also requests* the Commission, in collaboration with other AU organs, RECs and partners to monitor and conduct an evaluation of the implementation of the Abuja Call and to submit a progress report in 2013 and a final report in June/July 2015 in preparation for the review of the MDGs in 2015.

Assembly/AU/Dec.292 (XV)

**Decision on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction
(Doc. EX.CL/606 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.271 (XIV) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2010;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Also reiterates* its conviction that there has been blatant abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction, particularly in some non-African States and calls for immediate termination of all pending indictments;

4. *Further reiterates* its conviction on the need for an international regulatory body with competence to review and/or handle complaints or appeals arising out of the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by individual States;
5. *Requests* the Commission to finalize the study on the implications of empowering the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to try international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in January/February 2011;
6. *Calls on* all concerned States to respect international law and particularly the immunity of State officials when applying the principle of universal jurisdiction;
7. *Urges* the European Union (EU) and its Member States to extend the necessary cooperation to the African Union (AU) to facilitate the search for a durable solution to the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction;
8. *Also urges* the EU and its Member States to implement the recommendations of the AU-EU Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group;
9. *Expresses appreciation* to the Chairperson of the AU and the Chairperson of the AU Commission for efforts made so far towards ensuring that this matter is exhaustively discussed at the level of the United Nations;
10. *Underscores* the need for African States parties to speak with one voice to ensure that the interests of Africa are safeguarded during the forthcoming negotiations on the principle of universal jurisdiction at the level of the United Nations;
11. *Requests* the African Group in New York to follow up on the implementation of this Decision in collaboration with the Commission and to ensure that the concerns raised by the AU and its Member States regarding the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by some non-African States are properly addressed at the level of the United Nations with a view to finding a durable solution and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly through the Executive Council on actions taken;
12. *Also requests* the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in January 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.293 (XV)

**Decision on the Adoption of the African Maritime Transport Charter
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.542 (XVI) on the Report of the Second African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for Maritime Transport adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2010;
2. *Adopts* the African Maritime Transport Charter as recommended by the Second African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for Maritime Transport held in Durban, South Africa, in October 2009 and the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2010;
3. *Urges* Member States to speed up signature and ratification of the African Maritime Transport Charter in order to ensure its speedy entry into force to facilitate accelerated development of maritime transport on the continent;

4. *Also urges* Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and specialized agencies to participate effectively in the implementation of the African Maritime Transport Charter;
5. *Appeals* to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank, the European Union, interested countries and all development partners to support the implementation of the African Maritime Transport Charter;
6. *Requests* the Commission to prepare and manage a plan of action for the implementation of the African Maritime Transport Charter;
7. *Further requests* the Commission to report regularly to the Assembly through the Executive Council on the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.294 (XV)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. *Recalls* the Tripoli Declaration on the Elimination of Conflict and the Promotion of Sustainable Peace in Africa (SP/ASSEMBLY/PS/DECL.(I)) and Plan of Action (SP/ASSEMBLY/PS/MAP), adopted at its Special Session on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, held in Tripoli, Libya, on 31 August 2009. The Assembly reiterates the need for the effective follow-up and implementation of both the Declaration and the Plan of Action;
3. *Welcomes* the efforts deployed by the AU and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), with the support of the international community, towards the full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, in particular the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF). In this respect, the Assembly notes the significance of the exercise Amani Africa, scheduled to be held in October 2010, to test the operational readiness of the ASF. The Assembly calls for continued support to the African Centres of Excellence on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping;
4. *Also welcomes* the efforts made towards conflict prevention and resolution, as well as the consolidation of peace, where it has been achieved, and calls on all stakeholders to redouble their efforts with a view to speeding up the achievement of the objective of a conflict-free Africa;
5. *Reiterates* its concern at the continued impasse in the process aimed at restoring constitutional order in Madagascar, due mainly to the refusal of the de facto authorities to cooperate with the AU and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) towards the implementation of the Maputo Agreements of 6 August 2009 and the Addis Ababa Additional Act of 6 November 2009. The Assembly encourages the SADC Mediator, former President Joachim Chissano, to pursue and intensify his consultations with the Malagasy parties, with a view to facilitating an early and consensual return to legality, in accordance with the AU relevant instruments and decisions. In the meantime, the Assembly calls for renewed efforts to fully implement the targeted sanctions imposed by the PSC, in line with the decisions adopted at its meetings held on 19 February and 17 March 2010, respectively;

6. *Welcomes* the signing in Moroni, on 16 June 2010, of the Agreement for the Management of the Interim Period by the President of the Union and the Governors of the Autonomous Islands of Ngazidja, Anjouan and Mohéli. The Assembly urges the Comorian parties to work in good faith for the strict implementation of this Agreement, including the organization, within the scheduled timeframe, of the harmonized elections of the President of the Union and the Governors of the Autonomous Islands and the handing over of power between the President-elect and the outgoing one, and urges the international community to provide the financial and technical support necessary for the success of the process;

7. *Reaffirms* its full support to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, and strongly condemns the attacks and other acts of violence perpetrated by Al Shabab and other terrorist groups against the TFG, the Somali people and the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Assembly further condemns the despicable terrorist attacks claimed by Al Shabab that were committed in Kampala, on 11 July 2010, against innocent civilians. The Assembly calls on Member States and the entire international community to isolate and take all required measures against individuals, entities and States engaged in terrorist acts and whose action is undermining the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, as well as regional stability and international security;

8. *Encourages* the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) to enhance their cohesion and work purposefully towards national reconciliation and unity among Somalis, in line with the Djibouti Agreement of August 2009. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the signing and implementation of the Agreement reached in Addis Ababa, on 15 March 2010, between the TFG and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jamma'a, as well as the Agreement signed with the Somali region of Puntland, on 12 April 2010;

9. *Expresses, once again, its appreciation* to the troop contributing countries (TCCs) to AMISOM, namely Uganda and Burundi, for their invaluable contribution to peace in Somalia and for the sacrifices made. The Assembly encourages ongoing efforts to build the capacity of the Somali security forces, and endorses the decisions, contained in the communiqué of the Fifteenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), held in Addis Ababa, on 5 July 2010, and deeply appreciates the regional initiative under the African Peace and Security Architecture to enable AMISOM to reach its authorized strength of 8,100 troops. The Assembly mandates the Commission to initiate the planning for the new phases of the deployment of AMISOM, supported by the ASF, once operationalized;

10. *Further recognizes* the imperative of political engagement in Somalia, and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a high-level personality, to galvanize international support and attention for Somalia, and the engagement of the population in governance processes, in order to enhance the legitimacy of the TFG. The Assembly affirms that the Djibouti process remains the sole basis for peace and reconciliation in Somalia, and urges the TFG to continue the efforts that it has been making to broaden its political base in the context of the legitimacy of the TFIs, by including those who genuinely embrace peace and renounce violence. The Assembly calls on all actors in Somalia to support and bolster activities that guarantee the livelihoods of the population. The Assembly also reiterates its call to the larger international community and the United Nations Security Council, in particular, to play their rightful role, including the transformation of AMISOM into a United Nations Peace Mission, and to mobilize resources commensurate with the magnitude of the challenges facing Somalia and the region;

11. *Reiterates* its concern at the continued impasse in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea and reaffirms the AU's readiness to assist the two countries to overcome the current deadlock through dialogue, and normalize their relations;

12. *Welcomes* the signing, under the mediation efforts of the Emir of Qatar, of an Agreement between Djibouti and Eritrea, in which the two countries agreed to settle their border dispute through mediation and peaceful means. The Assembly calls for the scrupulous implementation of this Agreement and expresses the hope that this development will have positive impact on the overall situation in the Horn of Africa, through sustained efforts to be deployed in a comprehensive and consistent manner, as well as in good faith;

13. *Welcomes* the sustained efforts aimed at consolidating peace in Burundi and underscores, in this regard, the importance of successfully completing the electoral process which began in May and is due to end in September 2010. The Assembly appeals urgently to all the political actors to draw lessons from the local and presidential elections of 21 May and 28 June 2010, and work together to strengthen the democratic process, especially by participating in future elections and in contributing to the proper functioning of the institutions. The Assembly also commends the progress which continues to be made in the consolidation of peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Assembly underscores the importance of the swift implementation of the recommendations of the AU multidisciplinary mission that visited the DRC and Burundi in January and February 2010, as endorsed by the PSC at its 230th meeting held on 27 and 31 May 2010;

14. *Welcomes* the peaceful and successful holding of the April 2010 general elections in Sudan, despite the challenges that faced the process, and encourages the Sudanese parties to redouble their efforts towards the democratic transformation of the country, in line with the vision articulated in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA);

15. *Notes* that the CPA is entering its final stage of implementation, which will culminate in the holding of the self-determination referendum in Southern Sudan and the referendum in Abyei, in January 2011. The Assembly stresses the critical importance of the partnership between the NCP and the SPLM and urges them, in consultation with the other stakeholders, to expeditiously address the outstanding issues in the CPA implementation, particularly the resolution of the issue of Abyei, the modalities for the organization of popular consultations in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states, and the completion of the demarcation of the North-South border;

16. *Further urges* the parties to work towards the successful completion of the negotiations on post-referendum issues and arrangements, building on the Mekele Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of 22 June 2010 and the outcome of the Exposure Session held in Juba on 19 and 20 July 2010, in order to ensure sustainable peace, close cooperation between the North and South and the protection of the rights of all Sudanese, regardless of the outcome of the referendum on self-determination. The Assembly pledges the AU'S full support to the efforts being made by the Sudanese parties and its commitment to respect the outcome of the self-determination referendum and facilitate its implementation, as one of the CPA's Guarantors;

17. *Expresses concern* at the recent degradation of the security situation in Darfur, and calls on all parties to demonstrate restraint and refrain from actions likely to further complicate the situation. The Assembly encourages the parties to the Doha process, led by the AU-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator, with the support of the Government of Qatar, to intensify their efforts towards achieving further progress, and urges the movements that are not participating in the Doha talks to join the process without any further delay. The Assembly expresses its full support to the early convening, in Darfur, of the Darfur-Darfur Conference, as envisaged by the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan, and calls on all concerned to extend the necessary cooperation and support;

18. *Welcomes* the work being done by the AUHIP since its establishment in October 2009, in particular the support to the implementation of the CPA, the negotiations on the post-referendum issues and arrangements and the search for an inclusive and comprehensive solution to the conflict in Darfur. The Assembly stresses the importance of effective coordination at the international level and on the ground, in support of the efforts of the Sudanese parties. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the establishment of the Sudan Consultative Forum co-chaired by the AU and the United Nations, which held its first meeting in Khartoum on 17 July 2010;

19. *Welcomes* the consolidation of the normalization process in the relations between Chad and Sudan, and commends the two countries for the steps taken in this respect, as well as the two Heads of State for their vision and leadership;

20. *Notes with concern* the delays in the implementation of the calendar of elections in the Central African Republic (CAR) and in the execution of the DDR programme. The Assembly further expresses its concern at the

continued activities of the Lord's Resistance Army in CAR. The Assembly calls on the Central African parties to work towards the early holding of elections and requests the international community to provide the necessary support;

21. *Requests* the Commission, within the framework of the Tripoli Plan of Action, to organize, as soon as possible, action-oriented consultations between the countries affected by the activities of the LRA, and all other interested parties, with a view to facilitating a coordinated regional action in the face of the threat the group represents;

22. *Urges* the Ivorian parties to do their utmost, with the help of the Facilitator, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, to scrupulously implement the provisions of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and its Supplementary Agreements, in order to create an enabling environment for the speedy holding of the elections, which should conclude the process for a way out of the crisis;

23. *Takes note* of the transition and the process for the return to constitutional order as defined by the de facto authorities in Niger in consultation with the Niger parties, and requests all the stakeholders in Niger to ensure strict compliance. The Assembly calls upon Member States and the international community at large to provide the support required for the proper conduct of the transition process, in particular the elections, and the necessary assistance to cope with the food shortages facing Niger;

24. *Welcomes* the holding on 27 June 2010, of the first round of the presidential election in Guinea and underscores the imperative need for the speedy organization of the second round of the presidential elections, to be followed by the legislative elections. The Assembly commends the President of the Transition and the IEC for the efforts deployed and encourages them to persevere in their determination, and warns against any attempt to undermine the progress made and the electoral process. The Assembly invites Member States and international partners to continue to lend their support towards the completion of the ongoing transition in Guinea, as well as the reform of the defence and security sector, and the country's economic recovery;

25. *Welcomes* the holding in Brussels on 14 and 15 June 2010, under the auspices of the European Union, of the Partners Round Table for Mauritania, and encourages the partners concerned to rapidly disburse the funds pledged. The Assembly urges the Mauritanian parties to promote political dialogue in good faith, in accordance with the Dakar Framework Agreement;

26. *Expresses deep concern* at the developments which took place in Guinea-Bissau on 1 April 2010, undermining constitutional order, and condemns the continued interference of the Army in the functioning of the democratic institutions. The Assembly emphasizes the importance of the effective implementation of the security sector reform and requests the AU and ECOWAS Commissions to speed up preparations for the rapid deployment of the stabilization mission provided for in the Tripoli Plan of Action;

27. *Reiterates* its deep concern over the persistence and spread of maritime piracy, which is an international crime pursuant to relevant international instruments, including resolution 1918 (2010), and welcomes the holding in Addis Ababa, on 6 and 7 April 2010, of a Workshop on Maritime Security and Safety. The Assembly lends its support to the efforts being made by the Commission towards the implementation of the conclusions of the Workshop, including the elaboration of a continental strategy for the management of the continent's maritime domain and the involvement of the ASF in efforts to promote maritime security and safety, and stresses, in this context, the importance of adequate protection of the African maritime domain and that of island States in particular, against organized crime, as well as illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste. The Assembly reiterates its call, as contained in the Tripoli Plan of Action, for the convening, within the framework of the United Nations, of a conference to develop an international convention on piracy;

28. *Reiterates* the need for continued and sustained efforts to address the scourge of terrorism, welcomes the holding of the fourth meeting of Focal Points of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), and calls for increased cooperation between Member States, in accordance with the relevant AU instruments. The Assembly requests the Commission to submit to the PSC as soon as possible, a series of new

measures designed to enhance the effectiveness of collective African action against the phenomenon of terrorism, including appropriate measures in terms of mutual legal and criminal assistance and the elimination of sources of funding for terrorists groups, including payment of ransom in hostage-taking situations;

29. *Welcomes* the efforts deployed by the Commission to develop a framework of action and AU guidelines on the protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations, pursuant to the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council and other relevant instruments of the AU. In this regard, the Assembly takes note of the organization, in Addis Ababa, by the Commission, with the help of the Australian Government and the Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence, of a workshop on the issue, and requests the Commission to continue its efforts and to report to the relevant organs of the AU to enable them to take the necessary decisions on the basis of the relevant AU instruments;

30. *Welcomes* the partnership being developed between the PSC, on the one hand, the United Nations Security Council and the European Union Political and Security Committee, on the other hand, including the convening, in New York, on 9 July 2010, of the fourth annual consultative meeting between the AUPSC and the United Nations Security Council and calls for the mobilization of the international community as a whole in support to African solutions to African problems;

31. *Expresses satisfaction* at the level attained in the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture and encourages the RECs/RMs and all Member States to strengthen and increase their contributions towards creating the necessary conditions for the success of African efforts to promote peace and security;

32. *Requests* the Commission to continue and intensify its activities for the diligent and full implementation of the Tripoli Declaration and Plan of Action, including aspects relating to the objectives of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.295 (XV)

**Decision on the Progress Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Implementation of
Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.275 (XIV) on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.275 (XIV) on the Year of Peace and Security in Africa adopted by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2010;

2. *Welcomes* the steps taken and the efforts made by the Commission, within the framework of the implementation of this Decision, including the establishment by the Chairperson of the Commission of the Year of Peace and Security Advisory Council and the appointment of Peace Ambassadors;

3. *Expresses satisfaction* at the progress made in the implementation of the 2010 Year of Peace and Security in Africa, in particular the momentum gained by the outreach campaign, the spaces opened up to enable the various stakeholders to contribute to the achievement of the objective of a conflict-free Africa, the partnerships built, the efforts made at national and regional levels, as well as the intensification of efforts towards the consolidation of the African Union (AU) normative and institutional framework on peace and security;

4. *Urges* Member States to fully take ownership of this initiative, including by signing and ratifying relevant AU instruments, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and effectively implementing the commitments contained therein, as well as by intensifying their efforts for peace;

5. *Also urges* Member States to take practical steps to support and popularize the campaign in their respective countries, notably through issuing special stamps, providing free air time and space for advertisements in State media, and facilitating the successful tour of the Flame of Peace, as well as supporting other activities such as the Make Peace Happen Lesson Plan, to be implemented with the support of ministries of education;
6. *Stresses* the need to mobilize increased resources from within the continent to ensure real ownership and leadership in the quest for peace;
7. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by a number of African civil society organizations, in response to the AU's call for partnership, including the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of the Addis Ababa University, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), which is working towards the launching of a Peace Academy, an important tool for the enhancement of Africa's capacity in the area of peace and security, the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research (CODESRIA) and the Cairo Regional Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa;
8. *Encourages* all businesses in Africa to contribute to this initiative and also to sign the AU-initiated Make Peace Happen Industry Charter and welcomes the pledges made by some private sector companies, namely Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airlines, in response to the request by the Commission to contribute to the Year of Peace and Security;
9. *Stresses* the critical importance of the United Nations proclaimed International Day of Peace, on 21 September, as a way to provide a single rallying point for the continent to show that peace is possible, and endorses the objectives being pursued and the activities planned, namely:
 - (i) Cessation of hostilities in all conflict areas which are still experiencing varying levels of violence;
 - (ii) Distribution of humanitarian supplies, materials and services to communities in conflict areas, as well as in non-conflict areas in critical need of these;
 - (iii) One minute of silence for peace across Africa at 10.00am GMT;
 - (iv) Relevant developmental work and community support in all AU Member States to be carried out by members of the armed and security forces;
 - (v) One Day One Goal football games; and
 - (vi) Make Peace Happen Lesson Plan to be taught in all schools on Peace Day or during other relevant occasions;
10. *Urges* all Member States to start preparations in earnest, to mobilize all stakeholders and set up the required structures to coordinate the activities to be implemented on Peace Day as outlined above;
11. *Calls on* all AU partners, humanitarian organizations, civil society, media houses and religious organizations to fully embrace the objectives of the Peace Day and contribute to its success;
12. *Calls on* the United Nations to take all necessary steps in support of the Year of Peace and Security and Peace Day in Africa, taking into account its critical role in the overall success of Peace Day and the Year of Peace and Security as a whole;
13. *Expresses its gratitude* to the AU partners who have contributed financially and technically to the implementation of the Year of Peace and Security, in particular the German Government, through GTZ, and the Italian Government, as well as to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development

Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Oxfam and ISS, for their support in terms of outreach and communication;

14. *Requests* the Commission to submit, at its next ordinary session in January 2011, a detailed report, taking stock of the implementation of the Year of Peace and Security programme, the achievements made and constraints faced, and to make recommendations on how best to sustain the campaign for peace beyond 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.296 (XV)

Decision on the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.270 (XIV) on the Second Ministerial Meeting on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XV))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.270 (XIV) adopted by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the Second Ministerial Meeting on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and all comments and observations made by Member States and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Recalls* the African Union (AU) position expressed through the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.270 (XIV);
4. *Expresses its disappointment* that the United Nations Security Council has not acted upon the request by the African Union to defer the proceedings initiated against President Omar Hassan El-Bashir of the Republic of Sudan in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC which allows the United Nations Security Council to defer cases for one (1) year and reiterates its request in this regard;
5. *Reiterates* Decision that AU Member States shall not cooperate with the ICC in the arrest and surrender of President El-Bashir of Sudan;
6. *Requests* Member States to balance, where applicable, their obligations to the AU with their obligations to the ICC;
7. *Urges* all Member States to speak with one voice to ensure that the proposed amendment to Article 16 of the Rome Statute which would allow the United Nations General Assembly to take over the power of the United Nations Security Council to defer cases for one (1) year in cases where the Security Council has failed to take a decision within a specified timeframe;
8. *Decides* to reject, for now, the request by the ICC to open a Liaison Office to the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and requests the Commission to inform the ICC accordingly;
9. *Expresses concern* over the conduct of the ICC prosecutor, Mr. Moreno Ocampo who has been making egregiously unacceptable, rude and condescending statements on the case of President Omar Hassan El-Bashir of Sudan and other situations in Africa;
10. *Requests* the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.297 (XV)

Decision on the Hissène Habré Case

(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XV))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.240 (XII) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2010 on the Hissène Habré case;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Reiterates* its appeal to all Member States to contribute to the budget of the trial and extend the necessary support to the Government of Senegal in the execution of the African Union mandate to prosecute and try Hissène Habré;
4. *Requests* the Government of Senegal, the Commission and partners, particularly the European Union, to continue consultations with the view to the holding of the Donors Round Table;
5. *Invites* all partner countries and institutions to attend the Donors Round Table that will be organized in this regard in Dakar, Senegal, in November 2010;
6. *Requests* the Commission to monitor the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in January 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.298 (XV)

**Decision on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority
Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XV)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.263 (XIII) adopted by the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Sirte, Great Jamahiriya on 3 July 2009;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to the vision of gradually transforming the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority in order to strengthen the institutional building processes of the African Union and to accelerate the integration of the continent;
3. *Requests* the Commission to convene a follow-up meeting of government experts open to members of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) for ten (10) working days to pursue consideration of the remaining legal instruments on the transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority;
4. *Also requests* the Commission to convene a meeting of ministers of justice/attorneys general of Member States to consider and approve the legal instruments on the transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority;
5. *Decides* that the meetings of experts and ministers be held as soon as practicable and be financed through the supplementary budget or virement;
6. *Further requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision and to submit the necessary legal instruments to the Assembly through the Executive Council at its next ordinary session in January 2011 for consideration.

Assembly/AU/Dec.299 (XV)

**Decision on the Preparations for the Second Afro-Arab Summit
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Status of Preparations for the Second Afro-Arab Summit to be held in the Great Jamahiriya in October 2010;
2. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment of both the African and the Arab sides to revitalize and further consolidate the Afro-Arab Cooperation in the interest and benefit of the peoples of the two sides;
3. *Underscores* the importance of the Second Afro-Arab Summit to continue the political dialogue and address the political and socio-economic challenges prevailing in the two regions;
4. *Reiterates* its appreciation for the offer by Brother Muammar Gaddafi and the people of the Great Jamahiriya to host the Second Afro-Arab Summit;
5. *Endorses* 10 October 2010 as the proposed date for the Second Afro-Arab Summit and urges Member States to actively participate in the Summit and pre-Summit meetings as well as activities at the highest possible level.

Assembly/AU/Dec.300 (XV)

**Decision on the Theme of the July 2011 AU Summit
(Doc. EX.CL/588 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Report of the African Ministers of Youth (COMY III), held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 12 to 16 April 2010;
2. *Decides* that the theme for the Summit in July 2011 will be “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee to work out criteria for determining the themes of the Summits;
4. *Also requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council in January 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.301 (XV)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of the Republic of Gabon to host the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of Assembly of the African Union scheduled for July 2014 in Libreville, Gabon;

2. *Accepts* the offer by the Republic of Gabon to host the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in consultation with the host country, to propose in due course, dates for the holding of the meetings of the Libreville Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.302 (XV)

**Decision on Strengthening the Cooperation among the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to Address the Development Challenges of Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/586 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the highly successful convening of the Third Meeting of the Joint African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Lilongwe, Malawi, in March 2010;
2. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening and increasing cooperation and collaboration between the AU Commission, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and UNECA;
3. *Notes with satisfaction* the establishment of several joint flagship initiatives between the AU Commission, AfDB and UNECA including the publication of the assessing Regional Integration in Africa Report and annual report of Progress on the Millennium Development Goals;
4. *Also notes with satisfaction* the improved functioning of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in support of the AU and its New Partnership for Africa' Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency jointly convened by the AU Commission and UNECA and tasked with coordinating United Nations support to the AU Ten-Year Capacity-Building Plan as well as NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency activities;
5. *Welcomes* the recent finalization of arrangements for the establishment of the Joint Support Office of the Joint AU Commission/AfDB/UNECA Secretariat to be operationalized in the third quarter of 2010;
6. *Commends* the 2010—2012 UNECA Business Plan which is closely aligned to the AU Strategic Plan and calls on the United Nations Secretary-General and Africa's development partners to continue to support the current management of UNECA to ensure the successful implementation of the Business Plan;
7. *Requests* the AU Commission to continue to cooperate with UNECA in undertaking joint activities, projects and programmes for Africa's development, especially by making the Joint AU-UNECA Conference of Ministers a major annual ministerial platform for the deliberation and exchange of views on issues relating to Africa's growth and development;
8. *Encourages* Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the AU Commission; Mr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank; and Mr. Abdulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, to pursue their ongoing joint efforts to deepen the relationship among the three Pan-African institutions.

Assembly/AU/Dec.303 (XV)

**Decision to Support the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project on the African Continent
(Doc. EX.CL/584 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Executive Council with regard to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project provided for in the Report of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST IV), held in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 11 March 2010;
2. *Acknowledges* the importance of science, technology and innovation emanating from the SKA Project in development of our knowledge-based economies and driving human capital development programmes;
3. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Republic of South Africa in coordinating Africa's bid to promote space-related science and technology matters on the continent;
4. *Endorses* the African bid to host the SKA on the African continent, thereby providing the world with the unique instrument for frontier research and discovery, cementing Africa's commitment to contribute to global scientific excellence and enterprise;
5. *Also endorses* the Republic of South Africa's bid to host, in collaboration with Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Kenya and Zambia the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project on the African continent;
6. *Calls on* Member States, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to fully cooperate with the Republic of South Africa on this project by providing the necessary support to this bid;
7. *Also calls on* Africa's development partners and the global scientific community to support the African SKA bid, both directly and in all relevant forums where such support would promote the success of the bid.

Assembly/AU/Dec.304 (XV)

Decision on the Theme, Date and Venue of the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Decision EX.CL/Dec.525 (XVI) adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and endorsed by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2010 on the theme of the January/February 2011 Summit which shall be devoted to the Shared Values in Africa, in particular, the putting in place of a Pan-African Architecture on Governance;
2. *Decides* that the dates of the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - (i) Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee: 24 and 25 January 2011;
 - (ii) Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 27 and 28 January 2011;
 - (iii) Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 30 and 31 January 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.305 (XV)

**Decision on the Staff Regulations and Rules
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council on the draft Staff Regulations and Rules of the African Union;
2. *Adopts* the Staff Regulations and Rules of the African Union;
3. *Requests* the Commission to report annually on the implementation of the Staff Regulations and Rules to the Assembly through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.306 (XV)

Decision on the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards

The Assembly,

1. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to honour the memory of the great Pan-Africanist and first President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah;
2. *Decides* to name the African Union Scientific Awards as “African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards”.

Assembly/AU/Dec.307 (XV)

Decision on the Establishment and Operationalization of the African Petroleum Fund

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.546 (XVI) on the Report of the Second Conference of African Union Ministers responsible for hydrocarbons (oil and gas) adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2010;
2. *Decides* on the establishment of the African Petroleum Fund, the financing of which will be on a voluntary basis;
3. *Endorses* the Addis Ababa Declaration and Plan of Action on the operationalization of the African Petroleum Fund;
4. *Calls on* the African Development Bank (AfDB) to host and operate the African Petroleum Fund on behalf of the Commission;
5. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with AfDB and other development partners, to implement the measures contained in the Addis Ababa Declaration and Plan of Action.

Assembly/AU/Dec.308 (XV)

**Decision on Climate Change Negotiations
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on progress made in the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.281 (XIV) adopted at the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2010;

2. *Commends* the efforts of H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as well as those of the African negotiators under the leadership of CAHOSCC, in promoting the African Common Position on Climate Change and in advancing it through a united African voice;
3. *Endorses* the recommendations of CAHOSCC on the streamlined single negotiation structure at the ministerial and experts levels, with a view to ensuring effective coordination of the negotiation on climate change towards the Sixteenth Conference of Parties (COP 16) and COP 17 in Cancun, Mexico, and in South Africa in 2010 and 2011, respectively, as follows:
 - (i) Algeria to serve as Coordinator at the ministerial level and Mali, in its capacity as current Chairperson of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment, to serve as Co-Coordinator;
 - (ii) The Democratic Republic of Congo to serve as Coordinator at the experts level together with Nigeria as Co-Coordinator;
 - (iii) The African Group of Technical Negotiators to establish a bureau;
4. *Also endorses* the recommendations of CAHOSCC for the continuation of the membership of the Republic of South Africa, the host of COP 17, within CAHOSCC, as well as the inclusion of the Democratic Republic of Congo in its capacity as the Chairperson of the African Group of the Technical Negotiators;
5. *Further endorses* the decision of CAHOSCC to hold a meeting before COP 16 scheduled in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2010.

Assembly/AU/Dec.309 (XV)

**Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council
Assembly/AU/9 (XV)**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Seventh Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
2. *Takes note* of the current developments in the intergovernmental negotiations and notes with appreciation the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives in promoting and defending the continent's interest in the United Nations Security Council reform process;
3. *Reaffirms* the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council containing the African Common Position, calls for its intensive promotion and stresses the need for Africa to continue to speak with one voice on this question;
4. *Requests* the Committee of Ten Heads of States to intensify their efforts in advocating, canvassing and promoting the African Common Position as well as endeavouring to reach out at the highest political levels including, holding of regular meetings, with a view to considering developments and providing updates;
5. *Also requests* the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the Committee of Ten to continue to work closely with other African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations as well as with other interest groups in the context of the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the Security Council reform process;

6. *Calls on* the Committee of Ten to remain seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives and report on progress made at the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June/July 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.310 (XV)

**Decision on the Appointment of the Members of the Panel of the Wise
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Panel of the Wise of the African Union (AU) and on the appointment of new members, including the addendum to the report;

2. *Decides*, in line with the provisions of Article 11 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU, to reappoint, for a further and final mandate of three years, the following personalities as members of the Panel of the Wise, at the expiration of their terms on 17 December 2010:

- (i) President Ahmed Ben Bella (North Africa);
- (ii) Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim (East Africa);

3. *Further decides*, in line with Article 11 of the PSC Protocol, to appoint, for a mandate of three (3) years, starting from 18 December 2010, the following personalities as new members of the Panel of the Wise:

- (i) President Kenneth Kaunda (Southern Africa);
- (ii) Mrs. Marie Madeleine Kalala-Ngoy (Central Africa);
- (iii) Mrs. Mary Chinery Hesse (West Africa);

4. *Takes note* of the steps being envisaged by the Chairperson of the Commission to enhance the capacity of the Panel of the Wise, as outlined in his report, including the establishment of a team of “Friends of the Panel of the Wise”;

5. *Pays tribute* to the outgoing members of the Panel of the Wise, namely their Excellencies Miguel Traovoda, Brigalia Bam and Elizabeth Pognon, for their contribution to the quest for peace, security and stability on the continent, and looks forward to their continued support and contribution as members of the team of “Friends of the Panel of the Wise”, as envisaged by the Chairperson of the Commission in the addendum to his report. The Assembly further encourages the Chairperson of the Commission to select two more distinguished Africans as members of the team of “Friends of the Panel of the Wise”.

Assembly/AU/Dec.311 (XV)

Decision on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* all the relevant African Union (AU) instruments on the prevention and combating of terrorism, in particular the Algiers Convention of 1999 and the related Protocol, as well as the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, and notes with satisfaction the role played by the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism;

2. *Expresses serious concern* over the worsening of the scourge of terrorism and the threat posed by this situation to peace, security and stability in Africa;

3. *Strongly condemns* all terrorist attacks perpetrated on the continent and expresses its determination to fight any form of acts of terrorism;
4. *Condemns most vehemently* the attack perpetrated on 11 July 2010, in Kampala, by Al Shabab terrorists, which resulted in the death and injury of innocent civilians, and considers this cowardly act that targeted innocent civilians as an attack against the entire people of Africa. The Assembly underscores the need to leave no stone unturned to apprehend the perpetrators and the masterminds of this ignoble act, with a view to bringing them to justice and taking all other necessary measures. The Assembly expresses its condolences to, and solidarity with, the Ugandan Government and the families of the victims;
5. *Underscores* the need for renewed efforts and increased mobilization to combat the scourge of terrorism. In this regard, the Assembly requests the Commission to expeditiously submit to the Peace and Security Council concrete recommendations aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of Africa's actions in the prevention and combating of terrorism;
6. *Rejects* all forms of blackmailing carried out by terrorist groups, such as the threat of execution or execution of hostages and demand of ransom to finance terrorist operations;
7. *Requests* all African States to work closely together, directly and through the relevant organs of the AU, to implement enhanced measures for cooperation, mutual legal assistance and coordination between the security services, in order to boost Africa's collective action against terrorism;
8. *Also requests* the Commission to carry out all necessary consultations and initiate appropriate measures to mobilize wide support and effective contribution of the international community towards combating terrorism in Africa, including cutting off its financing sources and ending the payment of ransom;
9. *Further requests* the Commission to submit regular reports on the status of the fight and cooperation against terrorism in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.312 (XV)

Decision on the Alternative Sources of Financing

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson on the Activities of the Commission covering the period January to June 2010;
2. *Recalls* Decision on Alternative Sources of Financing adopted in Lusaka, Zambia, in 2001;
3. *Also recalls* the urgent need to provide innovative means of financing the activities of the AU organs to enable the AU to fulfil its objectives;
4. *Requests* the Commission, through the Ministers of Economy and Finance to expeditiously finalize the current work on this matter for its consideration and final adoption at the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council in January 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.313 (XV)

**Decision on the Appointment of a Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/616 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following person as a Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, as elected by the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010:

Name	Country	Term of Office
Mrs. Lucy Asuagbor	Cameroon	three-year term.

Assembly/AU/Dec.314 (XV)

**Decision on the Appointment of Members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/617 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following persons as Members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, as elected. by the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010:

No.	Name	Country	Term of Office
1.	Mrs. Amal Muhammad Al-Hangari	Libya	5-year term;
2.	Mr. Alfas M. Chitakunye	Zimbabwe	5-year term;
3.	Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur	Ethiopia	5-year term;
4.	Mrs. Fatima Delladj-Sebaa	Algeria	5-year term;
5.	Mr. Clement Julius Mashamba	Tanzania	5-year term;
6.	Ms. Félicité Muhimpundu	Rwanda	5-year term.

Assembly/AU/Dec.315 (XV)

**Decision on the Appointment of Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/618 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following persons as Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, as elected by the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010:

No.	Name	Country	Term of Office
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1.	Mr. Fatsah Ouguergouz	Algeria	6-year term;
2.	Mr. Augustino S. L. Ramadhani	Tanzania	6-year term;
3.	Mr. Duncan Tambala	Malawi	6-year term;
4.	Ms. Elsie Nwanwuri Thompson	Nigeria	6-year term;
5.	Mr. Sylvain Ore	Côte d'Ivoire	4-year term.

Assembly/AU/Dec.316 (XV)

**Decision on Procedures Relating to Items Proposed by Member States to the Assembly
(Doc. PRC/Rpt. (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly relating to items proposed for the agenda of the ordinary sessions of the Assembly;
2. *Takes note* that some of the items proposed by Member States to the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly did not comply with Rule 8 (2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly which provides that:
 - (i) Items proposed by a Member State be submitted sixty (60) days before the opening of the session;
 - (ii) Supporting documents and draft decisions be communicated to the Chairperson of the Commission at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the meeting;
3. *Requests* the Commission to ensure compliance with Article 19 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly to provide the financial implications for all draft decisions submitted for consideration to the policy organs;
4. *Urges* Member States and the Commission to strictly comply with the rules of the policy organs.

Assembly/AU/Dec.317 (XV)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the Report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia;
2. *Recalls* the Assembly Decision of February 2010 on the integration of NEPAD into the African Union (AU) structures and processes, which approved the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and reaffirms the NEPAD vision and core objectives as adopted by the AU in 2001 and the NPCA mandate and status as the technical body of the AU;
3. *Welcomes* the progress made on the integration of NEPAD into the AU structures, particularly NPCA transition towards adopting AU rules, regulations and practices for human resources, administration and finance systems; and the work programme harmonization between the Commission and the NEPAD Agency;

4. *Commends* the Chairperson of the Commission and the NPCA Chief Executive Officer for the progress on NEPAD integration into the AU towards implementing the Assembly Decision;
5. *Notes* the NPCA Strategic Direction based on the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission: 2009-2012, including the Agency's thematic priorities, operating model and organizational design, and calls on NPCA to ensure that its thematic and programmatic work fully encompasses the sectoral priorities identified in the NEPAD framework;
6. *Requests* NPCA to re-focus on concrete delivery of its mandate and the key objectives of NEPAD especially in coordinating the implementation of Africa's regional and continental priority programmes/projects and mobilizing partners and resources;
7. *Endorses* NPCA's activity report for February to June 2010, noting in particular the increasing support for the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact signing and bankable investment projects by countries and RECs; technical support for the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative; transformation of the e-Africa Commission into the "NEPAD e-Africa Programme" to drive the ICT sector priority; NPCA's role as regional coordinator for the set-up of the Africa Platform on Development Effectiveness in conjunction with AUC; and the launch of the NEPAD Regional Centre for African Biosafety in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso;
8. *Requests* NPCA to scale up technical support to AU Member States on agriculture and food security by providing necessary technical guidelines on access to global financing to boost CAADP's implementation;
9. *Recalls* the intrinsic importance of infrastructure to realizing Africa's growth and development goals and existing African Union and NEPAD infrastructure initiatives, particularly the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan: 2010—2015 as endorsed by the Twenty-first NEPAD HSGOC and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), and re-emphasizes the urgent need to overcome challenges relating to regional and multi-country infrastructure projects including limited technical capacity, financial resources and political ownership at the highest level;
10. *Notes* that primary responsibility for implementing NEPAD priority programmes/projects outlined in the African Action Plan (AAP) lies with national governments and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and underscores the overriding need for sponsoring regional infrastructure projects, through political leadership and championing of specific regional infrastructure projects as a key prerequisite for success;
11. *Notes* the participation of African leaders and the conclusions of the G8/Africa Outreach and G20 Summit held in Muskoka and Toronto, Canada, respectively in June 2010 and welcomes in particular the G8 Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Under-5 Child Health, the G20 enlargement of Africa's participation to two seats, and the G20 inclusion of development of low-income countries in its mandate for the first time and for this purpose the decision to setup a Working Group on Development with South Africa and South Korea as co-chairs;
12. *Affirms* that the Decision on Africa's representation in the G20 should be made by Africa itself, and in this regard recommends that the Chairpersons of the AU and the NEPAD Orientation Committee be designated as Africa's representatives in the G20. Furthermore, calls for Africa to participate in all levels of consultations and decision-making processes of the G20;
13. *Reiterates* the call for the two (2) seats reserved for the continent in the G20 to be based on membership and further expresses support for additional individual African countries to become members of the G20;
14. *Underscores* that Africa's partnership with the G20 should be based on the key priorities of NEPAD as presented in the summary report of the HSGOC Chairperson;

15. *Further reiterates* the critical need for delivery on commitments by development partners and in this regard urges G8 partners to fully fulfill their commitments to Africa for the sustainability of the partnership;

16. *Also underscores* the paramount importance of the partnership principle of mutual accountability and welcomes mutual accountability mechanisms being put in place within Africa's partnership processes and emphasizes that the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness (MRDE) should form the primary basis of Africa's monitoring of G8 partnership commitments, jointly coordinated by the AU Commission and NPCA, in consultation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other African partner institutions;

17. *Requests* the AU Commission and NPCA to finalize the assessment report on G8/Africa partnership commitments by the ordinary session of the Assembly in January/February 2011 for presentation by African leaders at the 2011 G8/Africa Outreach.

Assembly/AU/Dec.318 (XV)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Previous Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly
(Doc. EX.CL/581 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Previous Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly of the African Union;

2. *Requests* the Commission to improve on the format of the Report on the Implementation of Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly of the African Union;

3. *Also requests* the Commission to take necessary measures to elaborate in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee the guidelines on the preparation and adoption of decisions, including the number of decisions, the timeframe for reporting and to make appropriate recommendations to the Assembly, through the Executive Council, at its next ordinary session in January 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.319 (XV)

Decision on the African Diaspora Summit and the Diaspora Initiative

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the updated information provided by South Africa on the status of its preparations towards hosting the African Diaspora Summit;

2. *Commends* the efforts by the Republic of South Africa and the Commission in this regard;

3. *Requests* the Commission, in consultation with the Republic of South Africa, to continue to work closely on this initiative in order to develop an appropriate road map and timeline for this exercise;

4. *Further requests* the Commission to work together with Member States to ensure the successful preparation and conduct of the Diaspora Summit and the advancement of the Diaspora Initiative in general.

Assembly/AU/Dec.320 (XV)

**Decision on the Partnership for the Eradication of Mother-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XV) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its previous commitments, especially as contained in the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other Related Infectious Diseases, the Maputo Plan of Action and the Campaign for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa;
2. *Recalls* that despite the progress achieved, Africa continues to be gravely affected by the scourge of HIV/AIDS;
3. *Expresses its preoccupation* with the seriousness of the phenomenon of the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child, which constitutes a threat to the future of the continent;
4. *Invites* all Member States to intensify efforts relating to antiretroviral treatment and prevention of mother to child transmission and to extend such efforts to primary health centres;
5. *Underscores* the need to promote throughout the continent, programmes for the total eradication of mother to child transmission so that no child is born with HIV/AIDS;
6. *Requests* the coordination, within the shortest time possible, of collective action of all African actors concerned, with the help of interested international partners, to put a final end to the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child.

Assembly/AU/Dec.321 (XV)

**Decision on the Accession of African Countries to the Convention on Banning the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons with a Traumatic Effect or Which Strike Indiscriminately
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XV) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of Senegal inviting Member States of the African Union to accede to the Convention on Banning the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons with a Traumatic Effect or Which Strike Indiscriminately;
2. *Reiterates* its determination to promote peace and security in Africa and in the world by contributing to the non-proliferation, disarmament and maintenance of international humanitarian law as a priority on the international agenda;
3. *Reaffirms* the need to take on board the interests and views of African countries during international negotiations including those held within the context of the Convention on Banning the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons with a Traumatic Effect or Which Strike Indiscriminately;
4. *Invites* African States to massively accede to this Convention in order to strengthen their contribution to the building and consolidation of international humanitarian law, particularly the formulation of international rules for the control of conventional weapons.

Assembly/AU/Dec.322 (XV)

**Decision on the Institution of 3 April as African Cultural Renaissance Day
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XV) Add.3)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report presented by the Republic of Senegal on the institution of 3 April as African Cultural Renaissance Day;
2. *Commends* the President of the Republic of Senegal, Mr. Abdoulaye Klade, for all the efforts and initiatives undertaken with a view to promoting the continent's revival;
3. *Welcomes*, in this regard, with satisfaction, the construction of the African Renaissance Monument and its inauguration on 3 April 2010;
4. *Decides* to celebrate 3 April every year as African Cultural Renaissance Day throughout the continent;
5. *Invites* all Member States and the Commission to promote the celebration of this Day and ensure that it is widely publicized among African populations.

Assembly/AU/Dec.323 (XV)

**Decision on Socio-Economic Transformation and Infrastructure Development in Africa:
Energy, Railways, Roads and ICT Sectors
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XV) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the paper proposed by the Republic of Uganda titled "Socio-Economic Transformation and Infrastructure Development in Africa: Energy (Electricity), Railways, Roads and ICT Sectors"; and expresses appreciation to H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the proposal;
2. *Recalls* its previous decisions on infrastructure development in Africa, particularly its "Declaration on Development of Transport and Energy Infrastructure in Africa" adopted by the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 3 February 2009 in Addis Ababa and the "Declaration on ICT in Africa (Challenges and Prospects)" adopted by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 2 February 2010 in Addis Ababa;
3. *Further recalls* the ongoing programmes in the energy and transport sectors, especially: The Programme on Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), jointly initiated by the AUC, AfDB and NEPAD; and the Trans-African Highway (TAH) programme, launched with the objective of linking Africa's capitals and other commercially important centres of production and consumption;
4. *Recognizes* that effective implementation of the above Declarations, Programmes and other related initiatives will require policy reorientations and innovative funding mechanisms;
5. *Further recognizes* that, in the energy sector, Africa will have to diversify its energy sources to meet the ever increasing gaps in energy production and consumption; and cognizant of the fact the development and peaceful use of nuclear energy will be essential in the long run;
6. *Endorses* the recommendations in the above mentioned paper and, more in particular, agrees on the following measures:
 - (a) *Financing:*
 - (i) *Prioritize* and ring fence infrastructure funding in national budgets for infrastructure development to enable long-term planning and development of projects;

- (ii) Utilize and promote public-private partnerships to implement infrastructure projects. This may entail respective Member States to have PPP policy and legal and institutional framework;
- (iii) Generate funding using infrastructure bonds, and other available modalities, at national, regional and international markets for specific infrastructure projects;
- (iv) Encourage public companies to float shares to generate revenue from the public which can be used for infrastructure development;
- (v) Harmonize the financing and execution of cross-border project;
- (b) Energy:
 - (i) Make electricity infrastructure development a key priority sector in the national development plans;
 - (ii) Realizing that conventional energy sources are not sufficient to meet the growing demand, consider developing our capacity to generate power from non-traditional sources such as renewable and nuclear energy in the long run. This will entail putting in place a sound framework for the purpose;
 - (iii) Seek support from multilateral and bilateral development partners to make it a priority to support energy development in Africa in order to meet the MDGs and subsequently reduce dependency on them in the long run;
- (c) Transport:
 - (i) Include in the national priorities the various regional and continental interconnection infrastructure network projects and programmes;
 - (ii) Harmonize regulations, standards and executions to promote country-to-region interconnection and efficient operation of networks and market development;
 - (iii) Create appropriate institutional frameworks for development of the major integration projects and carry out the necessary reforms to ensure better operation and maintenance of the projects;
 - (iv) Contribute financially to the NEPAD infrastructure projects preparation facility;
 - (v) Reduce the cost of construction and maintenance of railway infrastructure by using cheap labour provided by national armies;
- (d) ICT:
 - (i) Strategic investment in broadband and its integration in national and regional development strategies;
 - (ii) Establish and operationalize ICT incubation centres and ICT parks to harness the economic benefits of increased band width;
 - (iii) Adopt e-government models that have been demonstrated to work elsewhere (Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, etc.);
 - (iv) Develop regularly frameworks that promote competition and eliminate entry barriers in order to increase competition, reduce prices, and drive growth;

7. *Requests* the Commission of the African Union to integrate the above measures within the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

Assembly/AU/Dec.324 (XV)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Framework for Constitutional Justice
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XVII) Add. 5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Reiterates* Africa's commitment to the universal values and principles of rule of law, democracy and human rights;
2. *Recalls*, in this regard, that the Constitutive Act of the African Union underscores the will of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union to "promote and protect human and peoples' rights, consolidate democratic institutions and cultures, and ensure good governance and the rule of law";
3. *Recalls also* that the African Charter on Democracy, Election and Governance reaffirms that Member States shall be guided by the "common mission to strengthen and consolidate the institutions for good governance, continental unity and solidarity";
4. *Recalls with satisfaction* that African countries have progressively provided for themselves, individually, judicial mechanisms for control of the constitutionality of laws;
5. *Welcomes* Algeria's initiative in creating an African Framework for Constitutional Justice, as a collective space for consultation, experience-sharing and cooperation in the area of constitutional control;
6. *Notes* that the said Framework is intended to complement the various mechanisms established by the African Union to consolidate the rule of law, democracy and the primacy of the law on the continent; and affirms that the Framework, once created, will enable Africa to bring its contribution to bear, at the international level, in the domain of constitutional justice;
7. *Declares*, in this connection, that Africa should get itself in readiness for the Conference scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro in January 2011, at which it is expected that a global Framework for Constitutional Courts and Councils will be established, in pursuance of the meetings held in Seoul, Vilnius and Algiers, which prepared the First World Conference on Constitutional Justice held in Cape Town, South Africa, in January 2009;
8. *Encourages* Member States to convene a Conference of the Presidents of African Constitutional Courts and Councils in any Member State to deliberate on the project to establish an African Framework for Constitutional Justice;
9. *Requests* the African Union Commission to follow up on the issue and work towards achieving this objective.

Assembly/AU/Dec.325 (XV)

**Decision on the Third African Conference on the Application of Space Sciences and
Technologies for Sustainable Development in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XVII) Add.6)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Communication of the Algerian delegation on the deliberations of the Third African Conference on the Application of Space Sciences and Technologies for Sustainable Development in Africa held in Algiers, Algeria, from 7 to 9 December 2009;
2. *Welcomes* the establishment of the satellite constellation between Algeria, Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya and calls on other Member States of the African Union to join in this initiative in order to strengthen African cooperation in this area;
3. *Also welcomes* the signing of an Agreement between Algeria and the Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) of the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) for the opening of a Regional Support Office for North Africa and the Sahel of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER);
4. *Further calls on* Member States to develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the area of space technologies in order to speed up their development.

Assembly/AU/Dec.326 (XV)

**Decision on the Integration of the African Regional Organization for Standardization
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XV) Add.7)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of Kenya to integrate the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) into the African Union Structures;
2. *Welcomes* the critical role ARSO has played in promoting Africa's contribution to global trade;
3. *Requests* the Commission to work in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and its relevant Subcommittees, and the Republic of Kenya in compiling a report on ARSO including the structural and financial implications of ARSO's integration into the AU structures for consideration by the Assembly through the Executive Council;
4. *Also requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in January/February 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.327 (XV)

**Decision on the Commemoration of Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XV) Add.8)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal made by the Republic of Malawi to launch an Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security;
2. *Recalls* the vision of the current Chairperson of the African Union (AU) on a Food Secure Africa within five (5) years from 2010;
3. *Also recalls* the relevant previous Assembly decisions on agriculture, food and nutrition security including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
4. *Notes* Africa's potential in becoming food secure and the global momentum to support Africa's cause;

5. *Welcomes and endorses* the proposal submitted by the Republic of Malawi to establish a strategic Group of Seventeen (17) countries to spearhead and monitor the African Food Basket Initiative;
6. *Decides* that an Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day (AFND) will be commemorated on 30 October every year;
7. *Requests* the Commission to coordinate efforts of Member States to commemorate the Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security;
8. *Also requests* the Commission together with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), in collaboration with partners, to take necessary steps to develop and coordinate the implementation of a strategy to take forward the vision of a food secure Africa within five (5) years.

Assembly/AU/Dec.328 (XV)

**Decision on the Promotion of Cooperation, Dialogue and Respect for Diversity in the Field of Human Rights
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XV) Add.9)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted in June 1981;
2. *Reiterates* the importance of respecting regional, cultural and religious value systems as well as particularities in considering human rights issues;
3. *Stresses* the need to maintain joint ownership of the international human rights agenda and to consider human rights issues in an objective and non-confrontational manner;
4. *Strongly rejects* any attempt to undermine the international human rights system by seeking to impose concepts or notions pertaining to social matters, including private individual conduct, that fall outside the internationally agreed human rights legal framework, taking into account that such attempts constitute an expression of disregard for the universality of human rights;
5. *Takes note* of the upcoming review of the United Nations Human Rights Council and decides to support the United Nations Human Rights Council as a global forum for dialogue on human rights issues based on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation, objectivity and non-selectivity;
6. *Undertakes* to support the Human Rights Council's broad and balanced agenda, and to strengthen the mechanisms addressing issues of importance for Africa, including fighting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in all their forms.

Assembly/AU/Dec.329 (XV)

**Decision on the Reconsideration of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.263 (XIII) on the
Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XV) Add.10)**

The Assembly,

1. *Endorses* Decision EX.CL/Dec.593 (XVII) adopted by the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010 on the proposal by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the "Reconsideration of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.263 (XIII) on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority;
2. *Decides* that matters that have been debated and decision reached on by the Assembly cannot be reopened for debate and accordingly Decision Assembly/AU/263 (XIII) adopted by the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Sirte, Great Jamahiriya, in July 2009 be maintained as is.

Assembly/AU/Dec.330 (XV)

**Decision on the Convening of Mid-Year Sessions of the Assembly of the African Union (July Sessions)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XV) Add.11)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.63 (IV) on the Framework for the Organization of Future Summits adopted at its Fourth Ordinary Session held in Abuja, Nigeria, in January 2005;
2. *Endorses* Decision EX.CL/Dec.594 (XVII) on the "Convening of Mid-Year Sessions of the Assembly of the African Union (July Sessions)" adopted by the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010;
3. *Decides* that matters that have been debated and decision reached on by the Assembly cannot be reopened for debate and accordingly Decision Assembly/AU/63 (IV) adopted by the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Abuja, Nigeria, in January 2005 be maintained as is.

Assembly/AU/Dec.331 (XV)

Decision on the Sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago

The Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, which was unlawfully excised by the former colonial power from the territory of Mauritius in violation of United Nations resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965 which prohibit colonial powers from dismembering colonial territories prior to granting independence, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius and calls upon the United Kingdom to expeditiously put an end to its continued unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago with a view to enabling Mauritius to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Archipelago.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XV)

Actions on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Development in Africa by 2015

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Fifteenth Ordinary Session in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, from 25 to 27 July 2010, following our debate on "Promoting Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa",

Acknowledge the progress made in the implementation of these and other relevant commitments on maternal, infant and child health and the launching of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) by the African Union continentally and nationally but remaining deeply concerned that Africa still has a disproportionately high level of maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality due largely to preventable causes,

Mindful that universal access to quality healthcare is a human right and that large segments of our population do not have access to this right which impacts on their dignity and leads to morbidity and death,

Also mindful of the important role we have to play in improving the well-being of women and children for Africa's development through provision of an enabling environment, including strong leadership and political will for concrete actions, allocation of resources as well as effective governance of our health delivery systems,

Welcome the G8 Muskoka Initiative and the pledge to support maternal, newborn and child health,

Hereby commit to the following:

1. *Individually and collectively reaffirm* our previous commitments aimed at accelerating the health of our people and the social development of Africa. In this regard, we rededicate ourselves and commit our countries to accelerate efforts to improve the state of health of Africa's women and children and thereby attain all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly MDGs 4, 5 and 6 by 2015;

2. *Commit* to undertake the following actions:

(i) Launch CARMMA in our countries and broaden it as an advocacy strategy for the promotion of maternal, newborn and child health and involve all key stakeholders such as the women, children and young people, persons with disabilities, parliamentarians, community and religious leaders, civil society organizations, the media, and the private sector and institutionalize an annual CARMMA week in solidarity with the women and children of Africa for the next four years;

(ii) Strengthen the health system to provide comprehensive, integrated, maternal, newborn and child health care services, in particular through primary health care, repositioning of family planning including reproductive health commodities security, infrastructure development and skilled human resources for health in particular to train community health workers to mitigate the human resource crisis in the health sector;

(iii) Provide stewardship as national governments and achieve policy coherence by developing integrated health plans within the development plan with cross disease and cross sector health goals and coordinate multi-sectoral actions and multi-agency partnerships;

(iv) Provide strong support for sharing and scaling up of identified good practices that have high impact and that are cost effective; and request the AU Commission to map and disseminate such practices;

(v) Provide sustainable financing by enhancing domestic resources mobilization including meeting the 15 per cent Abuja target, as well as, mobilizing resources through public-private partnerships and by reducing out of pocket payments through initiatives such as waiving of user fees for pregnant women and children under five and by instituting national health insurance;

(vi) Request the AU Commission in collaboration with partners including the G8 to develop a mechanism for accessing such fund by AU Member States;

(vii) Call on the Global Fund for Fight against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB to create a new window to fund maternal, newborn and child health. In this context, we appeal to development partners and donors for the replenishment of the Global Fund during its October 2010 meeting and to ensure that the new pledges are earmarked for maternal, newborn and child health. We also appeal for equitable access to the Global Fund resources for all African Union Member States;

(viii) Institute a strong and functional monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework at the country level to provide accurate, reliable and timely maternal, newborn, and child data to monitor progress against agreed

indicators and targets, measure health performance and for informed decisions and actions including making maternal deaths notifiable and institute maternal death reviews;

3. *Finally commit* to annually report on progress and request the Commission to establish a task force on maternal, newborn and child health to among others, prepare such reviews and reports.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XV)

Declaration on the Successful Hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup by the Republic of South Africa

The Assembly,

Recalling the historic decision of FIFA accepting the offer by South Africa to host the 2010 World Cup, the first ever on the African continent,

Also recalling the Khartoum Assembly Decision declaring 2007 as the International Year of African Football, as an expression of solidarity with South Africa,

Further recalling the January 2010 Assembly Decision declaring that the 2010 Africa Day celebration focus on: Building and Maintaining Peace through Sport in Africa,

Noting with pride and satisfaction the impressive planning, organization and hosting of the FIFA World Cup by South Africa, from 11 June to 11 July 2010,

1. *Congratulates* the President, the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa for the successful world event which raised the profile of South Africa and indeed the whole continent;
2. *Commends* the African teams that participated in the World Cup, namely, Algeria, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa, in particular the Black Stars of Ghana which had sterling performance in the service of Africa.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XV)

Resolution on the Special Ties between Africa and Caribbean Countries

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Fifteenth Ordinary Session in Kampala, Uganda, from 25 to 27 July 2010,

1. *Express our appreciation* for the participation of some Caribbean leaders in the Official Opening Ceremony of its Fifteenth Ordinary Session held in Kampala, Uganda, on 25 July 2010;
2. *Welcome* the strong message of solidarity conveyed to the Assembly on behalf of the Caribbean leaders by the Right Honourable Dr. Ralph E. Goncalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and Grenadines;
3. *Decide* to further strengthen Africa-Caribbean relations and to hold, as soon as possible, the first African Diaspora Summit in the Republic of South Africa and request the Commission, in consultation with the Republic of South Africa, to continue to work closely on this initiative in order to develop an appropriate road map and timeline for this exercise;
4. *Further request* the Commission to work together with all Member States to ensure the successful preparation and conduct of the Diaspora Summit and the advancement of the Diaspora Initiative in general;

5. *Call on* the Government of the United States of America to remove the long-standing and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba to enable it to enjoy all the legitimate prospects for its sustained development, which is long overdue.

* * * * *

“We are determined to deal once and for all with the scourge of conflicts and violence on our continent, acknowledging our shortcomings and errors, committing our resources and our best people, and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. We, as leaders, simply cannot bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans.”

SIXTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
30 to 31 January 2011**

Assembly/AU/Dec.332 (XVI)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Previous Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly
(Doc. EX.CL/623 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Previous Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly of the African Union;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.318 (XV) on the Implementation of the Previous Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly adopted by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda in July 2010 by which it requested the Commission to improve the format of the Report and elaborate, in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), the guidelines on the preparation and adoption of decisions, including the number of decisions and the timeframe for reporting;
3. *Requests* the Commission to review all the above-mentioned issues during the Commission/PRC Retreat scheduled for early March 2011;
4. *Also requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the Assembly, through the Executive Council at its next ordinary session in June 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.333 (XVI)

**Decision on the Continental Launch of the African Women's Decade
(Doc. EX.CL/629 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the successful launch of the African Women's Decade during the Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, from 10 to 15 October;
2. *Congratulates* the Government of Kenya for successfully hosting the Conference and the launch of the Decade;
3. *Calls on* Member States to implement the ten (10) themes of the African Women's Decade in line with the Nairobi Declaration and the Road Map for the African Women's Decade, including through the Fund for African Women;
4. *Reaffirms* its commitment to support the implementation of the Decade activities through the Fund for African Women in line with Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.539 (XVI) (4) and calls on development partners to support this fund;
5. *Requests* the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.334 (XVI)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Decisions on the International Criminal Court
(Doc. EX.CL/639 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.296 (XV) adopted in Kampala, Uganda, on 27 July 2010;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Deeply regrets* that the request by the African Union (AU) to the United Nations Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against President Bashir of Sudan, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC on deferral of cases by the United Nations Security Council, has not been acted upon, and in this regard, reiterates its request to the United Nations Security Council; and requests the African members of the United Nations Security Council to place the matter on the agenda of the Council;
4. *Also deeply regrets* the Decisions No. ICC-02/05-01 of the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the ICC dated 27 August 2010 informing the United Nations Security Council and the Assembly of the States Parties to the Rome Statute (ASP) about the visit of President Omar El-Bashir of Sudan to the Republic of Chad and the Republic of Kenya on 21 July and 27 August 2010, respectively;
5. *Decides* that by receiving President Bashir, the Republic of Chad and the Republic of Kenya were implementing various AU Assembly decisions on the warrant of arrest issued by the ICC against President Bashir as well as acting in pursuit of peace and stability in their respective regions;
6. *Supports and endorses* Kenya's request for a deferral of the ICC investigations and prosecutions in relation to the 2008 post-election violence under Article 16 of the Rome Statute to allow for a national mechanism to investigate and prosecute the cases under a reformed judiciary provided for in the new constitutional dispensation, in line with the principle of complementarity, and in this regard requests the United Nations Security Council to accede to this request in support of the ongoing peacebuilding and national reconciliation processes, in order to prevent the resumption of conflict and violence; and requests the African members of the United Nations Security Council to place the matter on the agenda of the Council;
7. *Takes note* of the outcome of the Ninth Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) regarding the consideration of the proposed amendment to Article 16 of the Rome Statute;
8. *Also takes note* of the Decision of the Ninth ASP-ICC to hold informal consultations on the proposed amendments to the Rome Statute in the context of a working group before its Tenth Session scheduled in December 2011 and calls upon all African States parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC that have not yet done so to co-sponsor the proposal for the amendment to Article 16 of the Rome Statute and indicate such willingness to the United Nations Secretary-General, the Depositary of the Rome Statute, with copy to the AU Commission;
9. *Underscores* the need for African States parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC to speak with one voice during the forthcoming negotiations at the level of the New York and The Hague Working Groups respectively and requests the Group of African States parties in New York to ensure that the proposal for amendment to Article 16 of the Rome Statute is properly addressed during the forthcoming negotiations and to report to the Assembly through the Commission. In addition, they should ensure that the position of the ICC Prosecutor goes to an African during the forthcoming elections for Prosecutor scheduled for December 2011;
10. *Requests* the Commission to follow up on this matter and to report regularly on the implementation of the various Assembly decisions on the ICC.

Assembly/AU/Dec.335 (XVI)

**Decision on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction
(Doc. EX.CL/640 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.292 (XV) adopted in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4 (h) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Further reiterates* its conviction on the need for an international regulatory body with competence to review and/or handle complaints or appeals arising out of the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by individual States;
4. *Calls upon* all concerned States to respect international law and particularly the immunity of State officials when applying the principle of universal jurisdiction;
5. *Urges* the European Union (EU) and its Member States to extend the necessary cooperation to the African Union (AU) to facilitate the search for a durable solution to the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction and requests the Commission to inform the EU accordingly;
6. *Also urges* the EU and its Member States to implement the recommendations of the AU-EU Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group;
7. *Takes note* of Resolution A/RES/65/33 on the Scope and Application of the principle of universal jurisdiction adopted on 6 December 2010 by the sixty-fifth United Nations General Assembly and invites all Member States that have not done so to submit to the United Nations Secretary-General, before 30 April 2011, information and observations on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction, including information on the relevant applicable international treaties, their domestic legal rules and judicial practice;
8. *Invites* Member States affected by the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by non-African States to respond to the request made by the Chairperson of the Union and to communicate to the Commission the list and details of pending cases in non-African States against African personalities;
9. *Requests* Member States to apply the principle of reciprocity on countries that have instituted proceedings against African State officials and to extend mutual legal assistance to each other in the process of investigation and prosecution of such cases;
10. *Underscores* the need for Member States to speak with one voice during the forthcoming negotiations at the level of the United Nations and requests the African Group in New York, under the coordination of the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly at the level of the said group, to ensure that the concerns raised by the AU and its Member States regarding the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by some non-African States are properly addressed at the level of the United Nations with a view to finding a durable solution and to report to the Assembly, through the Commission, on actions taken during the forthcoming negotiations at the level of the United Nations;
11. *Also requests* the Commission to follow up on this matter and to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.336 (XVI)

**Decision on the Reports on the Implementation of the African Union
Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa**

(Doc. EX.CL/643 (XVIII))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the amendments to the reporting guidelines and implementation framework of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality (SDGEA) by Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs and the Launch of the African Women's Decade held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 15 October 2010;
2. *Adopts* the amended Article 12 of the SDGEA.

Assembly/AU/Dec.337 (XVI)

**Decision on the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration
(Doc. EX.CL/645 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration;
2. *Reiterates* the importance of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration in the consolidation of commitments collectively taken by Member States to improve public service delivery, combat corruption, protect the rights of citizens as users of public service as well as promote good governance and sustainable development on the continent;
3. *Takes note* of the Executive Council's recommendation on the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration;
4. *Adopts* the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration, which is a major step towards the realization of the African Union Shared Values Agenda, namely in its governance component;
5. *Calls on* all Member States to take the necessary measures, as soon possible, to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration;
6. *Requests* the Commission to take the necessary measures to disseminate and popularize the Charter among the people of Africa as well as assist Member States in its domestication and implementation;
7. *Also requests* the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision to the Assembly, through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.338 (XVI)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;

2. *Recalls* the Tripoli Declaration on the Elimination of Conflicts and the Promotion of Sustainable Peace in Africa (SP/ASSEMBLY/PS/DECL.(I)), as well as the Tripoli Plan of Action (SP/ASSEMBLY/SP/MAP), adopted at its Special Session on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, held in Tripoli, Libya, on 31 August 2009. The Assembly welcomes the progress made in the implementation of both the Declaration and the Plan of Action, and reiterates the need for continued and intensified efforts towards the achievement of the objectives set out in both documents;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the AU and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), with the support of the international community, to fully operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the AU-led Assessment of the APSA, as well as the successful conduct of the AMANI AFRICA Exercise, from 13 to 29 November 2010, which made it possible to assess the procedures relating to the deployment of the African Standby Force (ASF) and the capacity of the Commission to undertake multidimensional peace support operations. The Assembly requests the Commission and the RECs/RMs, on the basis the recommendations of the APSA Assessment and the resulting AU/RECs-RMs Indicative Road Map adopted at the third meeting of the Chief Executives of the AU and RECs/RMs, held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, on 8 November 2010, and the lessons learned from the AMANI AFRICA Exercise, to speed up the efforts to fully operationalize the APSA. The Assembly welcomes the support provided by the European Union (EU), as part of the capacity-building component of the Africa Peace Facility, as well as by other multilateral and bilateral partners;

4. *Welcomes* the completion of the implementation of the 16 June 2010 Agreement on the Management of the Interim Period in Comoros concluded under AU auspices, with the conduct, on 7 November and 26 December 2010, of elections for the Governors of the Autonomous Islands and for the President of the Union, respectively. The Assembly expresses its commendations to all Comorian parties, and urges them to persevere in their efforts at consolidating the national reconciliation process in their country. The Assembly expresses its gratitude to all international partners for their support to the electoral process and urges them to provide all the assistance required for the socio-economic development of Comoros. The Assembly reaffirms the AU's position on the sovereignty of the Union of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte, supports the proposals put forward by the Comorian authorities to resolve the issue, and requests the Committee of Seven to meet as soon as possible to undertake the necessary follow-up on the matter and to submit to the Assembly a report on its activities on a regular basis;

5. *Reiterates* its concern over the continued stalemate in the process of return to constitutional order in Madagascar. In that regard, the Assembly renews its support for the initiatives and efforts deployed by the SADC in coordination with the AU, and particularly by the SADC Mediator, former President of Mozambique Joaquim Chissano, to achieve a consensual return to constitutional legality in that country, in accordance with the AU relevant instruments, including Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.269 (XIV) Rev.1 on the Prevention of Unconstitutional Changes of Government and Strengthening the Capacities of the African Union to Manage such Situations as adopted at its Fourteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa from 31 January to 2 February 2010;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts made to implement the relevant provisions of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.294 (XV), adopted at its Fifteenth Ordinary Session held in Kampala, in July 2010, including communiqué PSC/MIN/1 (CCXXXXV) of the 245th Meeting of the PSC, held on 15 October, which, inter alia, enhanced the strength of AMISOM, and the appointment, by the Chairperson of the Commission, of former President Jerry John Rawlings of Ghana, as the AU High Representative for Somalia. The Assembly reiterates its commendations to Burundi and Uganda for their contribution to AMISOM, as well as to the countries providing personnel for the police component of the Mission;

7. *Takes note* of resolution 1964 (2010) adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 22 December 2010, notably requesting the Secretary-General to continue to provide a logistical support package for AMISOM as called for by resolution 1863 (2009), for a maximum of 12,000 troops. The Assembly reiterates the AU's call to the Security Council to provide greater support to AMISOM and fully assume its responsibilities towards Somalia and its people, including the provision of funding through United Nations assessed contributions for the payment of

troop allowances and the reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment (COE), the imposition of a naval blockade and no-fly zone to prevent the entry into Somalia of foreign fighters and the delivery of ammunitions and equipment to the armed groups opposed to the TFG, and the deployment of a United Nations operation to take over AMISOM and support the long-term stabilization and reconstruction of Somalia. The Assembly renews its call to the international community as a whole to provide the necessary political, financial and technical support to the enhanced AMISOM;

8. *Strongly urges* the Somali stakeholders to broaden and consolidate the reconciliation process, ensure greater cohesion within the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) and complete the outstanding transitional tasks, including the constitutional process, bearing in mind that 20 August 2011 will mark the end of the transitional period;

9. *Endorses* the communiqué of the Seventeenth Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government on Sudan, Somalia, and Kenya, held in Addis Ababa, on 30 January 2011;

10. *Reiterates* its concern at the continued impasse in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea and reaffirms the AU's readiness to assist the two countries to overcome the current deadlock through dialogue, and normalize their relations;

11. *Calls on* Djibouti and Eritrea to pursue, in good faith, the scrupulous implementation of the 6 June 2010 Agreement reached under the mediation of the Emir of Qatar, in order to resolve their border dispute and consolidate the normalization of their relations;

12. *Stresses* the need to develop a regional approach to the challenges of peace and security in the Horn of Africa and, in this respect and in line with the relevant provisions of the Tripoli Plan of Action, encourages the Commission, in collaboration with IGAD, the United Nations and other stakeholders, to initiate a process of consultations which would lead to a Conference on Peace, Security, Cooperation and Development in the Horn of Africa, in support of regional efforts to foster peace, security, cooperation and development in the Horn of Africa;

13. *Commends* the efforts deployed in Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to consolidate peace and post-conflict reconstruction. The Assembly notes with satisfaction the conclusion of the electoral process which took place in Burundi between May and September 2010, and requests all Burundi role players to draw lessons from the various elections and work resiliently towards deepening the democratic process in their country and ensuring its socio-economic advancement. The Assembly urges all Congolese role players to strive towards the proper conduct of the general elections due to take place this year, thereby ensuring that the said elections mark a new stage in the deepening of democracy and the consolidation of peace. The Assembly encourages all Member States which are in a position to do so and international partners, to provide the required assistance for post-conflict reconstruction in Burundi and the DRC, pursuant to the recommendations of the multidisciplinary evaluation mission fielded in the two countries in January-February 2010;

14. *Welcomes* the successful holding, from 9 to 15 January 2011, of the Referendum on the self-determination of Southern Sudan, which constitutes the main benchmark of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The Assembly commends President Omar Hassan Al Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit, and the Sudanese people in general for this achievement, and calls on them to continue to demonstrate the same leadership and commitment in resolving the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA, as well as the post-referendum arrangements, with the support of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) for Sudan;

15. *Reiterates* the AU's commitment to recognize and support the outcome of the Referendum, and calls on AU partners and the larger international community to do the same;

16. *Expresses concern* at the precarious security situation in Darfur and reiterates the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to all acts of violence. The Assembly pays tribute to UNAMID and to its leadership for their commitment, expresses its full support and confidence in the Joint Special Representative,

Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, and encourages the Mission to pursue and intensify its efforts to improve the security situation on the ground, protect the civilian population and provide support to needy Darfur populations, and for early socio-economic recovery;

17. *Notes* the protracted negotiations and the slow and limited progress in the Doha political talks, and stresses the need to ensure the speedy conclusion of the Doha peace negotiations. The Assembly, once again, demands that all the parties, in particular the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/Abdul Wahid), engage in good faith in negotiations towards a ceasefire, and extend the necessary cooperation to the Joint Chief Mediator (JCM) and the State of Qatar;

18. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the Darfur-based Political Process (DPP) and its immediate commencement as an important mechanism to assist the people of Darfur to participate in and support the peace process, in line with the recommendations of the AU High-Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD) as endorsed by the AU at the highest level and the Conclusions of the second meeting of the Sudan Consultative Forum held in Addis Ababa on 6 November 2010, under the co-chair of the AU and the United Nations. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the agreement reached with the GoS regarding the launch of the DPP under the auspices of the AUHIP and UNAMID, in partnership with Qatar, and the active participation of the League of Arab States and other partners, to result in a Darfur-Darfur Conference that will promote a lasting political solution to the conflict in Darfur. The Assembly requests the Commission to see to it that the JCM harmonize and coordinate the final phase of its activities in line with the DPP and in close coordination with the AUHIP and UNAMID. The Assembly welcomes the commitment of the State of Qatar to support and contribute to the DPP and pays tribute to the Qatari authorities for their commitment to peace in Darfur and Sudan as a whole;

19. *Reiterates* its full support to the work of the AUHIP under the leadership of former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Abdusalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, which is making a major contribution to the quest for peace, justice and reconciliation in Sudan;

20. *Welcomes* the visit undertaken to Sudan, in October 2010, by a delegation of the AU Ministerial Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction on Sudan, led by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, in her capacity as Chair of the Committee, and looks forward to the timely implementation of the recommendations made, in particular the dispatching of a technical team of experts to assess post-conflict needs in Sudan and the convening of an African Solidarity Conference to mobilize support for post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Sudan;

21. *Encourages* the Central African Republic (CAR) stakeholders to continue, in peace and through dialogue, the electoral process begun on 23 January 2010. The Assembly urges Member States to show solidarity with the CAR and requests the international community to lend greater support towards post-conflict reconstruction in the CAR, including the acceleration of the security sector reform;

22. *Expresses its deep concern* at the prevailing crisis in Côte d'Ivoire following the second round of the presidential elections held on 28 November 2010, endorses the PSC communiqués and commends ECOWAS, the AU Commission and all the African and international leaders involved in the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Assembly encourages the AU Commission and ECOWAS to continue with their efforts to find, as soon as possible, a solution that respects democracy and the will of the people as expressed on 28 November 2010 and preserves peace in the country;

23. *Takes note* of the efforts deployed by the de facto authorities and the political actors towards the restoration of constitutional order in Niger, including the referendum on the constitution, local elections and the conduct of the first round of presidential and legislative elections. The Assembly urges all the Nigerien stakeholders to place the higher interest of Niger over and above partisan and other considerations and thus facilitate the speedy conclusion of the process of restoration of constitutional legality;

24. *Expresses satisfaction* at the restoration of constitutional legality in the Republic of Guinea with the conduct, on 7 November 2010, of the second round of the presidential election. The Assembly stresses the historic importance of this process which has ushered in a democratically elected President in Guinea. The Assembly expresses its gratitude to Guinea's partners who, throughout this difficult process, demonstrated their readiness to strive towards the democratization and development of this country, and calls on them to pursue and intensify their support for the socio-economic recovery in Guinea;
25. *Stresses* the need to deploy continuous efforts for the consolidation of peace and the socio-economic development of Guinea-Bissau and expresses satisfaction at the strides made in that regard. The Assembly urges all the stakeholders concerned to do everything possible to ensure the convening of the Donors' Conference, which has been repeatedly postponed, in order to facilitate the mobilization of the resources required for the Priority Economic Recovery Programme;
26. *Expresses* its solidarity with the people of Tunisia and urgently appeals to all the Tunisian parties to work together, in unity, peace, consensus and respect of legality, towards a peaceful and democratic transition which will enable the people of Tunisia to freely choose their leaders through open, free, democratic and transparent elections;
27. *Notes* the review launched by the United Nations Secretary-General to improve the international civilian capacities in order to better assist countries emerging from conflict and the conclusions of the regional consultation organized jointly, in Addis Ababa, on 8 December 2010, by the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission, with the support of ACCORD, and looks forward to the completion of the Review, which will contribute to the enhancement of the civilian dimension of the ASF and facilitate a more effective support to countries emerging from conflicts;
28. *Reiterates* its deep concern at the worsening scourge of terrorism and the threat posed by this situation, condemns in the strongest terms all the terrorist attacks committed over the past few months in various parts of the continent, and underscores the need for closer cooperation and coordination among Member States, based on relevant African and international instruments. The Assembly welcomes the steps taken by the Commission in pursuance of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.311 (XV), adopted at its Kampala Session, including the appointment of Mr. Francisco Madeira as the AU Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and as the new Director of the African Centre on Research and Study on Terrorism (ACRST), the follow-up on the decisions of the AU regarding the prohibition of the payment of ransom to terrorist groups, and the convening, in Algiers, Algeria, on 15 and 16 December 2010, of a meeting of experts from Member States to consider and adopt the draft African Model Law on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, prepared by the Commission;
29. *Welcomes* the convening, by the Commission, of the First Conference of State Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Pelindaba Treaty) in Addis Ababa, on 4 November 2010, which elected the members of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (ACNE) and established its headquarters in South Africa. The Assembly expresses the AU's conviction that the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone constitutes an important step towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, promoting general and complete disarmament, and enhancing regional and international peace and security. The Assembly calls upon the AU Member States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty of Pelindaba without further delay, and appeals to the concerned non-African States to speedily sign and ratify the relevant Protocols to the Pelindaba Treaty and to comply with all the commitments contained therein;
30. *Welcomes* the efforts being deployed by the Commission towards the development of a comprehensive AU Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform (SSR), within the context of the Policy on Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development, as requested by the Assembly at its Tenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa in January 2008, and requests that the draft Policy be submitted as soon as possible to the relevant policy organs;
31. *Commends* the Commission for the steps taken to follow up on the recommendations contained in the Prodi Report on United Nations Support to AU peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council,

including its contribution to the debate of the United Nations Security Council of 22 October 2010 on the report submitted to it by the United Nations Secretary-General. The Assembly encourages the Chairperson of the Commission to prepare and submit to the PSC a report on the AU's strategic vision of the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on peace and security matters, as a contribution to the consideration by the Security Council of the next report of the United Nations Secretary-General on this issue, bearing in mind relevant AU decisions and the need for a flexible and creative interpretation of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.339 (XVI)

**Decision on the Final Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on
the Year of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Final Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Implementation of the 2010 Year of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. *Recalls* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.275 (XIV) and Assembly/AU/Dec.295 (XV) adopted at its Fourteenth and Fifteenth Ordinary Sessions held, respectively, in Addis Ababa and Kampala, from 29 to 30 January and 25 to 27 July 2010;
3. *Expresses satisfaction* at the successful observance, across the continent, of Peace Day, on 21 September 2010, in particular the respect of the cessation of hostilities in all conflict areas, as well as at the other outreach and programmatic activities undertaken as part of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, including the mobilization of support for the Make Peace Happen Industry Charter, the enhancement of the capacity of African Academic Institutions, the use of sport to further peace, the building of a Memorial on Human Rights, the Cairo High-Level Retreat and the overall efforts towards the implementation of the Tripoli Declaration and Plan of Action of 31 August 2009, as captured in paragraphs 13 to 33 of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission;
4. *Congratulates* all Member States, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), civil society, private sector and other stakeholders, as well as AU partners, including the United Nations and its agencies, for their contribution and support to the Make Peace Happen Campaign. The Assembly also commends the Peace Ambassadors and Members of the YoPS Advisory Council for their efforts and dedication;
5. *Decides* that, in order to sustain the efforts to Make Peace Happen, the steps taken and initiatives launched as part of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa should be pursued and intensified;
6. *Endorses* the recommendations made by the Chairperson of the Commission in his report (paragraphs 41 to 54) for the implementation of a long-term sustainability strategy, building on the achievements made and the lessons learned from the Make Peace Happen Campaign and revolving around the following elements: (i) the institutionalization of the celebration of Peace Day along the lines of paragraph 9 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.295 (XV), (ii) communication and outreach to publicize the efforts of the continent and sensitize all stakeholders, (iii) partnerships with stakeholders, in particular the private sector and civil society, (iv) peace education, (v) support to African academic and research institutions, to enhance their capacity to explore the nature of African conflicts to investigate what succeeds and fails in conflict resolution and to arrive at African-centred solutions, (vi) support to peacebuilding activities through renewed efforts towards the implementation of the Tripoli Declaration and Plan of Action and the institutionalization of the Cairo High-Level Retreat, and (vii) resource mobilization, in particular within the continent, in order to enhance Africa's ownership and leadership in, the quest for peace on the continent;

7. *Urges* all Member States to provide the support required for the successful implementation of the Make Peace Happen Campaign sustainability strategy. The Assembly also urges all other stakeholders, including the RECs/RMs, civil society and the private sector, to work closely with the AU and take all necessary initiatives and steps in this respect. The Assembly further urges the AU partners, including the United Nations, to extend the necessary support and cooperation;

8. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission, within the framework of his report on the activities of the Commission, to keep the Assembly regularly informed of progress made towards the implementation of this Decision and to submit to it a progress report no later than January 2012 and, in the interim, to provide, as needed, updates to the Peace and Security Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.340 (XVI)

**Decision on the Hissène Habré Case
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.297 (XV) on the Hissène Habré Case, adopted in Kampala, Uganda, on 27 July 2010;

2. *Reiterates also* its previous decisions on the Hissène Habré case adopted in July 2006, in February and July 2009, in February and July 2010 respectively;

3. *Confirms* the mandate given by the African Union (AU) to Senegal to try Hissène Habré considering the continued readiness of Senegal to try him;

4. *Also reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

5. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (PRC) for an amount of US\$ one (1) million as the AU contribution to the budget of the trial and authorizes expenditure from arrears of contributions;

6. *Welcomes* the conclusions of the Donors Round Table for the funding of the Hissène Habré trial, held in Dakar, Senegal, on 24 November 2010;

7. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with the Government of Senegal, Chad, and partner countries and institutions to continue with their consultations with the view to mobilizing the pledges made during the Donors Round Table;

8. *Calls on* Member States, all partner countries and relevant institutions to disburse within a reasonable time the funds pledged at the Donors Round Table held on 24 November 2010 for the funding of the Hissène Habré trial in Senegal;

9. *Requests* the Commission to undertake consultations with the Government of Senegal in order to finalize the modalities for the expeditious trial of Hissène Habré through a special tribunal with an international character consistent with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Court of Justice Decision;

10. *Further requests* the Commission to follow up and to report on the implementation of this Decision in June 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.341 (XVI)

**Decision on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.298 (XV) on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority adopted by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda, on 27 July 2010;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to the transformation of the African Union (AU) Commission into the AU Authority in order to strengthen the institutional framework of the AU and to accelerate the economic and political integration of the continent;
3. *Welcomes* the measures taken by the Commission and Member States for the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.298 (XV) which has led to consideration by government experts of the amendments to the various legal instruments on the transformation of the AU Commission into the AU Authority;
4. *Requests* the Commission to convene a fourth meeting of government experts to consider the remaining two documents followed by a meeting of ministers of justice/attorneys general or any other ministers in charge of the matter of Member States during the first half of 2011 to consider and finalize the legal instruments on the transformation of the AU Commission into the AU Authority for submission to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, for consideration;
5. *Requests* the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June/July 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.342 (XVI)

**Decision on the Sixteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change and the Sixth Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on the Global Conference on Climate Change and the Sixth Conference of Parties (COP) to the Kyoto Protocol held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010;
2. *Commends* the efforts of H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as well as the African negotiators including the CAHOSCC Coordinators at the ministerial and experts levels and the Commission under the leadership of CAHOSCC, in championing and defending the African Common Position on Climate Change and in advancing a united African voice;
3. *Congratulates* H.E. President Jacob Zuma and the Republic of South Africa as the Host of COP 17 in Durban, South Africa, on behalf of Africa in December 2011;
4. *Endorses* the recommendation for CAHOSCC to liaise with South Africa hosting COP 17 and COP/MOP 7 that will be held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011 because COP 17 is for Africa;
5. *Also endorses* CAHOSCC to hold a meeting in preparation for COP 17 scheduled in Durban, South Africa, in December 2011;

6. *Further endorses* the CAHOSCC recommendation for the African Green Development Fund, as part of the Green Climate Fund, with a view to ensuring a significant part of the later be apportioned for Africa;
7. *Requests* the Commission to:
 - (a) Liaise with the Republic of South Africa and the AfDB on having an African Pavilion at COP 17;
 - (b) Make adequate preparations to support the African Group of Negotiators (experts) in the preparatory Climate Change talks leading to COP 17;
 - (c) Convene an African Conference of Ministers responsible for Climate change to finalize the documents as part of the preparation for COP 17;
8. *Urges* all development partners to support the African Negotiators and the Commission in the global negotiations leading to COP 17 and beyond.

Assembly/AU/Dec.343 (XVI)

**Decision on Africa-Arab Cooperation
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Second Africa-Arab Summit held in Sirte, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 10 October 2010;
2. *Expresses its gratitude* to Brother Leader Muammar Gaddafi, the Government and the people of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for successfully hosting this important event;
3. *Endorses* the outcomes of the Summit and calls upon the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to ensure proper implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Summit;
4. *Calls on* all African and Arab countries, national and regional funds as well as relevant international organizations to provide all necessary technical and financial support for the implementation of the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy and Joint Action Plan 2011—2016;
5. *Welcomes* the offer by the State of Kuwait and endorses the decision to hold the Third Africa-Arab Summit in Kuwait, in 2013.

Assembly/AU/Dec.344 (XVI)

**Decision on the Africa-European Union Dialogue
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Third Africa-European Union (EU) Summit held in Tripoli, Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 November 2010;
2. *Commends* the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the successful hosting of the Summit;

3. *Welcomes* the Tripoli Declaration and Second Action Plan 2011—2013;
4. *Calls upon* Member States, the Regional Economic Communities, the private sector, the Pan-African Parliament, civil society and all other stakeholders to actively participate in the implementation process;
5. *Requests* the African Union Commission and Member States in collaboration with the European Commission to engage in further discussions with a view to establishing an African Integration Facility;
6. *Also requests* Member States to make avail qualified experts to participate in the work of the Joint Experts Groups (JEGs);
7. *Decides* as follows:
 - (i) The Follow-up Committee be maintained. However, a system of rotation should be introduced within its members and the Chefs de file, giving a chance to all Member States to participate directly;
 - (ii) Five (5) countries (one per region), the country chairing the African Union and the Commission shall represent the African side at the experts and senior officials levels, and the AU shall be represented by the country chairing the Union and the Commissioners for Economic Affairs and Peace and Security at ministerial Troika/political dialogue meetings.

Assembly/AU/Dec.345 (XVI)

**Decision on the Outcome of G20 Summit
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the outcome of the G20 Summit held in Seoul, South Korea, from 11 to 12 November 2010;
2. *Welcomes* the G20 Summit decision to invite to future G20 Summits at most five (5) non-G20 countries, including to enlarge Africa's participation to two (2) seats;
3. *Recalls* its Kampala Decision relating to Africa's participation at G20 Summits that Africa shall be represented at the G20 Summits by African countries chairing the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee;
4. *Calls upon* the G20 leaders to respect the Kampala Decision relating to Africa's participation at G20 Summits;
5. *Decides* that the African Union Commission is an integral part of the delegation of the Chairperson of the African Union and would serve as the Secretariat for the two (2) countries representing Africa – both in terms of preparation for the Summit and coordination of the African position(s) in order to facilitate follow-up on the implementation of various commitments and decisions made at these Summits.

Assembly/AU/Dec.346 (XVI)

**Decision on the Theme, Date and Venue of the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of
the Assembly of the African Union**

The Assembly,

SIXTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION (2011)

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.300 (XV) adopted in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010 on the theme of the June/July 2011 Summit which shall be “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”;
2. *Decides* that the dates of the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly to be held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, shall be the following:
 - (i) Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee: 23 and 24 June 2011;
 - (ii) Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 26 to 28 June 2011;
 - (iii) Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 30 June and 1 July 2011;
3. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with Member States and all relevant stakeholders to take all necessary measures to prepare all relevant documentation and materials for the Theme.

Assembly/AU/Dec.347 (XVI)

Decision on the Theme of the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in January 2012

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.300 (XV) on the Theme of the July 2011 African Union Summit adopted by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010 by which it requested the Commission to work out criteria for determining the themes of the Summits in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC);
2. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Commission and the PRC regarding the theme for the January 2012 Summit;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the PRC, to report on the criteria for determining the themes and modalities for their consideration of future summits at its next ordinary session in June 2011;
4. *Decides* that the theme for the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union to be held in January/February 2012 will be “Boosting Intra-African Trade”;
5. *Requests* the Commission to make necessary preparations including documentation for the above theme accordingly in collaboration with all the relevant stakeholders.

Assembly/AU/Dec.348 (XVI)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the Report by the Chairperson of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
2. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the smooth transition to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) resulting from NEPAD integration into the African Union structures and processes, following Decision

Assembly/AU/Dec.282 (XIV) adopted by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2010;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of African Union AU rules and regulations for NPCA Human Resources and Finance systems and the recent setup of the NEPAD Coordination Unit in the Bureau of Chairperson of the Commission to interface between the Commission and NPCA while emphasizing continued collaboration, synergy and programme harmonization between the Commission and NPCA and providing the new Agency with necessary adequate financial resources to enable it to function effectively; as well as urgently operationalizing the NPCA new organizational structure;

4. *Endorses* the programmatic activities and priorities as contained in the NPCA Activity Report for July-December 2010 and outlook for 2011, especially noting the efforts at result-based performance and concrete progress in strategic planning, knowledge management, policy alignment, programme implementation and coordination, partnerships, resource mobilization and communication, including increased Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact signing; access to agriculture funding; roll-out of key regional programmes featuring rural futures, capacity development support for Regional Economic Communities; combating tuberculosis; implementation support for national programmes of actions (NPoAs) arising from APRM processes;

5. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/317 (XIV) of the Fifteenth Assembly on promoting regional infrastructure development through political championing based on the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan: 2010-2015 and Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA); notes the finalization of the African Action Plan and its launch to implement the infrastructure priority programme as complementary to PIDA and the Presidential Infrastructure Initiative;

6. *Commends* the work done and progress so far recorded by the High-Level Subcommittee of eight (8) countries on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative with South Africa as chair and endorses the criteria and prioritized projects and champions selected for implementation covering the AU five (5) regions while urging necessary and continuous engagement with relevant countries, regional bodies, pan-African institutions and the private sector on the identified projects;

7. *Requests* the NPCA and the AU Commission to continue to provide technical coordination and support for this Presidential Initiative in collaboration with RECs, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), given the criticality of infrastructure to advance Africa's regional integration agenda;

8. *Underscores* the essential need for Africa to consolidate its partnership engagement with the G8 and G20, noting in particular the key outcomes of the November 2010 G20 Summit in Seoul, South Korea, and outlook for the 2011 G8/Africa Outreach in France; and welcomes concrete steps taken by the G20 Working Group on Development co-chaired by South Africa and South Korea;

9. *Accordingly welcomes* the G20 Seoul Development Consensus on Shared Growth as being consistent with NEPAD priority objectives and the Multi-Year Action Plan on Development focusing on concrete actions including the G20 High-Level Panel for Infrastructure Investments; calls upon regional and multilateral development banks to align their policy and operational interventions to the Seoul Consensus; expressing the need for Africa to constructively interact with the G20 Panel towards utilizing global excess savings for investment in Africa's infrastructure sector and requests the Commission and NPCA to galvanize the African voice towards this transformation goal;

10. *Reaffirms* the imperative for Africa's adequate and effective representation in the G20 while noting the participation of the Chairpersons of the African Union, HSGOC and the Commission at the Seoul Summit; also reiterates the call for Africa's development partners including the G8 to fully deliver their commitments and

proposes the possibility of establishing an African/NEPAD Fund as a resource window to expedite the implementation of key continental programmes/projects;

11. *Underlines* the importance of broad ownership of the NEPAD Programme through inclusiveness and rotation of membership and hierarchy of the NEPAD governance structures and agrees that the status quo for the current HSGOC Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall be maintained for one (1) year;

12. *Highlights* that consultations at the highest political level will continue within HSGOC on improving the work of NEPAD governance structures and consequently requests NPCA to draft the necessary rules of procedure to guide future conduct within NEPAD governance structures based on AU regulations and practices and present for HSGOC approval at the next Assembly;

13. *Notes* that 2011 marks ten (10) years since the adoption of NEPAD as the AU flagship socio-economic programme in Lusaka in July 2001 stressing that this landmark provides the opportunity for deeper reflection at all levels on the success and challenge factors for actualizing Africa's transformation agenda.

Assembly/AU/Dec.349 (XVI)

**Decision on the Eighth Report of the Committee of Ten on the United Nations Security Council Reform
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Eighth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;

2. *Also takes note* of the current developments in the intergovernmental negotiations and with appreciation the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives in promoting and defending the continent's interest in the United Nations Security Council reform process;

3. *Reaffirms* the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council containing the African Common Position, calls for its intensive promotion cohesively and stresses the need for Africa to continue to speak with one voice on this issue;

4. *Requests* the Committee of Ten Heads of State to intensify its efforts in advocating, canvassing and promoting the African Common Position as well as endeavouring to reach out at the highest political levels including, the holding of timely meetings, with a view to considering developments and continue providing updates;

5. *Also requests* the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the Committee of Ten in participating in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the Security Council reform, to continue to work closely with other African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations as well as with other interest groups in the process;

6. *Further requests* the Commission to continue to facilitate the activities of the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the Committee of Ten to enable them to defend Africa's interest on the basis of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;

7. *Calls on* the Committee of Ten to remain seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives and report on progress made at the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June 2011.

Assembly/AU/Dec.350 (XVI)

**Decision on the Offer of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Host the
Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, June/July 2013
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the offer made by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in June/July 2013;
2. *Decides* to convene the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
3. *Requests* the Commission to conduct, at the appropriate time, the necessary consultations, with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on fixing the date and venue of the session and inform Member States accordingly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.351 (XVI)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Union Centre for
Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUCPRCD)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to establish the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUC-PCRD);
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.120 (VII) adopted at its Seventh Ordinary Session held in Banjul, Gambia, in July 2006, requesting the Peace and Security Council to implement peacebuilding programmes in countries emerging from conflict on the basis of the framework Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development endorsed by the Executive Council;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to undertake a study on the objectives, structure, financial implication, and the location of the proposed centre, and to report to the forthcoming session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.352 (XVI)

**Decision on the Report on Africa's Participation in the Nagoya Conference on Biodiversity
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.3)**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report presented by the Republic of Gabon on Africa's participation in the Nagoya Conference on Biodiversity;
2. *Congratulates* the President of the Gabonese Republic, H.E. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, on all the efforts and initiatives undertaken to promote and protect the continent's biological diversity;
3. *Approves* the recommendations contained in the report and, in particular, agrees on the following measures:
 - (i) Include biological diversity among the priorities of the African Union;

- (ii) Encourage Member States of the African Union to become parties to all the conventions on biodiversity;
- (iii) Integrate the proposal within the existing structures;
- 4. *Requests* the African Union Commission to incorporate the above measures in its programmes and submit, on regular basis, a report on the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.353 (XVI)

**Decision on the Forthcoming Centenary of the African National Congress
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal made by the Republic of South Africa on the centenary of the African National Congress (ANC);
2. *Congratulates* the ANC on the achievement of this historic milestone since its formation in 1912;
3. *Endorses* the proposal for the ownership and celebration by the African Union of all African liberation movements and the recognition of their achievements;
4. *Pays homage* to Africa's founding fathers for their role and the sacrifices they made in their dedication to the mission of uniting the African people in the struggle against colonialism, imperialism and apartheid;
5. *Salutes* the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for its contribution through its Liberation Committee, to the liberation and self-determination of South Africa;
6. *Further salutes* the governments and liberation movements on the continent, as well as the International Solidarity Movement, for being an inspiration to the ANC and the people of South Africa in their resistance against apartheid and their attainment of freedom;
7. *Draws inspiration* from the ANC for remaining a united and principled movement and for its noble reputation, nature and historic objectives;
8. *Decides* to link the Centenary of the ANC and the anniversaries of other continental liberation movements to the recent celebration of the fiftieth anniversaries of the independence of many African countries and to Africa's Shared Values;
9. *Requests* the Commission to work with the South African Government in the celebration of the ANC centenary;
10. *Further requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June/July 2011;
11. *Further requests* the AU Commission, in collaboration with Member States, to work towards the review and documentation of the liberation history of the continent;
12. *Urges* Member States to view the ANC centenary celebrations as an African event and undertake activities in solidarity with South Africa in this respect;
13. *Calls upon* the international community to observe the centenary of the ANC on 8 January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.354 (XVI)

**Decision on the Global African Diaspora Summit Consultative Process
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Assembly Decision 319 (XV) and of the Report on the Diaspora Initiative and the Global African Diaspora Summit;
2. *Approves* the road map and its elements as contained in the Report;
3. *Requests* the Government of South Africa and the Commission to continue their close collaboration in order to implement the road map and to facilitate the successful preparation and conduct of the Global African Diaspora Summit;
4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission, in consultation with the Republic of South Africa, as a first step, to undertake to convene the African Diaspora Technical Committee Meeting which will be hosted by South Africa in February 2011;
5. *Reiterates* its request for the Commission to continue to work together with Member States to ensure the successful preparation and conduct of the Diaspora Summit and the advancement of the Diaspora Initiative in general;
6. *Requests* the PRC and the Commission to support efforts aimed at the successful outcome of the programme leading to the African Global Diaspora Summit;
7. *Further requests* Member States, leaders of the Caribbean Community, South America, and the African diaspora population worldwide to continue to support the implementation of the road map and processes leading up to the Global African Diaspora Summit;
8. *Decides* that the African diaspora process remains a standing agenda item for the summit meeting to enable the Commission and the Republic of South Africa to report on progress towards the hosting of the global African Diaspora Summit and beyond.

Assembly/AU/Dec.355 (XVI)

**Decision on the Recognition of Women as a Resource for
Sustainable Development and Economic Growth in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.6)**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the proposal by the Republic of South Africa on the recognition of women as a resource for sustainable development and economic growth;
2. *Recognizes* the crucial role of women in the preservation of African values based on the principles of equality, peace, freedom, dignity, justice, solidarity and democracy;
3. *Commends* the efforts of Member States to ensure the involvement of women in sustainable development and economic growth in Africa;

4. *Recalls* the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Maputo, Mozambique, on 11 July 2003, in particular, Article 13 on Economic and Social Welfare Rights, and Article 19 on the Right to Sustainable Development;
5. *Further recalls* the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, and its Implementation Framework adopted at the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2004, as an important African instrument for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment;
6. *Acknowledges* that women continue to experience difficulties with respect to their full participation in the development and economic activities of the continent;
7. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify/accede to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and those that have ratified/acceded to the Protocol to fully implement its provisions;
8. *Also calls upon* Member States to fulfil their commitments and comply with their obligations under the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa;
9. *Requests* Member States to redouble their efforts of ensuring the involvement of women in sustainable development and economic growth in Africa by promoting their participation at all levels in the conceptualization, decision-making, implementation and evaluation of development policies and programmes;
10. *Further requests* Member States and RECs to maximally utilize the offices of the Pan-African Women's Organization in their respective regions to highlight and enhance the contribution of women to the development of the continent;
11. *Urges* Member States to allocate enough resources to enable women to play their rightful roles in building our economy and to ensure their place as a resource for sustainable development and economic growth in Africa;
12. *Mandates* the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and report regularly to the ordinary sessions of the Assembly through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.356 (XVI)

**Decision on the Mandatory Application of the Principle of Geographical Representation
in All African Union Organs Which Have Elected Members
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.7)**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Chad relating to the mandatory application of the principle of geographical representation in all African Union organs which have elected members;
2. *Expresses satisfaction* at the relevance of the observations contained in the presentation note of the Republic of Chad and their conformity with the spirit of the principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Recalls* the importance of the scrupulous respect of this principle for the sake of equity and equal participation of all the regions in the AU activities;

4. *Requests* the Commission to ensure the respect of the principle of geographical representation in all African Union organs with elected members, except in cases where a region which has been duly informed has not presented candidates;
5. *Further requests* the Commission to take into account the mandatory application of the principle of geographical representation in the elaboration of legal instruments on the transformation of the AU Commission into an AU Authority.

Assembly/AU/Dec.357 (XVI)

**Decision on the Establishment of a Continental Programme to Valorize the African Liberation Heritage
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.8)**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the proposal by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on the establishment of a continental programme to valorize the African liberation heritage;
2. *Commends* the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for its initiative aimed at preserving the history of the liberation struggles in Africa;
3. *Underscores* the importance of the liberation movements in the decolonization process and the history of the African continent;
4. *Recognizes* the role of the African people and institutions in the struggle and achievement of independence in Africa;
5. *Underlines* that a significant aspect of the history of the African liberation struggles may be lost unless collected, documented and made accessible to the public;
6. *Expresses its commitment* to preserve the history of the African independence struggles for the benefit of future generations;
7. *Welcomes* the proposal to establish the African Liberation Heritage programme in Dar es Salam, Tanzania, and stresses the need to undertake a study on the objectives, structures and financial implications of the proposed programme;
8. *Calls upon* the Commission and all Member States to extend maximum support to the programme.

Assembly/AU/Dec.358 (XVI)

**Decision on the Yaoundé International Conference “Africa 21”: Global Partnership for the Development of Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.9)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Yaoundé Declaration;
2. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Yaoundé International Conference “Africa 21” held on 18 and 19 May 2010;
3. *Also expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Cameroon for its decision to pay the sum of US\$ 300,000 to the Commission for the establishment of a Monitoring Committee and the launching of its activities;

4. *Requests* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to take appropriate measures for the establishment of a Yaoundé Declaration Monitoring Committee within a thirty (30) day timeframe, starting from the date this decision is adopted, with a mandate to elaborate and propose specific implementation scenarios, including the nature and planning of concrete common initiatives that Africa could undertake at the international or continental level, to address its new challenges;

5. *Invites* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to report to the Assembly on the conclusions of the deliberations of the Committee at its Seventeenth Ordinary Session.

Assembly/AU/Dec.359 (XVI)

**Decision on the Appointment of Members of the Advisory Board on Corruption
(Doc. EX.CL/652 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. *Decides* to appoint the following persons as members of the Advisory Board on Corruption for a two (2)-year term, as elected by the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 January 2011:

No.	Name	Country
1.	Mr. Joe Tony Aidoo	Ghana;
2.	Ms. Dorothy N. Angote	Kenya;
3.	Ms. Jane Ansah	Malawi;
4.	Mr. M'Père Diarra	Mali;
5.	Ms. Henriette Tall Diop	Senegal;
6.	Mr. Edward Gamaya	Tanzania;
7.	Ms. Frene Noshir Ginwala	South Africa;
8.	Mr. Nabil Hattali	Algeria;
9.	Mr. Leonidas Havyarimana	Burundi;
10.	Mrs. Julie Onum-Nwariaku	Nigeria;
11.	Mr. Costantinos Berhe Tesfu	Ethiopia.

Assembly/AU/Dec.360 (XVI)

**Decision on the Appointment of a Member of the African Committee of Experts on
the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/653 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. *Decides* to appoint the following person as a member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child for a five (5)-year term, as elected by the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 January 2011:

Name	Country
Ms. Julia Sloth-Nielsen	South Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.361 (XVI)

**Decision on the Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Establishment of
the Organization of African Unity (OAU)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa on 25 May 2013;
2. *Decides* that the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity shall be celebrated in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 May 2013;
3. *Requests* the Commission to make the necessary arrangements for this celebration, in close collaboration with the host country, Ethiopia, and all Member States and to submit a progress report to the Assembly on a regular basis.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XVI)

Declaration on the Theme of the Summit: “Towards Greater Unity and Integration Through Shared Values”

We, the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government, meeting at the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2011, and after having debated the Theme dedicated to this session, namely “Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values”,

Recalling the Decision EX.CL/Dec.525 (XVI) which was endorsed by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which recommended that the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly be dedicated to the Shared Values of the African Union, including identifying obstacles and measures to be adopted to facilitate continental integration based on such values, as well as putting in place a Pan-African Architecture on Governance as a framework for dialogue between the various stakeholders,

Inspired by Africa’s history of liberation struggles and the continued quest for sovereignty, freedom and self-determination of all African countries, as well as Africa’s rich tradition of solidarity, consensus, national reconciliation and communalism and its contribution to the universal principles of governance, democracy, and human rights,

Further inspired by the shared values embodied in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which, among others, emphasize the significance of democratic governance, popular participation, the rule of law, human and peoples’ rights and sustainable socio-economic development,

Recognizing that shared values is one of the four pillars of the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission (2009-2012) through which the Commission seeks to implement the vision of the Union,

Acknowledging that shared values are a means of accelerating Africa’s integration agenda through values and principles that are embodied, in the various instruments, decisions and declarations that have been adopted by the Union,

Further acknowledging the role of women, youth and civil society in promoting shared values and the importance of securing and enhancing their participation in the development, popularization and domestication of these values,

Observing that Africa has made significant progress in the promotion of shared values and that development and implementation of these values is a continuous process that, for sustainability, would require the active involvement of all stakeholders,

Committing ourselves to establishing viable and democratic States, and ensuring the efficient delivery of services to the peoples, and promoting economic progress as well as a culture of good governance,

Cognizant of the need to promote and encourage democratic practices, good governance and the rule of law, protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the sanctity of human life and international humanitarian law, as part of efforts for the prevention of conflicts,

Convinced that the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) constitute the building blocks in the development and promotion of an effective continental agenda for integration, based on shared values,

Mindful that the continent still faces many challenges in promoting, ratifying and domesticating instruments of shared values and recognizing that there are a number of obstacles that need to be overcome in furtherance of the shared values,

Hereby declare as follows:

1. *We commit* ourselves to enhancing efforts aimed at reinforcing a deeper understanding of shared values and their promotion and popularization among the African peoples as a means of shaping Africa's common future and mobilizing the African peoples towards achieving the shared vision of continental integration and unity;
2. *We reaffirm* our commitment to speeding up the ratification and domestication of instruments of shared values and call upon the African Union Commission (AUC) to put in place measures and modalities to support Member States to establish the required capacities and processes for monitoring and review of domestication efforts;
3. *We affirm* the need for the consolidation and full implementation of the instruments of shared values, including the African Peer-Review Mechanism (APRM) and relevant national plans, as a catalyst for unity, policy harmonization, convergence and integration on the continent;
4. *We encourage* the African Union Commission to ensure greater synergy between peace and security matters and governance and democracy, thereby ensuring that developments in the terrain of shared values feature prominently in the Peace and Security Council;
5. *We further commit* ourselves to promoting the role of women in socio-economic life and prioritize the participation of women in governance and democracy and secure their direct involvement in decision-making in line with the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and the Declaration on the African Women's Decade (2010-2020);
6. *We urge* the youth to participate fully in governance and democracy processes, as per the provisions of the African Youth Charter, and request that efforts be put in place to establish an annual Youth Parliament at the continental level;
7. *We further encourage* efforts directed at enhancing the participation of African research institutes, universities, civil society and the media in promoting shared values as part of wider efforts directed at securing African ownership;
8. *We call* on the AUC and other organs to establish African ownership over shared values by way of wider communication and information sharing, through direct support to Member States, by ensuring the strengthening

of institutions and by way of putting in place measures to ensure that success is monitored and that there is ongoing review of progress in the implementation of adopted shared values instruments;

9. *We urge* all African peoples and stakeholders to take ownership of adopted shared values, through among others, providing resources and promoting these as a basis for enhancing African unity and integration;

10. *We further call upon* the RECs to work closely with the AUC and other AU organs and institutions in harmonizing their instruments and further urge them to promote the shared values especially in the areas of democracy, governance and popular participation;

11. *We commend* the work of the AUC on strengthening the African Governance Architecture and affirm the importance of establishing an African Governance Platform as a basis for facilitating harmonization of instruments and coordination of initiatives in governance and democracy;

12. *We note with appreciation* the support provided by our bilateral and multilateral partners and call on them to continue working closely with us in the popularization and domestication of shared values and request the AU Commission to report on the implementation of this Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVI)

Declaration on Cultural Renaissance and Shared Values

The Assembly,

Mindful of the paramount role of culture for the promotion of Pan-Africanism, African languages and positive values,

Also mindful that the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance requires ratification by or accession of two-thirds of the total membership of the African Union for its entry into force,

Further mindful of the importance of an effective and efficient implementation of the Campaign for the African Cultural Renaissance 2010-2012 for the promotion of shared values, Pan-Africanism, and the ownership of African Union programmes by African citizens,

Recalling the different continental plans of action on culture, in particular, the Language Plan of Action and the Plan of Action for the Development of the Cultural Industries,

Mindful of the historic and precious opportunity for promotion of African identity and positive image offered by the construction of the new AUC Conference Centre and Offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and desirous to advocate for a stronger place and visibility of African culture and identity in all public spaces, such as embassies, ministries and head offices, among others,

Also desirous of promoting positive cultural shared values,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations relating to cultural renaissance and shared values by the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture (CAMC3) on the theme of Sustainable Financing of the Cultural Development Sector, held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 October 2010;

2. *Calls on* Member States and relevant institutions to create more cultural spaces and strengthen the place of African cultural identity within the architectural designing and decoration features of all our public spaces such as squares, ministries, embassies and head offices as part of the African renaissance effort;

3. *Also calls on* Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to promote and allocate resources for the implementation of the Campaign for the African Cultural Renaissance 2010-2012 and the establishment of culture development desks or special programmes within all RECs;
4. *Commits* to the entry into force of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance by 2012. In this context, calls on Member States, who have not yet done so, to ratify the Charter as soon as possible;
5. *Urges* Member States to popularize the use and dissemination of African Union symbols such as the anthem, the flag and the logo, among others at the national level as part of the African Cultural Renaissance Campaign and promotion of our shared values and requests the Commission to make these symbols widely available to Member States;
6. *Also requests* the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XVI)

Solemn Declaration on Sudan

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting at our Sixteenth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2011, are mindful of the vital importance of this critical moment of Sudan's national history:

1. *We congratulate* the people of Sudan on the successful achievement of the principal pillar of the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan. This success confirms the commitment of the Sudanese people and their leaders never to return to war, and hitherto to resolve any differences that may arise exclusively by peaceful means;
2. *We hail* the courage, vision and steadfastness of the Government of Sudan (GoS), under the leadership of President Omar Hassan al Bashir and First Vice-President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Salva Kiir Mayardit, which has made possible this momentous achievement. Our continent stands shoulder to shoulder, equally with these two national leaders, as they fulfil their historic responsibilities;
3. *We commend* the people of southern Sudan, whose choice has been clearly, freely and credibly expressed in the referendum. The African Union looks forward to solemnly accepting the outcome of the referendum as soon as it is formally proclaimed by the competent authorities, and calls upon all States to do so, and to extend such assistance and cooperation as may be required for South Sudan to achieve the development that its long-suffering people deserve;
4. *We extend* our solidarity and that of the entire continent to the people of northern Sudan, who have taken the unprecedented and generous step of accepting self-determination for their brethren. Africa legitimately looks forward to the complete normalization of relations between the international community and the Republic of Sudan, to ensure that all the peoples of Sudan can enjoy peace, dignity, democracy and development. In this respect, we call upon Sudan's creditors around the world to expeditiously and comprehensively relieve the country's external debt, ensuring that Sudan's special circumstances receive special treatment;
5. *In that spirit*, and noting the personal and unwavering commitment of President Al Bashir to sustaining peace between northern and southern Sudan and do all he can for the early resolution of the crisis in Darfur, we, once again, call upon the United Nations Security Council immediately to invoke Article 16 of the Rome Statute and suspend any actions against President Al Bashir by the International Criminal Court. In responding to this call, the Security Council would be acting in accordance with its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security and would greatly facilitate the ongoing efforts by the AU to help the Sudanese parties achieve lasting peace, security, justice and reconciliation;

6. *In its fifty five years* as an independent nation, Sudan has faced exceptional challenges, inherited from its colonial past. Recognizing the unique nature of its national question, the Sudanese leaders resolved, in 2005, to grant the right of self-determination to the people of southern Sudan;

7. *Drawing inspiration* from resolution 1514 (XV) on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, whose fiftieth anniversary has just been celebrated by the international community, we value and uphold the right of self-determination of peoples under colonial rule, which was indeed duly exercised by our own nations to achieve independence, and which continue to be relevant to the peoples of the non-self-governing territories listed as such by the United Nations General Assembly;

8. We acknowledge that Sudan represents an exceptional case, which, in no way, calls into question the sacrosanct principle of respect of borders inherited at the accession of African countries to independence. We reaffirm our determination to ensure full respect of this principle and to forge ahead with our agenda of integration and greater unity among our countries, as foreseen by the founding fathers of the OAU and as enshrined in the AU Constitutive Act. We welcome and support the commitment made by the leaders of Sudan to respect the will of the people in Southern Sudan and, should the latter vote for separation, to establish two viable States, mutually supportive, at peace with one another, and cooperating in the fields of economics, security and international relations. We emphasize that, in such a case, northern and southern Sudan will be equally African nations. The separation of southern Sudan, in no way, dilutes the African identity of northern Sudan. Both entities will move forward in the Sudanese tradition of building strength from diversity;

9. Sudan has the utmost importance to the African continent. It spans the diversity of our continent, bringing our peoples together in a great melting pot. The achievement of peace, democracy and development in northern and southern Sudan promises to help lift the entire continent. Sudan's ability to overcome the formidable obstacles in its path stands as a testament to Africa's capacity to resolve its conflicts and achieve our common goals. Conversely, Africa cannot afford to see Sudan again plunge into turmoil;

10. In that spirit, we welcome and endorse the commitment of the Government of Sudan to resolve the conflict in Darfur, by supporting and participating in the Darfur Political Process, which will build on the outcome of the Doha peace process. The AU calls upon the Darfur armed movements to participate immediately in the Doha peace talks, so as to achieve a ceasefire and lay the foundations for an inclusive and holistic peace agreement for Darfur;

11. We call upon the Sudanese parties to resolve speedily the remaining issues in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including a settlement of the question of Abyei, the convening of Popular Consultations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, and the demarcation of the common border and resolution of the status of disputed areas. We urge the parties to proceed rapidly to agree on post-referendum issues, including citizenship, security, a soft border, and all questions relating to economics and natural resources;

12. We express Africa's solidarity with the entire Sudanese people, and welcome equally North and South Sudan and the emerging post-referendum situation, as building blocks for the ongoing project of African integration. Having achieved peace, the Sudanese people are now able fully to participate as effective actors and beneficiaries in the common African endeavour of shared prosperity and continental unity.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVI)

Resolution on the Chagos Archipelago

The Assembly of the Union, at its Sixteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2011,

Recalling that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, was unlawfully excised by the United Kingdom, the former colonial power, from the territory of Mauritius prior to the independence of Mauritius, in violation of United Nations resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965 which prohibit colonial powers from dismembering colonial territories prior to granting independence,

Reaffirming that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius,

Recalling in this regard, inter alia:

- (i) Resolution AHG/Res.99 (XVII) of July 1980 of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU),
- (ii) Decision AHG/Dec.159 (XXXVI) of July 2000 of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU),
- (iii) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.331 (XV) of July 2010 of the Assembly of the African Union,

Noting with grave concern that notwithstanding the OAU/AU Resolution/Decisions and the strong opposition expressed by the Republic of Mauritius, the United Kingdom has proceeded to establish a “marine protected area” around the Chagos Archipelago on 1 November 2010, in a manner that was inconsistent with its international legal obligations, thereby further impeding the exercise by the Republic of Mauritius of its sovereignty over the Archipelago,

Noting further that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius has, on 20 December 2010, initiated proceedings against the United Kingdom in relation to the dispute concerning the legality of the purported “marine protected area” as set forth in the notification of that date, to an Arbitral Tribunal to be constituted under Article 287 and Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Considering that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius is committed to taking other measures to protect its rights under international law relating to its legitimate aspiration to be able to exercise sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including action at the United Nations General Assembly,

1. *Decides* to support fully the action of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius at the United Nations General Assembly with a view to enabling Mauritius to exercise its sovereignty over the Archipelago.

**EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
ON THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
25 May 2011**

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(01.2011)

**Declaration on the State of Peace and Security in Africa:
Enhancing Africa's Leadership, Promoting African Solutions**

The Assembly of the Union, at its extraordinary session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 May 2011, to review the state of peace and security in Africa, deliberated on the situation obtaining on the continent on the basis of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission (Ext/Assembly/AU/2 (01.2011)).

The Assembly noted that the present session was taking place in a particular context, marked by profound changes in Tunisia and Egypt, the serious conflict facing Libya, as well as the situations in Somalia, with the imminent end of the transition, and Sudan, with the persistence of the Darfur crisis and the threats that the current tension in Abyei poses to the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The Assembly welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Tripoli Declaration (SP/ASSEMBLY/PS/DECL(I)) and Plan of Action (SP/ASSEMBLY/PS/PLAN) of 31 August 2009. It reaffirmed the relevance of these documents, and stressed the need for all stakeholders to continue to work for their expeditious implementation.

More specifically, the Assembly welcomed the developments in Tunisia and Egypt, and stressed that they provide an opportunity for Member States to renew their commitment to the AU agenda for democracy and governance, to inject additional momentum to efforts being exerted in this regard and to implement socio-economic reforms adapted to each national situation.

The Assembly reiterated the need to assess the status of implementation of the AU instruments relating to democracy, good governance and the rule of law, in order to enhance their effectiveness and to adapt them, if necessary, to changing circumstances in the historical evolution of the African people and the progress made in the achievement of the strategic objectives of the AU. The Assembly looks forward to the recommendations that the Panel of the Wise will submit in this regard, in accordance with the Declaration adopted by the 275th meeting of the PSC (PSC/MIN/BR.2 (CCLXXIV)), held on 26 April 2011.

The Assembly also welcomed the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea and Niger, the self-determination referendum in southern Sudan and the Sudanese parties' commitment to build two viable States living side-by-side, in peace and good neighbourliness, and working together to address common challenges, as well as the end of the post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Assembly urged the Parties to the CPA to spare no effort to overcome the current difficulties in Abyei and successfully conclude the negotiations on the outstanding aspects of the CPA and the post-referendum arrangements, under the auspices of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan. It stressed the need to reinvigorate the search for peace in Darfur, including through the immediate launching of the Darfur political process, under the auspices of the AUHIP.

Having hailed the gains made on the ground by the forces of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Assembly called upon the Somali leaders to overcome the divisions within the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) and focus on reconciliation, in order to rise to the expectations of the Somali people. It requested the PSC, in consultation with IGAD and the Somali stakeholders, to meet as quickly as possible to take the necessary decisions on the issue of the end of the transition and post-transition arrangements. The Assembly expressed deep concern at the serious humanitarian situation in Somalia due to the prevailing violence and the current drought, and appealed to all Member States and the international community as a whole, to provide the required assistance to the affected populations.

The Assembly stressed the need for renewed efforts to consolidate peace, wherever it has been restored, and to prevent conflict. In this respect, the Assembly reiterated its call on all Member States concerned to provide the

necessary cooperation to the relevant AU organs. The Assembly also underscored the importance of structural prevention of crises and conflicts, both through the implementation of the relevant AU instruments and the acceleration of the socio-economic integration of the continent and promotion of the well-being of its people, including through the development of infrastructures.

In light of the lessons learned from the attempts to marginalize Africa, the Assembly stressed the need to affirm and promote African leadership in managing and resolving the crises affecting the continent. It urged the AU partners to accept and work towards strengthening this leadership and African ownership, as a condition for the sustainability of progress made in the quest for peace and security on the continent.

In this context, the Assembly acknowledged the need for continued efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the initiatives of the continent in the area of peace and security, including ensuring that the AU, through the PSC, promptly seizes itself with the various crises and conflicts facing the continent and take the necessary decisions.

The Assembly also agreed on the need to mobilize increased resources from within the continent to support the AU Peace and Security Agenda. It requested the Commission to submit, as soon as possible, concrete proposals in this regard. In the meantime, the Assembly urged all African countries to make voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund, while encouraging the Commission to explore additional sources of financing, as envisaged under the sustainability programme of the Year of Peace and Security, as endorsed by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Kampala, Uganda, from 25 to 27 July 2010 (Assembly/AU/Dec.295 (XV)).

Finally, the Assembly stressed the need to strengthen collective African action within the AU and the need to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the AU contribution in the United Nations Security Council, pending the much-needed reform of the Security Council, to ensure that Africa's positions are duly taken into account. In this regard, the Assembly requested the Commission to submit to it proposals on ways and means to better coordinate African positions in the Security Council, and ensure that they further reinforce the decisions taken by the PSC and other relevant organs of the Union.

Decision on the Peaceful Resolution of the Libyan Crisis

1. The Assembly of the Union, at its extraordinary session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 May 2011, to deliberate on the state of peace and security in Africa, reviewed in-depth the situation in Libya, in light of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission (Ext/Assembly/AU/2 (01.2011)), as well as the update provided by the African Union (AU) High-Level Ad Hoc Committee on Libya.
2. The Assembly, having reiterated all earlier communiqués of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on the situation in Libya, expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation and at its consequences on the civilian population and the long-term stability of Libya, as well as on the countries of the region, in particular those of North Africa and the Sahelo-Saharan area.
3. The Assembly reiterated its conviction that only a political solution to the current conflict will make it possible to promote sustainable peace in Libya and fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people to democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance, as well as preserve the unity and territorial integrity of Libya. In this respect, the Assembly endorsed the African Union (AU) Road Map for the Resolution of the Crisis in Libya, as adopted by the PSC, at its 265th meeting held on 10 March 2011 (PSC/PR/COMM.2 (CCLXV)), and stressed its continued relevance.
4. The Assembly reiterated the need for an immediate end to all attacks against, and abuses of, civilians, as well as an immediate ceasefire, as demanded by Security Council resolution 1973 (2011) and the PSC, to be monitored by a credible, effective and verifiable international mechanism. The Assembly stressed that the ceasefire should lead to the establishment of a consensual and inclusive transitional period during which the necessary reforms to meet the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people would be carried out, culminating in elections that would enable the Libyans to choose freely their leaders.

5. Pending the establishment of such a ceasefire, and in view of the dire humanitarian situation on the ground, as notably highlighted by the United Nations Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Coordination for Emergency Relief, the Assembly demanded an immediate pause in the fighting and in the NATO-led air campaign, to provide respite to the civilian population, alleviate its suffering and make it possible to deliver the much-needed humanitarian assistance to all those in need of it. In this respect, the Assembly is of the well-considered view that the continuation of the NATO-led military operation defeats the very purpose for which it was authorized in the first place, i.e. the protection of the civilian population, and further complicates any transition to a democratic dispensation in Libya.

6. The Assembly directed the PSC to diligently consider and authorize the immediate deployment of an AU Observer Mission to closely monitor the situation, provide independent assessment of developments taking place on the ground and facilitate the subsequent establishment of a larger mission that would involve the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the AU and other organizations. The Assembly called on Member States to provide the personnel, as well as the financial and logistical support required for the early and effective deployment of the envisaged observer mission. It appealed to the Libyan parties to fully cooperate with this mission, and to the AU partners to contribute to its success.

7. While reiterating the commitment of the AU to resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), the Assembly stressed the obligation of all Member States of the United Nations and the other concerned international actors to fully comply with the letter and spirit of those resolutions. The Assembly expressed deep concern at the dangerous precedence being set by one-sided interpretations of these resolutions, in an attempt to provide a legal authority for military and other actions on the ground that are clearly outside the scope of these resolutions, and at the resulting negative impact on the efforts aimed at building an international order based on legality. The Assembly requested the African Group in New York and the African members of the United Nations Security Council, to take the initiative of the early convening of a meeting of the Security Council, as well as the General Assembly, in order to assess the implementation of resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011).

8. The Assembly expressed Africa's surprise and disappointment at the attempts to marginalize the continent in the management of the Libyan conflict, recalling that the role of the High-Level Ad Hoc Committee is formally recognized by the Security Council in paragraph 2 of resolution 1973 (2011), and falls within the overall context of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of disputes among and within their member States. The Assembly also recalled that Africa, particularly the countries of the region, are those that bear the greatest impact of the conflict in Libya, both in terms of security and socio-economic consequences.

9. The Assembly stressed that the lasting resolution of the Libyan crisis requires a significant contribution by Africa and close coordination among all stakeholders. In this respect, the Assembly pledged Africa's solemn commitment to work closely with its multilateral partners, in particular the United Nations and the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Libya, in the spirit of operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1973 (2011), the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the European Union (EU), as well as with its bilateral partners.

10. The Assembly reiterated the unique contribution that the Ad Hoc Committee could make to the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Libya, in a manner consistent with the objectives of resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011). Accordingly, and having, once again, expressed the AU's appreciation for the work done so far by the Ad Hoc Committee, the Assembly requested the Committee to pursue and intensify its efforts, including by undertaking a further visit to Tripoli and Benghazi, to advance the search for a political solution to the conflict, including the speedy establishment of a consensual transitional period, on the basis of the AU Road Map and proposals that may be submitted by the parties. The Assembly also requested the Committee to dispatch, as early as possible, a delegation at the ministerial level to New York, to interact with the Security Council and its members on the AU's efforts and the way forward in Libya.

11. The Assembly welcomed the decision to convene, in Cairo, Egypt, on 30 May 2011, a meeting that would bring together the AU, the League of Arab States, the OIC, the EU and the United Nations, to work out practical steps for a ceasefire and the launching of a political process that would lead to a lasting solution to the crisis.
12. The Assembly expressed grave preoccupation at the fate of the African migrant workers living in Libya and of those trying to depart from the country, noting with sadness the death at sea of several hundreds of people, mostly African citizens, after their boats sank. The Assembly reminded the countries and organizations whose vessels patrol the Mediterranean Sea of their obligation to provide assistance to all boats leaving Libya. The Assembly further stressed the need to respect the humanitarian principle of *non-refoulement* from Europe's territorial waters and lands for the thousands of people fleeing the war ravaging Libya.
13. The Assembly paid tribute to the neighbouring countries of Libya, in particular Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, for having received hundreds of thousands of civilians, including Africans, fleeing the violence in Libya. The Assembly commended their generosity and hospitality, expressing the hope that the example that they have set will be emulated elsewhere. The Assembly also expressed appreciation to the humanitarian agencies, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), for their invaluable support and contribution.
14. The Assembly, looking forward to the strengthening of the AU role in the process leading to the peaceful resolution of the Libyan crisis, requested the Commission to submit to it a report on the evolution of the situation and progress made in the implementation of the present decision and relevant PSC communiqués at its next ordinary session, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.*

* Editor's note: This decision is not included in the African Union document relating to this extraordinary session. It is reproduced from United Nations document S/2011/337.

SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
30 June to 1 July 2011**

Assembly/AU/Dec.363 (XVII)

**Decision on the Theme of Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the outcomes of the Youth Forum and related meetings on “Accelerating of Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” held from 1 to 9 April 2011, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and approves the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Welcomes* the Declaration of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC) on Youth Employment for Social Cohesion and Inclusive Growth adopted by the Eighth Session of LSAC held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 11 to 15 April 2011;
3. *Welcomes* ongoing efforts by Member States to prioritize the youth agenda in their respective countries and, in particular, those which have included the African Union (AU) concerns, mainly, the ratification of the African Youth Charter as well as those that promote awareness and implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009–2018);
4. *Commends* the Republic of Sudan for hosting the headquarters of the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU), whose inauguration and official handover took place on 25 May 2011;
5. *Decides that:*
 - (i) All Member States should advance the youth agenda and adopt policies and mechanisms towards the creation of safe, decent and competitive employment opportunities by accelerating the implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009—2018) and the Ouagadougou 2004 Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation;
 - (ii) The Commission, in collaboration with its partners, should elaborate a technical and vocational education and training (TVET) framework, addressing specifically the domains of agriculture and ICT, while accelerating the implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action;
 - (iii) Member States should provide to the Commission adequate resources for the advancement of the Youth Agenda, including the funding of the Pan-African Youth Union;
 - (iv) The Commission should organize on the margins of every June/July Summit a training programme for the Youth Volunteers;
 - (v) All trained Youth Volunteers should be deployed as soon as possible after their training including through placement in the AU organs and the Regional Economic Communities as part of capacity-building for young professionals;
 - (vi) The Commission should lead the organization of a side event on “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” under the leadership of the Chairperson of the AU, during the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Youth in July 2011 at the United Nations Headquarters whose theme is “Cooperation towards Financing Youth Development and Empowerment in Africa”;
6. *Requests:*

(i) The Commission to report yearly on the implementation status of the youth development programmes, at all levels, with contributions from all Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the Pan-African Youth Union and its organs;

(ii) The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to incorporate the monitoring of the implementation of the African Youth Charter and the Plan of Action of the Youth Decade with specific focus on youth social, political and economic development within Member States as also a basis for evaluation;

7. *Urges* Member States to develop and implement strategies and mechanisms for strengthening public-private partnership (PPP) in stimulating domestic resources for implementing youth programmes, especially targeting employment creation;

8. *Calls on* all partners and stakeholders to align all youth-related development programmes with the Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018).

Assembly/AU/Dec.364 (XVII)

**Decision on Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/656 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on alternative sources of financing the African Union (AU);

2. *Recalls* the various decisions taken by the Executive Council and the Assembly on alternative sources of financing the AU, including the 2001 Lusaka Summit Decision AHG/Dec.1 (XXXVII), the June 2006 Banjul Decision EX.CL/Dec.285 (IX), and the July 2007 Accra Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (IX) which highlighted the need to identify additional sources of financing the activities of the AU;

3. *Notes with concern* the dire financial situation of the AU caused by delays in Member States honouring their assessed contributions and complexities of accessing partner funds;

4. *Expresses deep concern* over the growing reliance on partner funds to finance the continental integration and development agenda;

5. *Reiterates* the imperative need for Member States to provide the AU with predictable, reliable and sustainable resources to enable it to fulfil its mandate;

6. *Requests* the Commission to actively pursue the effective implementation of the various decisions of the Assembly on alternative sources of financing the AU;

7. *Takes note* of progress in the setting up of a High-Level Panel of Eminent Personalities (the Panel) with a view to engaging with Member States and coming up with definitive proposals to this long outstanding issue as per the January 2011 Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.643 (XVIII);

8. *Requests* the Commission to expedite the process of setting up the Panel and take all necessary measures to facilitate its work;

9. *Appeals* to all Member States and the Regional Economic Communities to provide all the necessary support to the Panel to ensure a successful outcome of the consultations;

10. *Requests* the Panel to undertake the consultations in a timely manner and report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, in January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XVII)

**Decision on the Specialized Technical Committees
(Doc. EX.CL/666 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) on the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2009;
2. *Adopts*, in principle, the proposed detailed activities of the fourteen (14) STCs as contained in the Report of the Commission;
3. *Decides* that each STC should meet at the level of ministers and experts once every two (2) years, with the exception of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, the STC on Gender and Women Empowerment and the STC on Defense and Security which shall meet once a year in ordinary session and an extraordinary session if need be;
4. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) through its Subcommittee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to determine the financial implications of meetings of each STC;
5. *Decides* that the Coordinating Mechanism of the STCs shall be made up of the Bureaus of the various STCs in order to ensure that the STCs have a global view of the policies, programmes and activities of the African Union; authorizes that it meets once every year and that the Chairpersons of the various STCs attend the sessions of the Executive Council;
6. *Also decides* that the Commission be responsible for convening and servicing all the meetings of the STCs in order to ensure synergy with other organs and in particular with the Executive Council as well as other institutions;
7. *Requests* the Commission to operationalize the STCs from January 2013 and that thereafter the Sectoral Ministerial Conferences be abolished.

Assembly/AU/Dec.366 (XVII)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Assembly Decisions on the International Criminal Court
(Doc. EX.CL/670 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.296 (XV) adopted by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Kampala, Uganda, on 31 July 2010;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Stresses* the need to pursue all efforts and explore ways and means of ensuring that the request by the African Union (AU) to the United Nations Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against President

Bashir of Sudan, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on deferral of cases by the United Nations Security Council, be acted upon, and in this regard, reiterates its request to the United Nations Security Council; and requests the African members of the United Nations Security Council to place the matter on the agenda of the Council;

4. *Also stresses* the need to pursue all efforts in ensuring that the request by the AU to the United Nations Security Council to defer the investigations and prosecutions in relation to the 2008 post-election violence in Kenya under Article 16 of the Rome Statute be acted upon to allow for a national mechanism to investigate and prosecute the cases under a reformed judiciary provided for in the new constitutional dispensation, in line with the principle of complementarity;

5. *Reaffirms* that by receiving President Bashir, the Republic of Chad, Kenya, and Djibouti were discharging their obligations under Article 23 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Article 98 of the Rome Statute as well as acting in pursuit of peace and stability in their respective regions;

6. *Expresses deep concern* at the manner in which the ICC Prosecutor handles the situation in Libya which was referred to the ICC by the United Nations Security Council through resolution 1970 (2011). The Assembly notes that the warrant of arrest issued by the Pre-Trial Chamber concerning Colonel Qadhafi, seriously complicates the efforts aimed at finding a negotiated political solution to the crisis in Libya, which will also address, in a mutually-reinforcing way, issues relating to impunity and reconciliation. In this regard, the Assembly decides that Member States shall not cooperate in the execution of the arrest warrant, and requests the United Nations Security Council to activate the provisions of Article 16 of the Rome Statute with a view to deferring the ICC process on Libya, in the interest of justice as well as peace in the country;

7. *Requests* the Group of African States parties in New York and in The Hague as well as the African Members of the United Nations Security Council to closely follow up on the implementation of the Assembly's decisions on the ICC;

8. *Also requests* the Commission in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee to reflect on how best Africa's interests can be fully defended and protected in the international judicial system, and to actively pursue the implementation of the Assembly's decisions on the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights being empowered to try serious international crimes committed on African soil;

9. *Requests* the Commission to follow up on this matter and to report regularly on the implementation of the various Assembly decisions on ICC.

Assembly/AU/Dec.367 (XVII)

**Decision on the Report of the Implementation of the Road Map and Global African Diaspora Process
(Doc. EX.CL/686 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report on the Road Map and the preparations for the Global African Diaspora Summit scheduled in South Africa in 2012;

2. *Recognizes* the efforts and progress made by the Republic of South Africa and the Commission in ensuring the implementation of the Road Map;

3. *Requests* the Commission and the Republic of South Africa to continue their collaboration to ensure the successful planning and conduct of the Diaspora Summit;

4. *Further requests* that such efforts should include the continuation of regional consultative conferences and the revitalization of diaspora regional networks in the various regions of the world where the African diaspora population lives as well as carrying out of feasibility studies on bankable projects;
5. *Decides* that the outcomes of the Technical Committee Meeting on the Diaspora be submitted for consideration to a Diaspora Ministerial Conference to be held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, United States of America, in September 2011 in preparation for the Global Diaspora Summit;
6. *Reaffirms* the decision that the diaspora issue remains a standing agenda item for summit meetings and decides to convene the Global Diaspora Summit in 25 May 2012;
7. *Calls upon* Member States, AU partners and the diaspora communities worldwide to support this agenda and facilitate the implementation of the Road Map and the holding of the Global Diaspora Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.368 (XVII)

**Decision on the Theme, Date and Venue of the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of
the Assembly of the African Union**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.347 (XVI) adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2011 on the theme of the January/February 2012 Summit which is: "Boosting Intra-African Trade";
2. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Executive Council regarding the necessity to have henceforth one (1) theme per year and confirms that the above-mentioned theme will be for the whole year of 2012, including for the celebrations of Africa Day on 25 May 2012;
3. *Decides* that the dates of the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - (i) Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee: 23 and 24 January 2012;
 - (ii) Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 26 and 27 January 2012;
 - (iii) Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 29 and 30 January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.369 (XVII)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, including the Report of the Panel of the Wise on its activities, as contained in annex II;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.338 (XVI) Rev.1 adopted at its Sixteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2011, and the Declarations on the State of Peace and Security in Africa, adopted by the 275th meeting, at the ministerial level, of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) (PSC/MIN/BR.1 (CCLXXV)) and the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in on 26 April and 25 May 2011,

respectively, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl. (01.2011)). The Assembly underscores the need for sustained efforts to ensure their effective implementation;

3. *Notes* that Africa continues to face serious challenges in the area of peace and security, despite the significant progress made in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The Assembly underscores the need to deploy greater and better coordinated efforts, based on Africa's ownership and leadership, to promote sustainable peace, security and stability on the continent, and calls on international partners to place their actions firmly within this framework;

4. *Takes note* of the efforts of both the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), to finalize the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, and underscores the need to accelerate this process;

5. *Commends* the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for its efforts to facilitate the return to constitutional order in Madagascar on the basis of its "Road map for a way out of the crisis in Madagascar," as endorsed by the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Sandton, South Africa, on 11 and 12 June 2011. The Assembly calls upon SADC and the AU to continue to work together to find a consensual and sustainable solution to the crisis, in full compliance with the relevant instruments of the AU relating to unconstitutional changes of government, and to mobilize, to this end, the support of the international community, including through the early holding of a meeting of the International Contact Group on Madagascar;

6. *Welcomes* the completion of the implementation process of the 16 June 2010 Agreement on the Management of the Interim Period in Comoros, and urges the Comorian stakeholders to persevere in their efforts to consolidate the gains made. The Assembly reaffirms that Mayotte belongs to the Union of the Comoros and expresses its deep concern regarding the pursuit by France of its current policy, in particular the transformation of Mayotte into an overseas, province (Département);

7. *Welcomes* the signing, on 9 June 2011, of the Kampala Accord between the President of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, Mr. Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, and the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), Mr. Shariff Hassan Sheikh Aden, which seeks to end the current transitional period with deferral of elections for one (1) year. The Assembly takes note of the resignation of Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohammed "Farmajo" and the decision of the TFG President to appoint Mr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali as the new Prime Minister, who has since been endorsed by the TFP, and encourages the speedy completion of the consultations for the formation of a new cabinet and its subsequent endorsement by the Parliament. The Assembly underlines that the expeditious implementation of the Kampala Accord will go a long way in consolidating the important military gains made on the ground by the TFG, with the support of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM);

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to AMISOM personnel for its valuable contribution to the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, and pays tribute to the troop contributing countries, namely Uganda and Burundi. The Assembly appeals to Member States that pledged troops to honour their commitments, as well as to the international community to lend the necessary support to AMISOM. The Assembly reiterates its call to the United Nations Security Council to authorize the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia and, in the meantime, to provide a more adequate support to AMISOM, in line with the requests contained in communiqué PSC/MIN/1 (CCXXXV) of the 245th meeting of the PSC, held on 15 October 2010;

9. *Reiterates its concern* at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Assembly emphasizes, once again, the need for renewed African efforts to help the two countries to peacefully resolve their dispute, normalize their relations and lay the foundation for lasting peace and security in the Horn of Africa, and encourages the two countries to extend the necessary cooperation to any such efforts, including those to be deployed by the Chairperson of the Commission;

10. *Reiterates* its call on Djibouti and Eritrea to pursue, in good faith, the scrupulous implementation of the 6 June 2010 Agreement, concluded under the auspices of Qatar, in order to resolve their border dispute and consolidate the normalization of their relations, and requests the Commission to closely follow the situation and make every effort to facilitate progress;
11. *Further reiterates* the need to develop a regional approach to the challenges of peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa, as stressed in paragraph 12 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.338 (XVI) Rev.1. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the partnership between the Commission, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and IGAD, in convening a Stakeholders' and Development Partners' Conference on Employment for Peace, Stability and Development in the Horn of Africa, in Addis Ababa on 11 and 12 April 2011, and requests the Commission to pursue its efforts, including consultations with all stakeholders, with the view to facilitating the early convening of the envisaged regional conference on peace, security, stability and development in the Horn of Africa, as provided for in the above-mentioned decision;
12. *Recalls* the Solemn Declaration on Sudan adopted at its Sixteenth Ordinary Session, following the successful holding of the self-determination referendum for Southern Sudan, the main pillar of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The Assembly acknowledges the overwhelming choice for separation made by the people of Southern Sudan, and looks forward to welcoming the Republic of Southern Sudan as the newest member of the AU, immediately upon its independence on 9 July 2011;
13. *Urges* the Sudanese parties to the CPA, in particular President Omar Hassan Al Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), to continue to demonstrate the commitment required to complete the implementation of the CPA and finalize the post-referendum negotiations, with the support of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and in the spirit of creating two viable States, mutually supportive and at peace with one another;
14. *Welcomes*, in this respect, the signing, in Addis Ababa, on 20 June 2011, by the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), of an Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, under the facilitation of the AUHIP, which will enable security to be established and displaced persons to return to their homes in that district, as well as create conditions under which the Panel can make its recommendation on the final status of Abyei at a time to be agreed upon. The Assembly endorses the Agreement and urges the parties to build on this breakthrough to resolve the pending issues in their negotiations. The Assembly also congratulates the Government of Ethiopia, in particular Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, for the key role it played in facilitating this breakthrough and for its readiness to provide troops for the Interim Security Force for Abyei (ISFA) without delay. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the adoption, on 27 June 2011, by the Security Council, of resolution 1990 (2011), authorizing the deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement, and stresses that this decision is an eloquent illustration of how best the AU and the United Nations can judiciously combine their respective comparative advantages to address peace and security challenges in Africa;
15. *Welcomes and endorses* the Framework Agreement on Political Partnership and Political and Security Arrangements in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan, signed, under the facilitating of the AUHIP, in Addis Ababa, on 28 June 2011, by the GoS and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (North), as a decisive step towards consolidating peace, security and democracy in the Republic of Sudan. The Assembly congratulates the parties on their commitment to the peaceful resolution of their differences and calls upon them immediately to cease hostilities, permit humanitarian access, and allow the return of displaced persons to their homes;
16. *Stresses the need* for renewed efforts to bring about lasting peace, justice and reconciliation in Darfur. The Assembly notes with satisfaction the conclusion of the Doha political talks and the endorsement by the All-Darfur Stakeholders Conference held in Doha, from 27 to 31 May 2011, under the auspices of the Joint Chief Mediator and the Government of the State of Qatar, of the draft outcome document as a basis for the achievement of peace. The Assembly looks forward to the conclusions of the negotiations between the GoS and

the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), as well as of the discussions with the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM);

17. *Expresses full support* to the efforts being made by the AUHIP, with the support of UNAMID, to expedite the launching of the Darfur Political Process (DPP), in line with relevant AU decisions, as a way of addressing in a comprehensive and inclusive manner the challenges of peace, justice and reconciliation in Darfur. The Assembly welcomes the commitment of the Government of Sudan to establish an enabling environment, and calls on AU partners, in particular the United Nations Security Council and its members, to fully support this process and take the steps expected of them to facilitate the work of the AUHIP in this respect. The Assembly commends UNAMID leadership and personnel for their dedication and contribution to the search for peace in Darfur;

18. *Pays tribute and reiterates* its full support to the work of the AUHIP under the leadership of former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, which is making a major contribution to the quest for peace, justice and reconciliation in Sudan;

19. *Welcomes* the encouraging progress made in consolidating peace and post-conflict reconstruction in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Liberia and Sierra Leone, and encourages the Commission to vigorously pursue the implementation of the conclusions of the technical workshop on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 3 June 2011, including the holding of an African Solidarity Conference in October 2011. The Assembly welcomes the holding, in Brussels, on 15 June 2011, with the active support of the Commission, of the Donor's Round Table for the CAR, and urges all concerned to honour the pledges made. In addition, the Assembly underscores the importance of the smooth conduct of elections in the DRC in November 2011 and Liberia in 2012, and requests the Commission and the Panel of the Wise to support the electoral processes in these two countries and make contributions towards their success, including in the context of the follow-up on the recommendations of the Panel on election-related conflict and violence, as endorsed by the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Sirte, in July 2009;

20. *Welcomes* the continued efforts to implement the 15 January 2010 Agreement between Sudan and Chad and the impressive results achieved in this regard, especially with regard to securing the common border. The Assembly also welcomes the holding of the Tripartite Summit that brought together, in Khartoum, on 23 May 2011, the Presidents of the CAR, Sudan and Chad, as part of the efforts to enhance security and regional cooperation. In this context, the Assembly encourages the Commission to work towards effective implementation of the regional approach articulated in paragraph 4 of the communiqué of the Seventieth Meeting of the PSC, held on 12 and 13 February 2007, and to discuss with the three countries the modalities of a support to cross-border cooperation initiatives already underway or planned, within the framework of the AU Border Programme;

21. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by the Commission on the implementation of paragraph 21 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.294 (XV) on the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), in particular the dispatch, from March 16 to 4 April 2011, of a technical assessment mission in the five countries affected by the destabilizing activities of the LRA and the organization of the Second Regional Ministerial Meeting on the issue of the LRA, held in Addis Ababa, on 8 June 2011. The Assembly fully supports the conclusions of this meeting and requests the PSC to swiftly authorize the proposed operation in all its components, including the Regional Intervention Force (RIF), the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) and Joint Coordination Mechanism (JCM). The Assembly requests the United Nations and other AU partners, to support this initiative aimed at protecting affected civilian populations, including through financial and logistical support;

22. *Welcomes* the end of the post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and the fact that the democratically elected President, Mr. Alassane Ouattara, now fully assumes full power. The Assembly notes with satisfaction the commitment of the new authorities to consolidate peace and promote reconciliation. The Assembly requests the Commission, in consultation with ECOWAS and other partners, including the United Nations and the European Union, to accelerate the implementation of the measures envisaged under the relevant decisions of the PSC and the Extraordinary Summit, to support the process underway in Côte d'Ivoire, including support for the Dialogue,

Truth and Reconciliation Commission, reform of the security sector, the implementation of pending aspects of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and socio-economic recovery, through the dispatch of an assessment mission and the holding of an African Solidarity Conference;

23. *Welcomes* the progress made in Guinea-Bissau, in particular the adoption by the Government of the CPLP-ECOWAS Road Map on the reform of the security sector, which responds to the objectives of the Tripoli Action Plan, and encourages the Guinea-Bissau authorities to continue their efforts, particularly in the fight against impunity and drug trafficking, the establishment of the rule of law and socio-economic recovery. The Assembly urges the international partners to continue to support Guinea-Bissau, in particular through the holding, as soon as possible, of the Round Table of donors, postponed several times in the past;

24. *Underscores* the need for continued efforts on the part of all stakeholders in the Republic of Guinea in order to consolidate peace, national reconciliation, democracy and good governance. The Assembly encourages the Guinean Government and all stakeholders to work towards the holding, within the agreed timeframe and under the required conditions of transparency and fairness, of the legislative elections to complete the process of building democratic institutions after the presidential election of November 2010. The Assembly calls on development partners to provide the support needed for the economic and social rehabilitation of Guinea;

25. *Welcomes* the positive evolution of the situation in Tunisia and the progress made in the transition, including the preparation for the election, of the Constituent Assembly, scheduled for 23 October 2011, and the establishment of a High Independent Body for Elections (HIIE), as well as the climate of freedom and democracy that now prevails in the country, The Assembly makes an urgent appeal to all partners of the AU to provide the necessary economic and financial support to facilitate the completion of the transition. The Assembly welcomes the visits to Tunisia by the Chairperson of the Commission and the Panel of the Wise, on 21 to 23 March and 12 to 14 April 2011, respectively, and requests the Commission to continue to support the ongoing efforts in Tunisia;

26. *Notes* the positive evolution of the situation in Egypt following the popular uprising which took place in January/February 2011, in particular the atmosphere of freedom and democracy that now prevails, the opening of the political space and the adoption of a new legislation to facilitate the formation of political parties, the constitutional referendum of 19 March 2011, and the steps being taken to enable the Egyptian people to democratically choose their leaders and establish institutions that are truly representative and respectful of fundamental freedoms and human rights. The Assembly encourages the Egyptian authorities and parties to persevere in their efforts to complete the transition and ensure that the aspirations and hope of the Egyptian people are fulfilled. The Assembly requests the Commission to spare no efforts in supporting and accompanying the transition, building notably on the outcome of the visits undertaken by the Chairperson and the Panel of the Wise to Egypt, on 26 and 27 March 2011 and from 4 to 6 June 2011, respectively. The Assembly strongly urges AU partners and the international financial institutions to provide the much-needed support to assist Egypt in addressing its socio-economic challenges and lay the foundation for sustainable democracy and development;

27. *Reiterates* its deep concern at the prevailing situation in Libya, as well as its conviction that only a political solution will make it possible to fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people and preserve the unity and territorial integrity of the country. In this respect, the Assembly stresses the continued relevance of the AU Road Map as articulated by the PSC at its 265th Meeting held on 10 March 2011. The Assembly reaffirms the decision on the peaceful resolution of the Libyan crisis adopted at its Extraordinary Session held on 25 May 2011. The Assembly pays tribute to the five Heads of State members of the AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee on Libya and expresses full support to them in the pursuit of their mandate;

28. *Expresses the profound appreciation* of the AU to the Governments and peoples of Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia for the generosity with which they have welcomed hundreds of thousands of refugees, particularly African refugees, fleeing the conflict and NATO bombings in Libya. The Assembly also commends UNHCR, IOM and other humanitarian agencies for their invaluable assistance;

29. *Welcomes* the significant progress made in the implementation of the AU Border Programme (AUBP), as a follow-up to the Declaration on pursuing and accelerating the implementation of the AU Border Programme (AUBP), adopted at the Second Conference of African Ministers responsible for Border Issues held in Addis Ababa on 25 March 2010, and endorsed by the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec.563 (XVII)), including the successful celebration of the First African Border Day, as well as support to field efforts on the delimitation/demarcation of frontiers, cross-border cooperation and capacity-building. The Assembly decides, in view of the many challenges yet to be overcome and the recommendation made by the Commission, to extend to 2017 the initial deadline of 2012, set by the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) of July 2002, for the completion of the delimitation/demarcation of all African borders, where such an exercise has not yet been completed;

30. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Commission to follow up on Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.311 (XV) on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, in particular the elaboration of a Model Law, following the Member States experts meeting held in Algiers, in December 2010, which should be disseminated promptly and as widely as possible to all stakeholders. The Assembly encourages Member States to fully take advantage of this Model Law to strengthen and/or update their national legislations, and requests the Commission to avail the expertise required, including through the establishment of standby teams of experts, to Member States that need technical assistance. The Assembly calls on all AU Member States to take the steps expected of them to follow up on its relevant decisions, including, where required, expeditiously becoming parties to the relevant AU instruments, notably the Protocol to the OAU 1999 Convention on Terrorism, and fully implementing the provisions contained therein;

31. *Further welcomes* the successful conclusion of the First Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), established under the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), held in Addis Ababa on 4 May 2011. The Assembly encourages the States parties to the Treaty to provide AFCONE with the necessary support to ensure the early and effective commencement of its activities, and commends the Commission for the steps already taken in this respect. The Assembly calls upon all concerned States that have not yet done so, to take the steps required to become parties to the Treaty and to its Protocols without further delay, convinced that these instruments constitute a significant contribution to strengthening the global non-proliferation regime, promoting cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology, as well as general and complete disarmament, with a view to enhancing regional and international peace and security;

32. *Welcomes* the finalization by the Commission of a draft “African Union Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunition, Explosives and Related Materials”, together with its Implementation Plan, and looks forward to the meeting of Member States’ experts planned for the third quarter of 2011 to review and adopt both documents. Furthermore, the Assembly encourages the Commission to facilitate the elaboration of an African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty, including the convening of a meeting of Member States’ experts, ahead of the United Nations-sponsored Conference on the issue, to be held in New York, in July 2012, in pursuance of the General Assembly resolution 61/89 on developing a comprehensive, legally-binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms.

Assembly/AU/Dec.370 (XVII)

**Decision on the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on
the Reforms of the United Nations Security Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Ninth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;

2. *Also takes note* of the recent developments in the intergovernmental negotiations and with appreciation of the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, in promoting and defending the continent's interests in the United Nations Security Council reform process;
3. *Welcomes* the growing support of Member States in the intergovernmental negotiations on the United Nations Security Council reform and for recognizing the compelling need to correct, first of all, the historical injustice done to the continent, which continues to be unrepresented in the permanent category and under-represented in the non-permanent category of the United Nations Security Council;
4. *Also welcomes* the growing recognition by Member States of the need in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform, to treat Africa as a special case;
5. *Further welcomes* the growing support the African common position continues to receive from Member States in the intergovernmental negotiations;
6. *Underscores* the need for Africa to continue to speak with one voice and cohesively on all issues, whether of substance or procedure or both related to the United Nations Security Council reform, in order to build on the gains Africa has achieved so far in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations and ensure that the interests of Africa continue to be maintained and safeguarded at all times;
7. *Reaffirms* the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council containing the African common position;
8. *Requests* the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten in participating in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the United Nations Security Council reform to work closely with other African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations and the African Permanent Representatives to the AU, and to continue to dialogue with and engage other Member States and interest groups in the reform process, with a view to building more alliances in support of the African common position;
9. *Also requests* the Committee of Ten to continue to intensify its efforts in advocating, canvassing and promoting the African common position as well as endeavouring to reach out at the highest political levels for the purpose of garnering more support for the African common position and of galvanizing the required political will to keep the reform process moving forward;
10. *Further requests* the Commission to continue to facilitate the activities of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in the intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform and related consultations thereon;
11. *Calls on* the Committee of Ten to remain seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and to report to the Assembly on progress made at the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2012 and on any further guidance deemed necessary in furtherance of its mandate.

Assembly/AU/Dec.371 (XVII)

**Decision on the Hissène Habré Case
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Assembly decisions on the Hissène Habré case;

2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraphs (h) and (o), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Reiterates* its decision in January 2011 confirming the mandate given to Senegal to try Hissène Habré on behalf of Africa and urges Senegal to carry out its legal responsibility in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Torture the decision of the United Nations Committee against Torture as well as the said mandate to put Hissène Habré on trial expeditiously or extradite him to any other country willing to put him on trial;
4. *Calls on* other Member States, parties to the United Nations Convention against Torture willing to try Hissène Habré to notify the Commission of their willingness to do so and to take necessary measures to put Hissène Habré on trial;
5. *Requests* the Commission to closely monitor the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.372 (XVII)

**Decision on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.341 (XVI) on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 31 January 2011;
2. *Decides* to defer consideration of this item to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.373 (XVII)

**Decision on the Allocation of the Pan-African University Institute on Water and Energy Science,
including Climate Change**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.290 (XV) on the Establishment of the Pan-African University and inviting the North Africa region to designate the host country for the Pan-African University Institute on Water and Energy Science, including climate change;
2. *Decides*, based on the agreement reached between the North African region countries, to allocate the Pan-African University Institute on Water and Energy Science, including climate change, to Algeria;
3. *Congratulates* Algeria for accepting to host this Institute;
4. *Requests* the Commission to take, in collaboration with the Algerian Government, all necessary measures to ensure the establishment of this Institute.

Assembly/AU/Dec.374 (XVII)

**Decision on the Budget of the African Union for the 2012 Financial Year
(Doc. EX.CL/657 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council to defer consideration of the 2012 budget until after the Malabo Summit;
2. *Delegates* its power to adopt the 2012 budget to the Executive Council;
3. *Authorizes* the Executive Council to convene an extraordinary session in September 2011 to consider and adopt the said budget.

Assembly/AU/Dec.375 (XVII)

**Decision on Africa's Preparation for the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties and
the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on Africa's preparation towards the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Conference of the Parties/Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 7) to be held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011;
2. *Commends* all the African ministers, negotiators as well as the Commission for the efforts made to uphold the African Common Position on Climate Change;
3. *Further commends* the Republic of South Africa, the Commission, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and partners for the efforts being exerted towards Africa's preparation for COP 17/CMP 7;
4. *Urges* CAHOSCC to convene a meeting to consider and take forward the Updated African Common Position on Climate Change to COP 17/CMP 7, which the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) will have considered and endorsed at its extraordinary session to be held in September 2011;
5. *Urges* all Member States to attend and participate in COP 17/CMP 7 in large numbers and, individually and collectively, provide support to the Presidency of South Africa in order to ensure the success of the Conference;
6. *Calls on* African negotiators to concentrate on completing the negotiations on climate finance in Durban and, in that regard, build on the work of the Transitional Committee and other experts to ensure adequate resources flows to address Africa's climate change challenge;
7. *Calls on* AfDB to complete the design of the African Green Fund ahead of Durban and to engage in consultation with African countries to ensure adequate voice for Africa in the governance of the Fund;
8. *Encourages* AfDB to coordinate its design of the Africa Green Climate Fund in consultation with Member States and obtaining insights from the Africa Group representatives to the Transitional Committee designing the Green Climate Fund;
9. *Requests* AfDB to accordingly present a report reflecting modalities and progress in the design of the African Green Climate Fund to the next meeting of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN);

10. *Also requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.376 (XVII)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Great Green Wall Programme
(Doc. EX. CL/656 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.137 (VIII) adopted at its Eighth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2007 approving the Great Green Wall Initiative, and Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.465 (XIV) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2009 endorsing the Action Plan of the Great Green Wall initiative (GGW);
2. *Stresses* the need for coordination of efforts between the Commission, the implementation structures and the Member States of the Great Green Wall project;
3. *Commends* the efforts of Member States concerned in the implementation of the GGW, including the establishment of an Executive Agency of the project located in N'djamena;
4. *Requests* the Commission to play its coordinating role in mobilizing resources for the GGW and provide the necessary support to the Executing Agency of the GGW;
5. *Also requests* the Commission and the Agency to monitor, evaluate the project and report regularly to the Assembly through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.377 (XVII)

**Decision on the Election of One Member of the African Union Commission on International Law
(Doc. EX.CL/682 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of one (1) Member of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL) conducted by the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following person as a member of the African Union Commission on International Law for a one-year term, being the remainder of the term of a member who resigned:

Name	Country
Bonaventure Makenga Mpasi	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Assembly/AU/Dec.378 (XVII)

**Decision on the Election of Five Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/683 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of five (5) Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights conducted by the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following persons as members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:

No.	Name	Country	Term of Office
1.	Ms. Reine Adelaïde Alapini	Benin	6-year term;
2.	Mr. Med S. K. Kaggwa	Uganda	6-year term;
3.	Ms. Maya Sahli Fadel	Algeria	6-year term;
4.	Ms. Faith Pansy Tlakula	South Africa	6-year term;
5.	Mr. Pacifique Manirakiza	Burundi	4-year term.

Assembly/AU/Dec.379 (XVII)

**Decision on the African Union Decision-Making Process, the Lack of Implementation of Decisions, and the Need to Uphold and Respect the Integrity of Assembly Decisions by All Member States
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XVII) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of Namibia, supported by other Member States, on the African Union (AU) decision-making process, lack of implementation of decisions, and the need to uphold and respect the integrity of the decisions of the AU Assembly by all Member States;
2. *Decides* to defer consideration of the item proposed by Namibia to its next ordinary session in January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.380 (XVII)

**Decision on the Conclusions of the International Symposium on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Independence of African Countries
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XVII) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Benin on the establishment of a group of experts in charge of ensuring the effective implementation of the principles spelled out in the Manifesto of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Independence of African Countries;
2. *Welcomes* the pertinence of the conclusions of the deliberations of the International Symposium held in Cotonou, Benin, from 16 to 20 November 2010;
3. *Recognizes* the crucial importance of the cooperation agreements established between Member States of the African Union and other regions of the world with a view to strategic partnership;
4. *Adopts* the proposal of Benin and requests the Commission in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee to take all necessary measures to implement this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.381 (XVII)

**Decision on Africa's Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);
Common Positions and Strategies in the Face of the Challenge of the Green Economy and
International Governance of the Environment
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XVII) Add.3)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposals by the Republic of Congo on "Africa's preparedness for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD-Rio+20): common position and strategies to face the Green Economy and an institutional framework for sustainable development"; and commends the relation between this Decision, and the theme of the Summit "Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development" as well as Article 19 of the African Youth Charter: "Sustainable Development and Protection of the Environment";
2. *Recognizes* in the theme of the Malabo Summit: "Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development", the importance for Africa to prepare itself for the Conference of the United Nations on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);
3. *Commends* the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and its partners for their commitment and initiatives to prepare Africa for Rio+20, and by this, commends further UNECA for having organized, in partnership with the Commission, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), two (2) workshops within the framework of Africa's preparations for Rio+20 on "Institutional and Strategic Frameworks for Sustainable Development in Africa" (March 2011), and the "Sustainable Development Indicators Framework for Africa" (10 to 11 March 2011);
4. *Urges* Member States to take note of the schedule of negotiations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the preparatory meetings at regional and world levels, to ensure the active participation of African negotiators and experts and to ensure that Africa's interests on the Green Economy issues within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and institutional frameworks for sustainable development are defined and taken into account;
5. *Urgently invites* Member States to work for a Common African Position on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will be finalized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in October 2011, and encourages the African Group to support the said position in a consensual manner during preparatory meetings for Rio+20 at regional and world levels and during the Conference itself to be organized in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 4 to 6 June 2012;
6. *Further invites* the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), AfDB, UNEP and Africa's sustainable development partners, to support Africa's efforts by mobilizing the necessary resources to facilitate the implementation of this Decision;
7. *Requests* Member States, AMCEN and other technical specialized organs of the AU, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UNECA, and AfDB, to put in place financial and institutional measures necessary at national, subregional and regional levels for the implementation of this Decision; and in this regard warmly welcomes the initiative of UNECA and partners for the organization of the future conference on Africa's preparations for Rio+20 scheduled for October 2011;
8. *Recognizes* that current institutional structures do not fully address Africa's needs in matters of the environment, sustainable development and climate change; within the context of revision of institutional frameworks for sustainable development, takes into consideration the need to strengthen, consolidate and transform UNEP into an international specialized institution for the environment based in Nairobi, Kenya;

9. *Approves* the proposal that Africa be represented by a spokesperson for the purpose of negotiating with one single voice at the international preparatory meetings for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and mandates the Republic of Congo to coordinate at the political level, in consultation with Member States, Africa's preparations for Rio+20, in close collaboration with AMCEN and ECA;

10. *Requests* the Commission to take all necessary measures to implement this Decision and the President of the Republic of the Congo, H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, to report to his peers, at the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2012 on the common African position and strategies arrived at for Rio+20, for consideration and adoption.

Assembly/AU/Dec.382 (XVII)

**Decision on the Jacques Diouf Prize on Food Security
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XVII) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of Mali and co-sponsored by the Republic of Malawi to create a "Jacques Diouf Prize";
2. *Recalls* the importance of agriculture and food security in Africa and encourages initiatives aimed at strengthening food security and the eradication of hunger and poverty on the continent;
3. *Congratulates* Dr. Jacques Diouf for his remarkable commitment to the development of agriculture and food security in Africa throughout his three (3) terms of office as Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
4. *Approves* the proposal by the Republic of Mali and co-sponsored by the Republic of Malawi to create a "Jacques Diouf Prize", on the basis of the recommendations of the Twenty-sixth Session of FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Luanda, Angola, from 4 to 7 July 2010;
5. *Decides* to award every two (2) years, the "Jacques Diouf Prize" to a Member State or institution that has made an outstanding contribution towards achieving food security, in particular, through the improvement of small-scale farming and elimination of post-harvest losses in rural communities, agriculture innovation and environmental sustainability;
6. *Invites* Member States and all partners to support the proposed "Jacques Diouf Prize" through voluntary contributions and to ensure its financial and environmental sustainability;
7. *Requests* the Commission to prepare and submit to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in January 2012 draft modalities for the process of selecting recipient Member States or institutions including resources mobilization.

Assembly/AU/Dec.383 (XVII)

**Decision on the Support of a Draft Resolution at the Sixty-sixth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to Ban Female Genital Mutilation in the World
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XVII) Add.5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by Burkina Faso for a resolution to be adopted at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to ban female genital mutilation (FGM) in the world;
2. *Recognizes* that female genital mutilation (FGM) is a gross violation of the fundamental human rights of women and girls, with serious repercussions on the lives of millions of people worldwide, especially women and girls in Africa;
3. *Recalls* the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted on 21 June 1981 by the Eighteenth Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the Organization of African Unity held in Nairobi, Kenya;
4. *Also recalls* the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted on 11 July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique, which in its Article 5 requires State parties to prohibit and condemn all forms of female genital mutilation through legislative measures enforced by sanctions;
5. *Commends* Member States and African Union initiatives to ban FGM and efforts to pursue the necessary steps for full implementation of the Maputo Protocol. At the same time, expresses deep concern at the continued practice of FGM in spite of numerous campaigns conducted over the last thirty (30) years;
6. *Calls upon* the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution at its sixty-sixth session to ban female genital mutilation worldwide, by harmonizing the actions of Member States and providing recommendations and guidelines for the development and strengthening of regional and international legal instruments and national legislation;
7. *Urges* all Member States to provide strong support for efforts to adopt a draft resolution to ban female genital mutilation worldwide, which draft will be submitted to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations;
8. *Invites* all Member States of the United Nations and other international organizations to support this initiative and contribute to its adoption after submission to the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly;
9. *Requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.384 (XVII)

**Decision on the Project to Establish the African Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technologies (CAETIC) In Tunis, Republic of Tunisia
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XVII) Add.7)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of Tunisia to establish an African Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technologies in Tunis;
2. *Underscores* the strategic dimension of the ICT sector for socio-economic development and the attainment of the MDGs in Africa;
3. *Recalls* the Abuja Declaration adopted by the Third Session of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Communications and Information Technologies held in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2010, which supports the establishment of an African continental ICT Centre of Excellence;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the role that the Centre will play in promoting ownership of ICTs by the continent, developing African competence and raising the awareness of decision-makers on the major issues of the sector;
5. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Tunisia, to begin the necessary negotiations with the various partners of Africa in order to implement the project;
6. *Also requests* the Commission to submit a report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.385 (XVII)

Decision on the Situation in Libya

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee on Libya on its activities since the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, on 25 May 2011;
2. *Pays tribute* to the Ad Hoc Committee and to its members for the commitment and determination with which they are carrying out the mandate entrusted to them by the 265th meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), held on 10 March 2011, and reaffirmed by the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held on 25 May 2011;
3. *Reaffirms* all earlier AU decisions on the situation in Libya and its conviction that only a political solution will make it possible to fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people and preserve the unity and territorial integrity of the country. In this respect, the Assembly stresses the continued relevance and validity of the AU Road Map as articulated by the PSC at its 265th meeting;
4. *Endorses* the proposals for a Framework Agreement on a Political Solution to the Crisis in Libya, as presented by the Ad Hoc Committee, within the context of the AU Road Map and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;
5. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to submit these proposals to the Libyan parties, namely the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Transitional National Council (TNC) of Libya, and to engage them on that basis, including through the early convening of negotiations under the auspices of the AU and the United Nations, with the support of the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the European Union;
6. *Urges* the Libyan parties to demonstrate the required political will, place the supreme interest of their country and people above any other considerations, and extend the necessary cooperation to the High-Level Ad Hoc Committee;
7. *Further urges* AU international partners, in particular the United Nations Security Council and its members and relevant bilateral partners, to support the African initiative and the search for a political solution, as the best way of achieving the mutually-reinforcing objectives of peace, democracy, the rule of law and national reconciliation in Libya. The Assembly underscores that the role of the AU is formally recognized by United Nations Security Council resolution 1973 (2011) and is fully consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and the unique contribution that the ad hoc Committee can make for the resolution of the current crisis;
8. *Requests* the ad hoc Committee to report regularly to the PSC and to its Eighteenth Ordinary Session on its efforts towards a political solution to the crisis in Libya.

Assembly/AU/Dec.386 (XVII)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee on
the New Partnership for Africa's Development
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Report by the Chairperson of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Twenty-fifth NEPAD HSGOC Meeting convened as a special session focusing on mobilizing domestic resources for NEPAD implementation in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of NEPAD in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001;
3. *Welcomes*, in particular, the tenth anniversary of NEPAD as a key milestone and unique occasion to deeply reflect on the mixed results over the past decade, lessons learned and the future of NEPAD within the context of Africa's development;
4. *Reaffirms* the continued relevance and uniqueness of the vision, sector priorities and core values enshrined in NEPAD as the flagship programme of the African Union (AU) to help realize Africa's development goals and appreciates the inspiring leadership and foresight of NEPAD initiators to ensure that Africa takes its rightful place in the global system;
5. *Notes with satisfaction* the substantial progress made in the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.282 (XIV) of the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2011 and commends the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) for working to strengthen NPCA's institutional capacity to deliver on its mandate;
6. *Reiterates* the urgent need for Member States to adequately fund NPCA and its programmes to ensure the delivery of its mandate given the current financing constraints and requests the PRC through its Subcommittee on Structural Reforms to finalize consideration of the structure of NPCA and make appropriate recommendations to the Assembly, through the Executive Council in January 2012;
7. *Also endorses* the implementation of key NEPAD regional and continental programmes and projects as reflected in the Activity Report for the period January to June 2011 specifically noting the progress on African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII); strategic engagement on rural futures; technical support to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) under the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF); National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs) under CAADP; Orphan Crops initiative; support for African Mining Vision on natural resources management; NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative; institutional development support to RECs under the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) and the launch of the second phase of NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment;
8. *Appreciates* the progress recorded to date relating to the implementation of the AU-NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative through the work of HSGOC High-Level Subcommittee under the leadership of H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, and notes the technical coordination led by the Commission and NPCA on the seven (7) prioritized projects while highlighting the need for enhanced coordination and sustained engagement with relevant countries and RECs;
9. *Underscores* the historic opportunity for Africa to, individually and collectively, scale-up the mobilization of additional domestic resources in support of NEPAD implementation to advance ownership, self-reliance and

development effectiveness, particularly noting the innovative forms of development finance including the broadening of the tax base, public-private partnerships (PPPs), subregional levies for multi-country projects, tackling illicit capital flows, climate financing and capital market options;

10. *Stresses* the need to transform existing political will on domestic development finance into concrete policy responses and actions. Accordingly requests the Commission and NPCA in conjunction with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other partners to recommend appropriate mechanisms on domestic resource mobilization and present them to the next HSGOC for consideration;

11. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the G8-Africa Partnership Summit held in Deauville, France, in May 2011 relating to shared values and responsibilities in consolidating the continent's good progress in peace and security, economic growth with mutual accountability as the main pillars of the partnership;

12. *Commends* the finalization of Africa's first assessment report on the G8-Africa partnership commitments arising from the close collaboration between AUC and NPCA and also welcomes the newly established practice of negotiating the G8 joint declaration on Africa initiated under the French Presidency of the G8 and urges the continuation of this practice;

13. *Reaffirms* full support for the G20 Seoul Development Consensus on Shared Growth as the new development paradigm and its consistency with the NEPAD vision and reiterates Africa's call for adequate and effective representation in the G20 and the underlined desire to continuously and constructively engage the G20 High-Level Infrastructure Panel on creative financing and investment options for the continent's infrastructure projects with the expressed position that the public sector remains the major player in infrastructure development;

14. *Recognizes* the invaluable opportunity provided by the upcoming global processes to convey the African voice and consensus on development policy issues including climate change and aid effectiveness;

15. *Welcomes* the hosting of the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by the Government of the Republic of South Africa in December 2011 signifying Africa's key interests in the global discourse on climate change and the joint coordination of the continent's preparations for the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea, by the Commission and NPCA under the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev) and in liaison with African stakeholders and regional institutions, including the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF), and reiterates the need for Africa to present unified positions at these global events.

Assembly/AU/Dec.387 (XVII)

Decision on the Offer by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to Host the Third Africa-South America Summit

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host the Third Africa–South America Summit (ASA) in Malabo, in October/November 2011;

2. *Notes* that the prevailing circumstances in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya which was to host this Summit do not make it possible for it to do so at the present time;

3. *Accepts* the offer by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host this Summit;

4. *Requests* the Commission to take necessary measures, in collaboration with the host country, to ensure the success of the Summit;

5. *Also requests* the Commission to submit a report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.388 (XVII)

Decision on the Use of Spanish within the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its previous decision on the introduction of Spanish within the African Union and the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in this regard;
2. *Requests* the Commission to take all the necessary measures to operationalize the use of Spanish within the African Union as soon as possible.

Assembly/AU/Dec.389 (XVII)

Decision on the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in Life Sciences

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the communication by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea regarding the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in Life Sciences;
2. *Supports* this Prize which will contribute to the promotion of research in the life sciences;
3. *Urges* UNESCO to implement the commitments already made in this respect as reflected in Decision 180 EX/57 of the Executive Board of this institution.

Assembly/AU/Dec.390 (XVII)

Decision on the Tenth Anniversary of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances (WCAR) and the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action (DDPA)

The Assembly,

1. *Notes* that 2011 will mark the tenth anniversary of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, and the subsequent adoption of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action;
2. *Recalls* all relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, in particular resolution 65/240 (2011) to hold a one (1)-day, high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the level of Head of State and government on 22 September 2011, on the margins of the general debate of the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on the theme “Victims of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; Recognition, Justice and Development”;
3. *Emphasizes* that the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action represents an important opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

4. *Underscores* the importance of international cooperation in achieving the goal of eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
5. *Decides* to fully support this commemorative event, encourages Member States to participate at the highest possible political level and supports the adoption of a political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XVII)

Declaration on Creating Employment for Accelerating Youth Development and Empowerment

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, from 30 June to 1 July 2011,

Deeply concerned about the rise in unemployment and underemployment in Africa, particularly among the youth and the serious threat they pose to social cohesion, political stability and the future socio-economic development prospects of our various countries,

Recalling the African Youth Charter and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa,

Also recalling the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation, the AU Social Policy Framework, the AU Migration Policy Framework, the African Women Decade 2010-2020, the African Youth Decade Plan of Action, 2009-2018, and other related policy documents, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, all together aimed at improving the well-being of African people,

Welcoming outcomes of the G20 Summits in London and Pittsburgh on strong, sustained and balanced global growth,

Convinced that employment promotion measures should be driven by interventions based upon solidarity and equality, transparency and accountability, and supported by the State, private sector, employers and trade unions, and civil society organizations to foster cohesion and social integration in African societies,

Further convinced that the promotion of productive youth employment is vital to youth empowerment,

Hereby commit to the following:

1. *Reaffirm*, individually and collectively, our previous commitments aimed at accelerating job creation, reduction of poverty, social protection for our people and the social development of Africa. In this regard, we rededicate ourselves and commit our countries to accelerate efforts to reduce unemployment and underemployment of Africa's youth and women and thereby attain all MDGs by 2015;
2. *Reduce* youth and women unemployment by at least two per cent annually over the next five years as contained in the Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018;
3. *Maintain, extend and harmonize* labour market information systems in support of employment policy formulation, implementation and evaluation;
4. *Improve and increase* responsiveness of the education and training systems to current and future labour market needs in order to address the pervasive and structural skills mismatch;
5. *Provide stewardship* as national governments and achieve policy coherence in national and regional certification frameworks for education and vocational training, as well as the development of integrated and cross-sectoral national and regional youth employment action plans;

6. *Accelerate* appropriate social protection coverage expansion for the youth, women, informal economy and rural workers and members of their families, in order to reduce poverty and vulnerability;
7. *Calls on* Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the African Youth Charter;
8. *Request* the Commission to work with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the RECs and international partners, on a comprehensive youth employment pact, with mechanisms that will ensure its implementation at the national level through strong ownership by the key line ministries, employers and trade union organizations, women and youth organizations and the private sector, with clear monitoring and evaluation systems;
9. *Request* the Commission, in close collaboration with the AfDB, to advocate for effective implementation of the G20 commitments made on labour and social protection during the London and Pittsburgh Summits to the benefit of African countries;
10. *Urge* the Commission, in close collaboration with the AfDB, to prepare and submit to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, the modalities for funding of the Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation;
11. *Request* the Commission to annually report to this Assembly on progress made in the implementation of this Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVII)

Solemn Declaration on Sudan

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting at our Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 30 June to 1 July 2011, reviewed the situation in Sudan. Our deliberations were informed by the progress that the Sudanese parties continue to make in their quest for lasting peace, justice and reconciliation in their country, in spite of the many challenges confronting them.

We reiterate our appreciation to the people of Sudan, under the leadership of President Omar Hassan Al Bashir and First Vice-President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), Salva Kiir Mayardit, for having successfully conducted the self-determination referendum of January 2011 for Southern Sudan, the main pillar of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). In so doing, the people and leaders of Sudan have, once again, demonstrated their capacity, with genuine support from the international community, to address the myriad of challenges confronting them. We commend President Al Bashir for having promptly accepted the results of the referendum, in keeping with the undertaking that he made to respect the will of the people of Southern Sudan, whatever their choice is.

As we look forward to welcoming Southern Sudan as the newest Member State of the African Union, immediately upon its independence on 9 July 2011, we would like to commend the people of northern Sudan, who have taken the unprecedented and generous step of accepting self-determination for their brethren. We emphasize that northern and southern Sudan are equally African nations.

We note with appreciation that our present Summit coincides with further progress in the resolution of the pending issues in the implementation process of the CPA. In this respect, we welcome the signing, in Addis Ababa, on 20 June 2011, by the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), of an Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, under the facilitation of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). This Agreement will enable security to be established and displaced persons to return to their homes in that district, as well as create conditions under which the Panel can make its recommendation on the final status of Abyei at a time to be agreed upon. We

commend the Government of Ethiopia for its invaluable contribution to the conclusion of this Agreement and for its decision to deploy a force, under a United Nations mandate, to facilitate its implementation.

We hail the Framework Agreement on Political Partnership and Political and Security Arrangements in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan, signed, under the facilitation of the AUHIP, in Addis Ababa, on 28 June 2011, by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (North), as a decisive step towards consolidating peace, security and democracy in the Republic of Sudan. We congratulate the parties on their commitment to the peaceful resolution of their differences and call upon them immediately to cease hostilities, allow humanitarian access, and facilitate the return of displaced persons to their homes.

We are confident that the Sudanese parties to the CPA will continue to demonstrate the commitment required to complete the implementation of the CPA and finalize the post-referendum negotiations, with the support of the AUHIP and in the spirit of creating two viable States, mutually supportive and at peace with one another.

We stress the need for renewed efforts to settle in a peaceful and comprehensive manner, the conflict in Darfur: the people of Darfur have suffered too much and for too long, and a lasting solution must be found for their predicament. In this respect, we note with satisfaction the conclusion of the Doha political talks and the endorsement by the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference held in Doha, from 27 to 31 May 2011, under the auspices of the Joint Chief Mediator and the Government of the State of Qatar, of the draft outcome document, which provides a basis for the achievement of peace.

Aware of the exceptional circumstances that Sudan is currently going through, we pledge, once again, our continued support to its efforts to decisively deal with the challenges facing it.

We strongly call on our partners within the international community to extend all the supports required to enable Sudan successfully complete the processes it is engaged in. In particular, we, once again, urge:

(i) The United Nations Security Council to positively respond to the AU's request for the deferral of the process initiated by the International Criminal Court (ICC), in line with Article 16 of the Rome Statute. In this respect, we request the African members of the Security Council, working closely with the Commission, to speedily table a draft resolution for consideration by this organ;

(ii) The complete normalization of relations between the international community and Sudan, as well as speedy steps for the cancellation of Sudan's debt, to ensure that its people can enjoy peace, dignity, democracy and development.

We express our support to the Doha Framework Document, and call upon all our partners and the other members of the international community to fully support it.

We urge all the armed movements in Darfur that have not yet done so to wholeheartedly and without any further delay, join the peace efforts. We request the Peace and Security Council to consider taking measures against armed movements refusing to join the peace process, and urge our partners, including the United Nations Security Council, to support such measures.

We reiterate our full support to the early launching of the Darfur Political Process led by the AUHIP and UNAMID, so as to achieve a comprehensive and inclusive peace in Darfur, and express our appreciation to the commendable work being done on the ground by UNAMID.

We commit the AU and engage the international community as a whole to continue to assist the peoples of Sudan as they open a new chapter in their history.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVII)

Resolution on the Lifting of the Economic and Trade Embargo Imposed on the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 30 June to 1 July 2011,

1. *Recall* our Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XV) adopted by our Assembly at its Fifteenth Ordinary Session held in Kampala, Uganda, on 27 July 2010, and in particular, the call made to the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba, and thus enable it to enjoy all the legitimate prospects for its sustained development;
2. *Reiterate* our call and once again invite the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable sanctions imposed on the Republic of Cuba.

EIGHTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
29 to 30 January 2012**

Assembly/AU/Dec.391 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Establishment of the Pan-African University
(Doc. EX.CL/691 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Decision of the Executive Council on the Report of the First Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF IV);
2. *Also takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson concerning the item on the launch of the Pan-African University (PAU) in December 2011;
3. *Commends* the Member States hosting the PAU Institutes in eastern, western, central and northern Africa, the Commission and the relevant partners that have committed financial, technical, intellectual and other resources to the realization of the high ideals of the Pan-African University;
4. *Requests* the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to expedite its decision on the hosting of the PAU thematic hub on Space Sciences;
5. *Also requests* the Commission to operationalize the Pan-African University in collaboration with Member States, Regional Economic Communities and relevant partners, by launching calls for Member States to host PAU Centres, the establishment of the PAU Rectorate; the appointment of the PAU Council and Senate, as well as recruitment of staff and registration of students in accordance with the PAU Statute, to ensure that the first PAU students are admitted by October 2012;
6. *Further requests* the Commission to report on a regular basis on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council through the Permanent Representatives Committee.

Assembly/AU/Dec.392 (XVIII)

**Decision on African Integration
(Doc. EX.CL/693 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report and Declaration of the Fifth African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers in charge of Integration (COMAI V) held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 8 to 9 September 2011;
2. *Decides* to devote, in line with conditions to be determined by the Commission, one of its ordinary sessions to considering development and integration issues;
3. *Adopts* the first Plan of Action of the Minimum Integration Programme and requests the Commission to set up a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the Plan;
4. *Invites* Member States to speed up the integration process by empowering regional and continental organizations in the specific areas in which consensus has been reached and to initiate, in this regard, actions to:
 - (i) Promote free movement of persons, goods, services and capital;
 - (ii) Speed up the ratification and effective implementation of legal instruments adopted within the framework of the integration process; and

(iii) Emphasize intra-Africa partnerships;

5. *Also invites* Member States, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to develop programmes and multinational projects in areas such as water, energy, the environment, health and control of cross-border pandemics like HIV/AIDS, Ebola fever, Rift Valley fever and yellow fever;

6. *Urges* Member States to internalize the relevant legal instruments and to take into account regional and continental integration programmes and projects in their planning processes, and also include a commitment to the integration process in their legislation;

7. *Invites* the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) to draw inspiration from the tripartite arrangement between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC), and create a second pole of integration so as to speed up the establishment of the African Economic Community;

8. *Requests* the Commission, in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), to develop an effective strategy for sustainable growth and development to take African countries out of the group of least developed countries (LDCs);

9. *Also requests* the Commission to submit to the Executive Council through the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) a report on the status of integration.

Assembly/AU/Dec.393 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Global African Diaspora Summit
(Doc. EX.CL/696 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Diaspora Ministerial Conference held on 24 September 2011 and endorses the outcomes and conclusions;

2. *Approves* the Road Map, schedule of activities and calendar of events proposed as lead up to the Summit and the follow-up processes;

3. *Commends* the efforts made by the Commission and the Government of South Africa in active preparation for the Global Diaspora Summit on 25 May 2012;

4. *Requests* the Commission and the Government of South Africa to continue their active collaboration and take all necessary measures to ensure the successful planning and conduct of the Global Africa Diaspora Summit;

5. *Also requests* the Commission to consider and prepare a framework document on the representation of the African Diaspora in AU structures and processes in line with previous decisions of AU policy organs;

6. *Reaffirms* its decision that the diaspora issue remains a standing item on the agenda of summit meetings;

7. *Calls upon* all Member States and relevant AU partners and diaspora communities worldwide to support the effective preparation and conduct of the Global African Diaspora Summit and its implementation strategy thereafter;

8. *Requests* the Commission to report on the outcomes of the African Diaspora Summit to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII)

**Decision on Boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the Continental Free Trade Area
(Doc. EX.CL/700 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Trade held in Accra, Ghana, from 29 November to 3 December 2011;

2. *Recognizes* that the promotion of intra-African trade is a fundamental factor for sustainable economic development, employment generation and effective integration of Africa into the global economy;

3. *Endorses* the Framework, Road Map and Architecture for Fast Tracking the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade, with the understanding that the High-Level African Trade Committee (HATC) will provide a facilitating role and unlock any blockages that might arise and requests the ministers responsible for the CFTA to report, as appropriate, to the Assembly, through the Executive Council, on progress;

4. *Decides* that the CFTA should be operationalized by the indicative date of 2017, based on the Framework, Road Map and Architecture, with the following appropriate milestones:

(i) Finalization of the East African Community (EAC) – the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) – Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite FTA initiative by 2014;

(ii) Completion of FTA(s) by Non-Tripartite RECs, through parallel arrangement(s) similar to the EAC-COMESA-SADC Tripartite Initiative or reflecting the preferences of their Member States, between 2012 and 2014;

(iii) Consolidation of the Tripartite and other regional FTAs into a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) initiative between 2015 and 2016;

(iv) Establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by 2017 with the option to review the target date according to progress made;

5. *Requests* Member States supported by the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to drive the process of boosting intra-African trade and the CFTA negotiations through the implementation of the short, medium and long-term programmes and activities contained in the Action Plan at the national, regional and continental levels;

6. *Also requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the RECs and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), to establish a core group of experts from Member States with a view to developing a framework by December 2012 for conclusion of a draft agreement on rules of origin;

7. *Calls upon* UNECA, the African Development Bank and other relevant development partners, to support the implementation of the Action Plan and the establishment of the CFTA;

8. *Requests* the Commission to assess the impact on African countries, of the proposal to extend duty free, quota free access to least developed countries (LDCs) and low-income countries (LICs) before transmitting it to the G20;

9. *Also requests* the Commission to report on a regular basis on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council through the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC).

Assembly/AU/Dec.395 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/705 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) including the Strategic Framework for AWA and initiatives to accelerate action to achieve African Union commitments to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa;
2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the PRC on this report;
3. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.6 (II) by which AWA was recognized as an advocacy platform at Africa's top leadership level and by which the AWA Secretariat was relocated to the Commission;
4. *Decides to:*
 - (i) Revitalize AWA as an AU Heads of State and Government Advocacy and Accountability Platform, as well as mobilize resources to fight these diseases;
 - (ii) Broaden the representation in AWA to be continent-wide;
 - (iii) Extend the mandate of AWA to include tuberculosis and malaria in addition to HIV/AIDS;
 - (iv) Strengthen the AWA Secretariat at the Commission to enable it to fulfil its new mandates;
5. *Urges* Heads of State and Government of AWA to intensify their efforts to maximize the visibility of AWA as an advocacy and accountability platform;
6. *Calls upon* relevant development partners and stakeholders at national, regional and continental levels to provide sustained support to countries, including resource mobilization, in order to achieve Africa's commitments on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;
7. *Requests* the Commission to provide a breakdown of the financial implications of the revitalization of AWA on the 2013 AU budget to the Executive Council in June 2012;
8. *Also requests* the Commission to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the AWA Strategic Framework, and to report annually to the ordinary sessions of the Assembly on progress made.

Assembly/AU/Dec.396 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc: EX.CL/708 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East; and recalls all resolutions and decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the Situation in Palestine and to achieve lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

2. *Reaffirms* its full support to the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to end the Israeli occupation in order to establish their independent State, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people;
3. *Also reaffirms* its support for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions to ensure the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the borders of June 1967, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital;
4. *Further reaffirms* its support for the Palestinians' efforts to obtain full membership for the State of Palestine in the United Nations and its specialized agencies;
5. *Welcomes* the acceptance of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and considers it as an important step in the right direction and to entrench the rights of the Palestinian people, to achieve their sovereignty over their territory and homeland through the accession of their State to the United Nations and its organizations;
6. *Reiterates* its full support for the efforts made by the President of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Chairman of the State of Palestine, President Mahmoud Abbas, aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace at the Middle East and supports the efforts of Palestinian and Arab leaders in achieving reconciliation on the question of Palestine;
7. *Condemns* all Israeli actions related to changing the cultural landmarks and historic city of Jerusalem, through the policy of Judaization, by demolition of houses and the expulsion and destruction of historic monuments of Islamic and Christian sanctities, the construction of a "Gate Maghareba" Bridge, the apartheid wall and the expansion of illegal settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem;
8. *Holds* Israel responsible for the faltering peace process and negotiations, and condemns the continuation of expansion of settlements that the United Nations considers as void and illegal, imposed on the Palestinian territories since the fifth of June 1967 and a major obstacle in the way of peace;
9. *Calls on* the United Nations and the Quartet to take immediate action and also calls on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and to maximize its pressure on Israel to halt the settlement immediately. Further calls for commitment to the peace process and negotiations avenue, to maintain security, peace and stability and to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on the principle of a two-State solution according to the borders of 4 June 1967. Finally calls for the application of the provisions of the relevant international law and previous Security Council resolutions in this regard;
10. *Condemns* Israeli inhuman practices against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and expresses its deep concern at the deteriorating humanitarian and economic situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially Gaza Strip, as a result of the blockade and Israeli illegal activities, and demands respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention;
11. *Calls on* Israel to abide by the decision of the United Nations and to sign the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in order to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction;
12. *Confirms* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace can be achieved only through full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab and Palestinian territories to the lines of June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and Lebanese territories;
13. *Requests* the Commission to take appropriate steps to revive the African Committee on the Question of Palestine;

14. *Also requests* Member States that have not yet done so, to recognize the State of Palestine.

Assembly/AU/Dec.397 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the
Assembly Decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC)
(Doc. EX.CL/710 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Assembly Decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC);
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraphs (h) and (o), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Stresses* the need to explore ways and means to ensure that the request by the African Union (AU) to the United Nations Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against President Bashir of Sudan in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC on deferral of cases by the United Nations Security Council, be acted upon and, in this regard, reiterates its request to the United Nations Security Council and requests African members of the United Nations Security Council to place the matter on the agenda of the Council;
4. *Recognizes* the efforts by African Members of the United Nations Security Council to initiate dialogue and discussions on the issue of placing the AU's request for deferral under Article 16 of the Rome Statute, both with regard to Sudan and Kenya on the United Nations Security Council agenda and encourages African non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to pursue their efforts in this regard;
5. *Requests* the Group of African States parties to the Rome Statute in New York and in The Hague as well as African members of the United Nations Security Council to scrupulously follow up on the implementation of Assembly decisions on the ICC in collaboration with the Commission to ensure that African proposals and concerns are properly considered by the United Nations Security Council and the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute;
6. *Reaffirms* its understanding that Article 98, paragraph 1, was included in the Rome Statute establishing the ICC out of recognition that the Statute is not capable of removing an immunity which international law grants to the officials of States that are not parties to the Rome Statute, and by referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC, the United Nations Security Council intended that the Rome Statute would be applicable, including Article 98;
7. *Also reaffirms* that by receiving President Bashir, the Republic of Malawi, like Djibouti, Chad and Kenya before her, were implementing various AU Assembly decisions on non-cooperation with the ICC on the arrest and surrender of President Omar Hassan Al Bashir of Sudan;
8. *Urges* all Member States to comply with Assembly decisions on the warrants of arrest issued by the ICC against President Bashir of Sudan pursuant to Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act and Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC;
9. *Regrets* that the AU's endorsement of two (2) persons as sole African candidates for the post of judge of the ICC was not respected by some Member States and requests that this situation, as it repeats itself in several other instances, be considered by the Commission together with the Permanent Representatives Committee with a view to identifying ways and means of addressing it, in order to find a durable solution that will strengthen the African common positions and endorsements, and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Council;

10. *Requests* the Commission to consider seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice regarding the immunities of State officials under international law;
11. *Also requests* the Commission to place the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Assembly Decisions on the ICC on the agenda of the forthcoming Meeting of Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General for additional input;
12. *Further requests* the Commission to report on a regular basis on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.398 (XVIII)

Decision on the Theme, Date and Venue of the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.368 (XVII) adopted by its Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in July 2011, to have one theme per year;
2. *Decides* that the dates of the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly to be held in Lilongwe, Malawi, in June/July 2012, will be determined through consultations between the host country, the Chairperson of the Union and the Commission and shall be communicated to Member States as soon as possible.

Assembly/AU/Dec.399 (XVIII)

**Decision on the United Nations Conference on Climate Change
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on the Durban United Nations Climate Change Conference (the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 17), and the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 7), held from 28 November to 11 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa; and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Commends* the quality of leadership demonstrated by H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in his role as the Coordinator of CAHOSCC as well as the efforts exerted by the other members of the CAHOSCC, the Ministers of Environment (AMCEN), the Group of African Negotiators and the Commission in upholding the African Common Position on Climate Change and in defending it with a single voice;
3. *Also commends* the Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Government of the Republic of South Africa and other partners for the successful establishment and organization of the African Pavilion in Durban during the Climate Change Conference;
4. *Congratulates* H.E. President Jacob Zuma and the Republic of South Africa for having successfully hosted the Durban Climate Change Conference and for the exemplary leadership he demonstrated as President of the Conference, which was instrumental to the positive outcomes achieved in Durban;
5. *Calls upon* Member States to support the Durban Outcomes and South Africa in its capacity as the current President of the Conference of Parties;

6. *Requests* the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to nominate the three African Members to the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with the support of the Commission; and in consultation with the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) who will periodically report through the Commission to CAHOSCC;

7. *Requests also* the Commission to step up its efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards an effective Africa's preparation for the COP 18/CMP 8 scheduled to be held for later this year in Doha, Qatar.

Assembly/AU/Dec.400 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Africa Consensus Statement to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its "Decision on Africa's Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20): Common Positions and Strategies in the Face of the Challenge of the Green Economy and International Governance of the "Environment" (Doc. Assembly/AU/381 (XVII));

2. *Takes note* of the Report presented by Africa's Spokesperson and Political Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), H.E. Denis Sassou N'guesso, President of the Republic of Congo;

3. *Recognizes* that the theme of its Eighteenth Ordinary Session – "Boosting Intra-African Trade" – is closely linked to the two themes of Rio+20, namely, the "Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication" and the "Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development"; and further recognizes the importance of working to make Rio+20 a success for Africa;

4. *Reaffirms* that the transition to the green and blue economies offer new prospects of speeding up Africa's progress to sustainable development through economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction;

5. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development and to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, and reiterates Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.381 (XVII) which acknowledges that current institutional structures do not fully address Africa's environmental, sustainable development and climate change needs, in the context of consideration of the institutional frameworks of sustainable development;

6. *Calls on* the international community, at Rio+20, to take into account the need to strengthen and consolidate the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and transform it into a specialized international environmental institution to be based in Nairobi, Kenya;

7. *Approves* the Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20 adopted at the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference of the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 25 October 2011; commends the African Ministers and negotiators, the African Union Commission and the Conference of African Ministers of Environment (AMCEN) for the efforts invested in preparing and supporting the African Common Position on Rio+20, and urges the African Group, including the Permanent Representatives of African countries in New York, to continue to speak with one voice in the negotiations leading to the Rio+20 Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

8. *Urges* the Rio+20 Conference to adopt concrete measures, together with appropriate implementation tools to speed up the achievement of the commitments made towards sustainable development, and also urges the international community to renew its efforts to beef up official development assistance (ODA), grant debt relief, transfer green technology and promote equitable trade systems to help Africa to make sustainable development a reality;
9. *Requests* the African Union Commission in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) to engage in regular consultations in order to support African countries by providing them with necessary technical and financial assistance to enable them to participate effectively in the Rio+20 negotiation process;
10. *Also requests* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with UNECA, AfDB, UNEP, UNDP, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and other concerned partner organizations, to organize a training programme for the purpose of building the capacity of African negotiators in the Rio+20 process;
11. *Further requests* Member States to be represented at Rio+20 at the highest level, and urges the main groups and stakeholders, particularly the youth, women and the civil society to actively participate in the Rio+20 process working closely with African governments, and to advance Africa's sustainable development interests and priorities;
12. *Commends* H.E. Denis Sassou N'Guesso, President of the Republic of Congo, in his capacity as Africa's Spokesperson and Political Coordinator for Rio+20, and mandates him to consult with other States and regional groups such as the Group of 77 and China, the European Union, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), MERCOSUR, member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), South American countries, members of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA), the G8 and G20 in order to enlist their support for the Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20 and achieve the expected outcomes;
13. *Requests* the Republic of Congo to work with the African Union Commission, UNECA and other partner organizations to prepare a report on implementation of this Decision and the outcomes of Rio+20 for presentation to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.401 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Hissène Habré Case
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Assembly Decisions on the Hissène Habré case;
2. *Also takes note* of the willingness of the Republic of Rwanda to handle the trial of Hissène Habré;
3. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraph (h), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
4. *Takes note* that the Appeals Court of Senegal, has not yet pronounced itself on the request for extradition of Hissène Habré to Belgium;

5. *Requests* the Commission to continue consultations with partner countries and institutions and the Republic of Senegal and subsequently with the Republic of Rwanda with a view to ensuring the expeditious trial of Hissène Habré and to consider the practical modalities as well as the legal and financial implications of the trial;
6. *Requests* the Commission to closely monitor the implementation of this Decision and report accordingly to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.402 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Offer of the Republic of Chad to Host the Assembly of the African Union in June/July 2015
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XVIII) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the offer made by the Government of the Republic of Chad to host the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in June/July 2015;
2. *Accepts* the offer of the Republic of Chad to host the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in N'djamena, Chad;
3. *Requests* the Commission to set the exact dates for the holding of the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, in agreement with the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Republic of Chad.

Assembly/AU/Dec.403 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Establishment of the Secretariat of the African Union
Advisory Board on Corruption in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XVIII) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the offer by the United Republic of Tanzania to host the Secretariat of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption in Arusha;
2. *Recalls* the decision of the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001, and the Declaration adopted by the First Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002 which calls for the setting up of a coordinated mechanism to combat corruption effectively;
3. *Further recalls* Decisions EX.CL/603 (XVII) and EX.CL/680 (XIX) of the Seventeenth and Nineteenth Ordinary Sessions of the Executive Council held in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010, and Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2011, respectively, which requested the Commission to fully operationalize the Secretariat for the Advisory Board on Corruption;
4. *Recognizes* the importance of the role that the Secretariat will play in promoting and strengthening the development of the mechanisms required to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption and related offences in the public and private sectors in Africa;
5. *Further recognizes* the importance of the Advisory Board in establishing close collaboration with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in developing and promoting such mechanisms;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, to take necessary measures to ensure the successful establishment of the Secretariat;

7. *Also requests* the Commission to submit a report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.404 (XVIII)

**Decision on Integration as a Factor for African Renaissance
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XVIII) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal presented by the Republic of Togo;
2. *Commends* the President of the Republic of Togo, Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, for his thoughtful initiative to present such a crucial topic for discussion with his peers;
3. *Reaffirms* the provisions of the Accra Declaration (Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (IX)) on the ultimate objective of African integration and that this process is essential for the development and renaissance of Africa;
4. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the International Symposium on “Integration as a Factor for Africa’s Renaissance” held in Lomé, Togo, from 17 to 19 May 2011;
5. *Invites* Member States to join hands to map out more resilient regional and continental integration policies in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and in the African Union (AU) Commission with focus on priority actions capable of leading, in the shortest possible time, to the free movement of persons, goods and services, and to the building of various intra- and inter-community infrastructure required to speed up the integration process;
6. *Underscores* the need for the AU Commission, working closely with the RECs, to develop recommendations on currency convertibility as a crucial factor of economic and commercial integration;
7. *Invites* Member States to take the necessary steps to involve the peoples of Africa and the diaspora in the integration process, the sole guarantee of African renaissance and the affirmation of Africa in the concert of nations;
8. *Calls upon* the Secretariats of the RECs and the Commission, in collaboration with civil society organizations, to intensify efforts to initiate and undertake necessary actions to accelerate the integration process on the continent in furtherance of its economic, social and cultural development;
9. *Also calls upon* the AU Commission to submit on a regular basis reports on the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.405 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Institute of International Law
in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XVIII) Add.5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the offer by the United Republic of Tanzania to establish an African Institute of International Law in Arusha;

2. *Underscores* the strategic importance of such an institute dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law and the law of the African Union needed for the development of Africa;
3. *Recognizes* the importance of the role that the institute will play in building the capacity of African faculties of law and African lawyers in dealing with various aspects of international and African Union law including regional economic integration, human rights law, environmental law, dispute settlement, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide which the continent requires;
4. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, to take necessary measures and undertake negotiations with the African Foundation for International Law Institute and other partners in order to implement the project;
5. *Also requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.406 (XVIII)

**Decision Recognizing the Life and Work of Wangari Muta Maathai
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XVIII) Add.6)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recognizes* the role and contributions of Professor Wangari Maathai in the fields of environment, sustainable development and women's empowerment, as well as her unwavering dedication to promoting peace, democracy and human rights in Africa and the world at large, and pays tribute to this Africa's daughter and her contribution to the world;
2. *Acknowledges* Wangari Maathai's vision on protecting and promoting human well-being through her pioneering Green Belt Movement (GBM) and grass-roots activism, inspiring people to promote worldwide sustainable development;
3. *Also acknowledges* the achievements of Wangari Maathai, as the first African woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize recognizing her work to promote peace, security and sustainable development in Africa;
4. *Welcomes* the ongoing international movement involving governments, civil society organizations, regional and international institutions to honour the value, vision, contribution and dedication of Wangari Maathai, thus inspiring people to call for human rights, peace and democracy, and environmental conservation;
5. *Decides* in recognition of her numerous achievements in her capacity as the first Presiding Officer of the African Union-Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC), African Union Peace Ambassador, Founder of the Green Belt Movement, Goodwill Ambassador to the Congo Basin Forest Initiative, United Nations Peace Messenger for Environment and Climate, and UNEP Champion of the Earth, to designate 3 March as Wangari Maathai Day to be observed in conjunction with Africa Environment Day, each year beginning in 2012;
6. *Mandates* the African Union (AU) Commission to take the necessary measures, together with Member States, for the observance of Wangari Maathai Day by the African Union, and as such, calls upon all Member States, United Nations agencies, and international and civil society organizations, to actively observe Wangari Maathai Day;
7. *Encourages* Member States to name public landmarks including streets, parks, squares, schools and institutes of peace in universities and other national monuments after Wangari Maathai, as a way to memorialize her life's work and serve as a tribute to inspire current and future generations to preserve the planet;

8. *Also encourages* schools and universities to set up educational instruments and scholarship funds under the name of Wangari Maathai, to support students in the field of environment and sustainable development;
9. *Further encourages* the AU Commission, within the framework of the Make Peace Happen Campaign, as well as Member States, the private sector, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and other related international organizations and foundations, in cooperation with the Green Belt Movement, to take all the necessary measures to mobilize resources in support of the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, as an African Centre of Excellence, to encourage research on environmental governance and its linkages with peace, human rights and democracy in Africa;
10. *Decides* to create the “Wangari Maathai Award for Outstanding African Achievements in Environment and Biodiversity Conservation” recognizing outstanding achievements of individuals committed to preserving the environment, and requests the Commission, in collaboration with the Republic of Kenya, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Green Belt Movement and other interested parties to define the modalities of establishing the Award and report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June/July 2012 on ways to operationalize this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.407 (XVIII)

**Decision on the African Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XVIII) Add. 7)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its Kampala Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.303 (XV) endorsing the African bid to host the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) on the African continent;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Republic of South Africa in submitting the final African SKA bid documents to the Founding Board of the SKA;
3. *Also expresses its gratitude* to Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Kenya and Zambia under the coordination of the Republic of South Africa, for providing diplomatic, regulatory, technical and logistical support for this bid;
4. *Encourages* the parties concerned to intensify efforts and continue to support the ongoing processes and mobilize the support of the international community;
5. *Stresses* the significant potential of investment in African Radio Astronomy initiatives, such as the planned African Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) Network, to rapidly enhance Africa’s science and technology capacities, and therefore;
6. *Proposes* the inclusion of Radio Astronomy as a priority focus area for Africa’s international science and technology partnerships, such as the Eighth Africa-European Union (EU) Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space;
7. *Calls upon* other Member States, the Commission, and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to support the African SKA bid both directly and in all relevant forums where such support would promote the success of the bid, leading towards the final decision expected to be made in 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.408 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa**

(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XVIII))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the promotion of lasting peace, security and stability in Africa. Commends the PSC and the Commission, as well as the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), for their commitment and efforts;
3. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the consolidation of peace in Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia. Encourages all the actors concerned to be untiring in their efforts, especially as regards the deepening of national reconciliation, the promotion of good governance and democracy, the reform of the security sector, as well as the acceleration of economic revival;
4. *Notes also with satisfaction* the significant progress made in the transitional processes in Tunisia and Egypt and reiterates its full support for the ongoing efforts. Expresses satisfaction at the measures taken by the new Libyan authorities to promote reconciliation among all Libyans and for an inclusive transition that would culminate in democratic elections, as well as their commitment to ensure the security of African migrant workers in Libya. Requests the Commission to accelerate the process of establishing an AU Liaison Office in Libya, in conformity with the decision of the PSC;
5. *Commends* the signing in Antananarivo, on 16 September 2011, of the Road Map to end the crisis in Madagascar and the measures taken within the framework of its implementation, and encourages the Malagasy parties to spare no effort to bring the transition to a successful conclusion. Salutes SADC for the significant results it has achieved in the search for a negotiated solution to the crisis and invites the Commission to continue to support the implementation of the Road Map and to mobilize the support of the international community to this end, including through the expeditious opening of the AU/SADC Liaison Office in Antananarivo;
6. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the progress made in the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, in particular the gains made on the ground, as well as the adoption of the Political Road Map in September 2011. Welcomes the steps being taken for the strengthening of AMISOM and TFG forces to take advantage of the current momentum on the ground and further peace and reconciliation; urges the United Nations Security Council to expeditiously endorse the new Strategic Concept for future AMISOM operations, as adopted by the PSC and to authorize the required support through assessed contributions; commends AMISOM for its outstanding achievements and pays tribute to the Governments of Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, as well as to IGAD, for their commitment to the achievement of lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia; also calls on the Somali stakeholders to demonstrate the required unity of purpose and commitment for the full implementation of the Political Road Map; calls on all AU partners to extend the necessary support to the ongoing efforts, as well as humanitarian assistance to the needy populations, particularly in view of the drought that affected Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa; looks forward to the outcome of the London meeting of 23 February 2012, which provides an opportunity for enhanced mobilization of the international community in support of the Somali people and the AU's efforts;
7. *Welcomes* the adoption of resolution 2023 (2011) by the United Nations Security Council which condemned Eritrea for its destabilization activities in Somalia and in the region, and urges the Council to ensure full implementation of both this resolution and resolution 1907 (2009); further welcomes the communiqué issued by the 309th Meeting of the PSC which underscored the need to ensure full implementation of these and other relevant resolutions; calls upon Member States to take adequate measures to fully implement the provisions of

these resolutions; and urges the State of Eritrea to fully comply with these resolutions and desist from its destabilization activities in Somalia and in the region;¹

8. *Also welcomes* the adoption, on 14 July 2011, of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and the signing of an Agreement between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), encourages the parties to fully implement the commitments made, calls on the holdout groups to join the peace process without any further delay, and appeals to the international community to extend the necessary support to this process; reiterates its full support for the efforts of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) towards the launch of the Darfur Political Process (DPP), in line with the AU policy on Darfur, as encapsulated in the report and recommendations of the AU Panel on Darfur (AUPD), which provides a comprehensive road map for peace in Darfur; commends the AU-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for its invaluable contribution to peace and security in Darfur; deplores the ongoing fighting in some parts of Blue Nile and South Kordofan, stresses the urgent need for the two parties to immediately cease hostilities, and facilitate humanitarian access to those in need and the return of IDPs and refugees; and, in this respect, requests the AUHIP to continue the efforts it has initiated regarding the two areas;

9. *Expresses concern* at the difficulties in the post-secession negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan, calls on the two countries to immediately halt and reverse the unilateral actions they have taken regarding the issue of oil, which can only threaten their economic prospects and relations, and requests them to extend full cooperation to the AUHIP in order to speedily reach agreement on all outstanding issues, in line with the agreed principle of two viable States, in peace with each other and mutually supportive. The Assembly commends IGAD for its continued commitment and efforts to the resolution of the current difficulties, expresses appreciation to the AU multilateral and bilateral partners for their support to the AUHIP efforts and appeals for continued coordination to expedite the conclusion of the ongoing negotiations;

10. *Expresses concern* at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and reiterates the AU's call for renewed African efforts to help the two countries to overcome the current difficulties, normalize their relations and lay the foundation for lasting peace and security in the Horn of Africa; also reiterates the urgent need for the full and scrupulous implementation of the 6 June 2010 Agreement between Djibouti and Eritrea, and requests the PSC to actively follow up on the matter and report to it accordingly;

11. *Welcomes* the launch of the Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), commends the Commission and the countries concerned for the steps already taken and encourages them to expedite the full operationalization of the Initiative; expresses the AU'S gratitude to the international partners which have extended support to the efforts being deployed for the elimination of the LRA;

12. *Stresses* the need for renewed efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction and development in order to consolidate peace where it has been achieved. In this respect, welcomes the steps being taken by the Commission for the launch of an African Solidarity Initiative to support Member States emerging from conflicts and looks forward to the launch of the Initiative in the margins of its next ordinary session;

13. *Reiterates* the importance it attaches to the implementation of the AU Border Programme (AUBP), welcomes the significant results achieved so far and encourages the Commission to pursue and intensify the efforts being deployed. In this respect, calls for the expeditious finalization of the draft Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation and requests Member States to facilitate this process by attending at the appropriate level the ministerial conference being planned by the Commission to this end;

14. *Reiterates AU'S deep concern* at the proliferation of weapons in the Sahelo-Saharan region and the risks this situation poses for long-term security and stability, condemns strongly the activities of armed groups in the region, including the recent attacks perpetrated in the northern part of Mali, expresses its full support for the efforts being made by the countries of the region, with the support of the AU, welcomes the initiative by the

¹ Reservation by the State of Eritrea.

Commission to organize, on the margins of the ordinary session of the Executive Council, a consultation on the outcome of the assessment mission on the security fallout of the Libyan crisis, and requests the PSC to consider, with the participation of the countries of the region, the impact of this crisis and further concrete modalities through which the AU can strengthen the efforts of the region and mobilize adequate international assistance in support of the priorities identified by the affected countries;

15. *Expresses deep concern* at the spate of terrorist attacks in different parts of the continent, in particular, in Nigeria, strongly condemns these terrorist attacks and requests the Commission, in particular through the African Centre on the Research and Study on Terrorism (ACRST) and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission, to facilitate an enhanced and coordinated response to this threat, particularly in view of the emerging linkages among terrorist groups, as well as between these terrorist groups and criminal networks;

16. *Welcomes* the comprehensive report submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission on the AU-United Nations Partnership on Peace and Security and the subsequent PSC decision articulating the AU's vision of this partnership; expresses its gratitude to President Jacob Zuma for the initiative to convene a meeting of the Security Council on the issue on 12 January 2012 and for having personally chaired the deliberations; reiterates Africa's position on the urgency and need for a stronger partnership based on a forward-looking reading of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and underpinned by the following principles: support to African ownership and priority setting; consultative decision-making; division of labour and sharing of responsibilities; and effective use of the respective comparative advantages of the two organizations; and requests the Commission to actively follow up on this matter and to provide regular reports

Assembly/AU/Dec.409 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Tenth Report of the Committee of Ten on the United Nations Security Council Reform
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
2. *Also takes note* of the recent developments in the intergovernmental negotiations on the United Nations Security Council reform;
3. *Reaffirms* the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration containing the African Common Position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;
4. *Underscores* the need for Africa to continue to speak with one voice and cohesively on all issues in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations, in order to build on the gains so far achieved by Africa and ensure that the interest of the continent continues to be maintained and safeguarded at all times;
5. *Commends* the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in promoting and defending the continent's interest in the United Nations Security Council reform process;
6. *Requests* the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations participating in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the United Nations Security Council reform, to continue to work closely with other African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, and to continue to dialogue with and engage other Member States and interest groups in the reform process, with a view to advocating, canvassing and promoting the African Common Position;
7. *Encourages* the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations to continue to build on and intensify its efforts directed at forging alliances in support of the African Common

Position with diverse interest groups engaged in the intergovernmental negotiations, and to seek any further guidance if necessary, in furtherance of its mandate;

8. *Requests* the Commission to continue to facilitate the activities of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in the intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform and related consultations thereon;

9. *Also requests* the Committee of Ten to continue to intensify efforts in advocating, canvassing and promoting the African Common Position to endeavour to reach out at the highest political levels for the purpose of garnering and galvanizing the necessary political will in support of the African Common Position;

10. *Reiterates* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and requests the Committee to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June/July 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.410 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Contributions of Member States to the Budget of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/687 (XX) iv)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the contributions of Member States to the budget of the African Union;
2. *Acknowledges* Member States that are up-to-date with the payment of their contributions;
3. *Urges* Member States to pay up their contributions in full and on time; and encourages those Member States with arrears of contributions to clear such arrears;
4. *Decides* that the sanctions imposed on Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic be lifted;
5. *Further decides* that the temporary exemption granted to the Democratic Republic of Congo be extended as long as the country complies with its payment schedule;
6. *Requests* the Executive Council through its Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Scale of Assessment to consider the cases of the Republic of Sudan and of the Republic of South Sudan with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in June 2012.

Assembly/AU/Dec.411 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Election of Ten Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/715 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of ten (10) Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following ten (10) States as Members of the Peace and Security Council for a two-year term effective from March 2012:

(1) Cameroon

Central Region;

(2) Congo	Central Region;
(3) Djibouti	Eastern Region;
(4) Tanzania	Eastern Region;
(5) Egypt	Northern Region;
(6) Angola	Southern Region;
(7) Lesotho	Southern Region;
(8) Côte d'Ivoire	Western Region;
(9) Gambia	Western Region;
(10) Guinea	Western Region.

Assembly/AU/Dec.412 (XVIII)

Decision on the Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Organization of African Unity

The Assembly,

1. *Pays special tribute* to the generations of Pan-Africanists and the founding fathers of our continental organization who strived to promote unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.361 (XVI) to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 May 2013;
3. *Expresses its deepest appreciation* to the OAU for its historic role in the liberation of the peoples of Africa from the yoke of colonialism and apartheid as well as for its invaluable contribution towards the objective of achieving unity on our continent;
4. *Declares* 2013 as the Year of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance;
5. *Decides* that the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the OAU shall be celebrated by highlighting the ideals of Pan-Africanism and Africa's aspirations for peace, democracy, development and unity;
6. *Reiterates* its request to the Commission to make the necessary arrangements for this celebration, in close collaboration with the host country, Ethiopia, and all other Member States;
7. *Requests* the Commission to coordinate activities for an inclusive and participatory process of reflection on the last fifty years of efforts towards African unity, with the intention of defining Pan-Africanism for the coming generation;
8. *Encourages* Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in coordination with the Commission to organize various activities including media events, debates and competitions in schools and universities, public opinion surveys, sessions in local and national legislatures, and other activities to celebrate the year of Pan-Africanism and enhance the awareness of the new generation of Africans about the ideals of Pan-Africanism and African renaissance.

Assembly/AU/Dec.413 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee on
the New Partnership for Africa's Development
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Report by the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Twenty-sixth NEPAD HSGOC Meeting;
3. *Notes with satisfaction* the steady progress towards results-based performance by the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) in delivering its mandate based on Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.282 (XIV) of the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly and commends the improved working relations with the African Union (AU) Commission and increasing linkages between NPCA, Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
4. *Expresses deep concern* that the NPCA organizational structure is yet to be finalized two years after the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU, and therefore requests the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) through its Subcommittee on Structural Reforms to consider as a matter of urgency the finalization of the NPCA structure by March 2012 for subsequent approval by the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly;
5. *Emphasizes* the vital importance of recommending a practical and efficient structure for NPCA that adequately reflects and is consistent with its mandate to enable it to effectively implement the core objectives of NEPAD as the programme of the AU, and requests that the process of finalizing the NPCA structure should include appropriate consultations with the Commission, the NEPAD Steering Committee and NPCA;
6. *Endorses* the implementation of key NEPAD regional and continental programmes and projects as reflected in the NPCA Activity Report for the period July to December 2011, particularly noting the progress regarding the technical support to Member States on the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) investment plans; Rural Futures Programme; Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF); the signed Terrafrica Leverage Fund to enhance Sustainable Land and Water (SLW) management; African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) with current focus on the East African Community (EAC); set up of Capacity Development Expert Pool with UNDP support under the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev); South Sudan Development Initiative (SSDI) in conjunction with UNECA and UNDP; and Natural Resources Governance to advance the African Mining Vision;
7. *Notes* the increasing efforts of African governments to mobilize domestic resources in the face of the current impact of the global financial crisis and reiterates the critical need to creatively reassess predictable and sustainable funding options in support of implementing prioritized national and NEPAD programmes and projects;
8. *Accordingly requests* the NPCA and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in partnership with relevant institutions, to undertake an in-depth study to explore strategies and viable modalities to improve the mobilization of domestic resources as development finance which will be submitted to the NEPAD HSGOC for consideration;
9. *Recalls* Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XII) of the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of January 2009 which resolved to support the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) as the unique

strategic and sectoral framework in Africa to promote physical integration of the continent and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the NEPAD goals of promoting sustainable growth and development for which infrastructure is a major cornerstone;

10. *Approves* the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the Institutional Architecture for its implementation and resolves to include national priorities, the various programmes and projects contained in the Priority Action Plan (PAP) of PIDA, with special consideration for island States and to proceed with the expeditious implementation of the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA) which identifies NPCA as executing agency;

11. *Underscores* the need for the promotion of innovative financing mechanisms reflecting Africa's real commitment to speed up infrastructure development with the overriding need to commit sufficient resources for project preparation; and requests the Commission to take all the necessary measures in coordination with NPCA, to ensure the accelerated implementation of PIDA and to report annually thereon;

12. *Commends* the good progress achieved in the implementation of prioritized projects under the AU-NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) through the work of HSGOC High-Level Subcommittee chaired by H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, while recognizing the pressing need to address challenges of upgrade, maintenance and effective utilization of existing infrastructure to boost intra-African trade for meaningful growth and deepen regional integration;

13. *Acknowledges* the technical inputs of national focal points for PICI projects to designing appropriate regional standards for public-private partnerships (PPPs) as the foundational platform to strengthen infrastructure development on the continent with emphasis on constructive engagement with RECs and welcomes the offer by the Government of the Republic of South Africa as Chairperson of PICI to convene a high-level meeting of all stakeholders, including the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC), to engage on redesigning the parameters of the North-South Corridor;

14. *Re-emphasizes* the shared principles of ownership, transparency, mutual accountability in strengthening Africa's partnership with the G8 in support of the continent's development priorities and notes the development-related outcomes of the G20 Summit held in November 2011 in Cannes, France, particularly the G20 High-Level Panel (HLP) on Infrastructure and the call on support for project implementation by multilateral development banks (MDBs); and supports the strengthening of emergency and long-term responses to food insecurity by fostering investments in agriculture, mitigating price volatility impact especially in low-income countries and set-up of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional emergency food reserve system;

15. *Examines* the prospects for Africa's partnership with the G8 and G20 in 2012, underscoring the importance of ensuring that Africa's priorities are adequately reflected on the 2012 agenda of the two global forums and therefore requests the Commission and NPCA to promptly consult with the Governments of the United States of America and Mexico as countries holding the 2012 Presidency of the G8 and G20, respectively, towards this objective;

16. *Welcomes* the key outcomes of the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in December 2011 as reflected in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, particularly the policy shift from aid to development effectiveness and the commitment to the use and strengthening of country systems as the default approach to enhance appropriate capacities to achieve better development results;

17. *Commends* the conscientious and unified efforts of African countries, regional institutions and stakeholders to rally behind the first-ever African Consensus and Position on Development Effectiveness premised on South-South and Trilateral Cooperation, Financing for Development and Capacity Development which was

developed through the facilitation and technical support of the Commission and NPCA, under the umbrella of Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev);

18. *Reiterates* that Africa should take necessary follow-up actions to implement the post-Busan agenda through inclusive and Africa-wide consultations in shaping the new global partnership based on the continent's context and requests the Commission and NPCA to actively engage the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in ensuring that Africa's voice and representation are taken into account in the emerging global partnership arrangements, for results-oriented partnership for effective development cooperation;

19. *Commends* the Government of the Republic of South Africa for successfully hosting the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in December 2011 with historic and precedent-setting outcomes based on the sterling work of H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as Chairperson of Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) and contributions of Member States;

20. *Requests* NPCA in collaboration with the Commission and partner institutions including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UNECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to continue to support the African process and follow up on the negotiations on climate change particularly the outcomes of COP 17 as well as for NPCA to facilitate the development, implementation and coordination of adaptation actions including building adaptive capacities at national and regional levels to strengthen sectoral resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change;

21. *Takes note* of significant progress achieved on AIDS response across Africa over the past decade, in particular the historic achievement of putting over five million people on treatment and reducing the rate of new infections by over twenty-five per cent in a substantial number of countries, but expresses concern over the current funding crisis facing AIDS response given the impact of the global financial crisis and requests the Commission and NPCA in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to work out a road map of shared responsibility to draw on African efforts for viable health funding streams with support of traditional and emerging partners to address AIDS dependency response;

22. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts to strengthen United Nations system-wide support for NEPAD implementation through closer collaboration between NPCA and United Nations agencies especially the key roles of UNECA, UNDP and the United Nations Office of Special Adviser on Africa (UN-OSAA) and in this regard, welcomes the 2011 Report of Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness (MRDE) produced by UNECA/OECD; Conclusions of Twelfth United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM-Africa); 2011 Report on UNDP Human Development - Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All; and the Tenth NEPAD Anniversary Week at the sixty-sixth United Nations General Assembly in New York in October 2011;

23. *Reaffirms* the overall significance of forward looking approaches towards the swift implementation of NEPAD in the next decade following the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of NEPAD in 2011 and welcomes the planned NEPAD Colloquium and Fund-Raising as prime multi-stakeholder events in March 2012 to round up the anniversary.

Assembly/AU/Dec.414 (XVIII)

Decision on the Election of Members of the Commission

The Assembly,

Having conducted the election of the Chairperson of the Commission and taking note of the fact that neither of the two candidates has obtained the required majority,

1. *Decides to:*

- (i) Suspend the elections of the Members of the Commission, in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;²
- (ii) Extend the term of office of the current Members of the Commission until the next ordinary session of the Assembly;
- (iii) Establish an Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government composed of one (1) Member State per region together with the Republic of Benin as the Chairperson of the Union, the Republic of Gabon and the Republic of South Africa with the mandate to address the issues relating to the next elections of the Members of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Commission to take all the necessary measures towards the implementation of this Decision and authorizes the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to approve the necessary expenditures in this regard.

Assembly/AU/Dec.415 (XVIII)

**Decision on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XVIII))**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.372 (XVII) on the Transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority, adopted by the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 30 June to 1 July 2011;
- 2. *Decides* to defer consideration of this matter to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June/July 2012.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVIII)

**Resolution on the Diaspora
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XVIII) Add.3)**

The Assembly,

Recalling the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, approved in January 2003 by the First Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and in particular Article 3, subparagraph (q), of which invites and encourages the full participation of the African diaspora as an important part of our continent, in the building of the African Union,

Also recalling decisions:

EX.CL/Dec.6 (III) of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, held in South Africa in 2003, on the Development of the Diaspora Initiative in the African Union, and

² Reservation by the Republic of Botswana.

EX.CL/Dec.221 (VII) of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Sirte, Libya, in June/July 2005, on the definition of the African diaspora,

Further recalling Decision EX.CL/406 (XII) Add.1 by which the Executive Council requested the Commission to conduct an in-depth feasibility study on the idea of having the diaspora as the sixth region of the continent as well as develop modalities for diaspora participation in the organs and activities of the Union,

Taking into consideration the Declaration of the First Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora held in Dakar from 6 to 9 October 2004, reaffirmed by the Second Conference held in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, from 12 to 14 July 2006, by which the intellectuals from Africa and the diaspora subscribed to the idea of making the Diaspora the sixth region of the African Union,

Also taking into consideration the proposals of Africans from the diaspora aimed at assisting the African Union and the continent, and providing moral and diplomatic support to diaspora initiatives designed to effectively help the continent,

Convinced of the need to build a solid foundation for reviving the African family in its entirety across the world as an effective instrument to give impetus to the African renaissance,

Aware of the need to build lasting partnerships between the African diaspora and the African continent through sustained dialogue and resilient collaboration with the governments and peoples of different regions of the world, home to the African diaspora,

Desirous of sending a strong signal to all components of the diaspora and establishing an official mechanism for consultation between Africa and its diaspora,

1. *Decides* to recognize the African diaspora as a substantive entity contributing to the economic and social development of the continent, and to invite its representatives as observers to sessions of the Assembly of the African Union;
2. *Requests* the African Union Commission to report to the ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2013 through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XVIII)

Declaration on Boosting Intra-African Trade and the Establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2012, on the theme Boosting Intra-African Trade,

Recalling the recommendation of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Union (AU) Ministers of Trade on the need to fast track the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area,

Taking note of recent developments in the global economic, trading and financial systems,

Aware that Africa is one of the regions of the world with the lowest level of intra-regional trade, a factor which makes our continent particularly vulnerable to external trade and financial shocks,

Concerned by the current low level of trade between African countries and aware of the need to enhance Africa's productive capacities,

Mindful of the fact that enhanced intra-African trade and deepened market integration can contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth, employment generation, poverty reduction, inflow of foreign direct investment, industrial development and better integration of the continent into the global economy,

Noting that the African Union was established to achieve, among its main objectives, the acceleration of the attainment of the African Economic Community (AEC),

Aware of the numerous obstacles to the growth of Africa's intra and inter-regional trade,

Commending the Heads of State and Government of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), and Southern African Development Community (SADC) for their initiative to establish the Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) that will cover about half the membership of the African Union,

Taking note of the Report and Resolution of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the AU Ministers of Trade Conference held in Accra, Ghana, from 29 November to 3 December 2011,

Hereby:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the acceleration and deepening of Africa's market integration;
2. *Call on* Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU Commission to promote industrial development of the continent, and value addition with a view to diversifying economies and moving away from reliance on traditional export of commodities;
3. *Endorse* the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade and request the AU Commission, in collaboration with RECs, Member States, and development partners, to develop an implementation strategy for the Action Plan;
4. *Call on* Member States, RECS, the AU Commission and development partners to adopt the necessary measures towards the effective implementation of the Action Plan;
5. *Request* Member States supported by the AU Commission and the RECs to drive the process of boosting intra-African trade and the CFTA negotiations through the implementation of the short, medium and long-term programmes and activities contained in the Action Plan at the national, regional and continental levels;
6. *Decide* that the CFTA should be operationalized by the indicative date of 2017, based on the Framework, Road Map and Architecture, with the following appropriate milestones:
 - Finalization of the East African Community (EAC)-the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)- Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite FTA initiative by 2014;
 - Completion of FTA(s) by Non-Tripartite RECs, through parallel arrangement(s) similar to the EAC-COMESA-SADC Tripartite Initiative or reflecting the preferences of their Member States, between 2012 and 2014;
 - Consolidation of the Tripartite and other regional FTAs into a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) initiative between 2015 and 2016;
 - Establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by 2017 with the option to review the target date according to progress made;
7. *Request* the Commission, in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other relevant agencies, to take appropriate measures including studies,

technical support to RECs and sensitization of Member States and partners, for the effective implementation of the CFTA Road Map;

8. *Endorse* the Framework, Road Map and Architecture for Fast Tracking the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade, with the understanding that the High-Level African Trade Committee (HATC) will provide a facilitating role and unlock any blockages that might arise and request the ministers responsible for the CFTA to report as appropriate to the Assembly, through the Executive Council on progress;

9. *Urge* Member States, RECs, development partners and other stakeholders to work closely with the AU Commission towards the realization of the objective of Africa's continental market integration.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVIII)

**Declaration on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/702 (XX))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2012,

Considering the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991,

Bearing in mind the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in Lomé, Togo, on 11 July 2000,

Considering Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XII) of our Twelfth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2009 which resolved to support the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) as the unique strategic and sectoral framework in Africa,

Considering the vital and facilitator role of infrastructure and related services in the political and socio-economic development, and physical integration of the continent, as well as in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Considering that infrastructure demand will increase continuously given the population growth and economic perspectives,

Recognizing the need to speed up development of infrastructure and associated services in Africa and to put in place harmonized sectoral policies and programmes,

Recalling that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) constitutes an African initiative and an African Union programme aimed at ensuring poverty reduction and sustainable development for which infrastructure is the cornerstone,

Welcoming the various initiatives on infrastructure development in Africa, including:

- (i) The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA),
- (ii) The Africa-European Union Partnerships on Infrastructure and Energy, as defined in the Joint Africa/European Union Strategy (JAES),
- (iii) The Presidential Infrastructure Championship Initiative,
- (iv) The Special Fund of the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF), and

- (v) The African Water Facility (AWF),

Taking note of the report on the conclusions of PIDA formulation, in accordance with Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XII),

Concerned by:

- (i) The enormity of the infrastructure gap, the high costs and low quality of transport, energy, water and information and communication technology (ICT) services in Africa, which seriously affect the competitiveness of the continent,
- (ii) The low level of connectivity of infrastructure networks in Africa,
- (iii) The poor access of African populations to modern services, energy and transportation, particularly for the low-income social segment,
- (iv) The weak enforcement of African Union decisions on improving access to services of transportation, energy and information technology and communication in Africa by Member States,
- (v) The need to ensure equitable management of water resources for better use for all,
- (vi) The huge financing needs for infrastructure of around sixty billion United State dollars for the coming ten years, and the poor resource mobilization by Member States, for the preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects, and
- (vii) The impact of the current global financial crisis on infrastructure development in Africa,

Underscoring:

- (i) The decisive role of the Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and the specialized institutions in the implementation of programmes for infrastructure development in Africa, in coordination with Member States,
- (ii) The need to establish an institutional architecture for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes for infrastructure development in Africa,
- (iii) The need for active participation and strong involvement of the private sector in infrastructure development in Africa,

1. *Reaffirm:*

- (i) Our determination to pool our efforts to develop integrated, reliable and efficient infrastructure networks of transport, energy, telecommunications ICT and transboundary water, as well as their associated services;
- (ii) The urgent need to enhance access to transport, energy and water infrastructure and services, for the majority of the African population as well as access to electronic applications (e-gov, e-education, e-health);
- (iii) The importance for African financial institutions, to spare no effort to better support the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa;
- (iv) The need to fully involve the private sector in infrastructure development in Africa;

2. *Undertake to:*

- (i) Promote harmonization of regulations and standards to ensure interconnection, efficient operations and security of networks, and market development;
- (ii) Establish an appropriate institutional framework for the development of major integrative projects and carry out the necessary reforms to ensure their better operation and maintenance;
- (iii) Contribute financially to the Special Fund of the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility and the African Water Facility;
- (iv) Increase public financing of infrastructure and promote public-private partnerships to speed up infrastructure development;
- (v) Enhance production of, and inter-State trade in, energy by implementing major integrative hydroelectric power projects and high capacity oil refineries as well as gas and oil pipelines;
- (vi) Develop new and renewable energy resources in order to provide clean, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly energy as well as nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in order to sustainably meet Africa's long-term energy needs;
- (vii) Accelerate the construction of missing links and the development and modernization of railways, and increase of ports capacity;
- (viii) Accelerate the facilitation of inter-State transport through the harmonization of laws and simplification of transit procedures to promote efficiency and safety of transport operations in Africa;
- (ix) Work together for the full and diligent implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision;
- (x) Give high priority to environmental protection, and to transport and energy safety and security, within the framework of the sustainable development of infrastructure and related services;
- (xi) Develop regional and continental telecommunication/ICT broadband networks and ensure access to submarine cable resources for all Member States, in order to achieve an African Information Society and an integrated digital economy;
- (xii) Focus on joint programmes for the management of shared water resources;

3. *Resolve to:*

- (i) Approve the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the institutional architecture for its implementation;
- (ii) Include in our national priorities, the various projects and programmes contained in the Priority Action Plan (PAP) of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and ensure that sufficient resources are committed to the preparation and implementation of these projects;
- (iii) Undertake institutional reforms, both legal and regulatory, conducive to the creation of a favourable business climate for private investment in infrastructure;
- (iv) Promote innovative financing mechanisms reflecting a real commitment by Africa to speed up infrastructure development on the continent;

4. *Invite the Commission to take all the necessary measures to:*

- (i) Ensure, in coordination with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the speedy implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and to report annually thereon;
- (ii) Proceed with the expeditious implementation of the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa;
- (iii) Define the modalities of Member States contributions to the Special Fund of the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility and the African Water Facility;
- (iv) Prepare in coordination with the NPCA, an annual report on PAP implementation status;

5. *Urge:*

- (i) Member States, the Regional Economic Communities, the Commission and NPCA to strengthen African and international cooperation in the implementation of PIDA projects and programmes;
- (ii) The Commission to take all the necessary initiatives to ensure expeditious implementation of this Declaration;

6. *Appeal* to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union, the specialized organizations, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and all relevant development partners to support the implementation of this Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XVIII)

**Declaration on the Donation of a Conference Centre and Office Complex to
the African Union by the Peoples' Republic of China**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2012 on the theme of Boosting Intra-African Trade,

Hereby:

1. *Express our profound gratitude* to the Government and people of the Peoples' Republic of China for the generous donation of an ultra-modern state of the art Conference Centre and Office Complex to the African Union and the people of Africa, which was inaugurated and handed over to the African Union on 28 January 2012;
2. *Further express our deep appreciation* to the Government and people of China for the announcement by H.E. Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the Chinese Peoples' Political Consultative Conference, of a donation of RMB 600 million for African Union activities over the next three years;
3. *Note with appreciation and deep satisfaction* the kind gesture by the Government and people of China, which is a concrete manifestation of China's commitment to the long-standing historical and enduring relations between Africa and China, in the true spirit of South-South Cooperation;
4. *Undertake* to ensure the judicious use and maintenance of the facility so that it could serve as an eternal monument to Sino-African friendship and for the benefit of future generations.

NINETEENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
15 to 16 July 2012**

Assembly/AU/Dec.416 (XIX)

**Decision on the Draft African Union Internal Audit Regulations
(Doc. EX.CL/720 (XXI) i)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the draft African Union Internal Audit Regulations;
2. *Adopts* the African Union Internal Audit Regulations;
3. *Requests* the Commission to report annually on the implementations of the African Union Internal Audit Regulations to the Assembly through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.417 (XIX)

**Decision on the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC): Sovereign Disaster Risk Solutions
(Doc. EX.CL/724 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of Fifth Joint Annual Meeting of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the African Risk Capacity (ARC);
2. *Aware* of the escalating impact of extreme weather events driven by climate change, developing mechanisms for sovereign level risk management remains an urgent priority;
3. *Acknowledges* that the current system of ad hoc unpredictable funding for disaster response causes the depletion of critical assets and the reallocation of government resources from planned investment in times of crisis, slowing economic growth and creating significant setbacks to development;
4. *Further takes note* that the innovative financial strategy for the African Risk Capacity to achieve solvency and sustainability would include initial donor contributions and ongoing premium payments from Member States that participate on a voluntary basis, allowing for use of modern financial tools without direct impact to the national budgets of non-participating States;
5. *Recognizes* that while drought is a major threat to food insecure populations, coverage of other naturally occurring hazards such as floods, earthquakes and cyclones would facilitate the participation of more countries and should be modelled and incorporated into the facility;
6. *Recalls* the establishment of the Joint Africa-Arab Fund for Disaster Response (Assembly/Africa-Arab/Res.2 (II)) adopted at the Second Africa-Arab Summit in Sirte, Libyan-Arab Jamahiriya, on 10 October 2010, "to establish a fund for disaster response, the statute, objectives and modalities of which are to be defined by the Commission and the League of Arab States;
7. *Endorses*, in principle, the proposal to establish the ARC;
8. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with the ARC Secretariat to elaborate a legal agreement for the establishment of the African Risk Capacity (ARC);

9. *Decides* that ARC shall be established as a specialized agency of the African Union and accorded the privileges and immunities specified in the OAU General Convention on Privileges and Immunities;
10. *Requests* the Commission to convene a meeting of government experts and subsequently a conference of plenipotentiaries before the end of the year to consider and adopt the establishment agreement;
11. *Urges* all African Union Member States to actively participate in the aforementioned process;
12. *Calls upon* development partners and partner institutions to support this endeavour of critical importance to food security on the continent;
13. *Requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January/February 2013.

Assembly/AU/Dec.418 (XIX)

**Decision on the Operationalization of the Pan-African University
(Doc. EX.CL/725 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalling* the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.290 (XV) adopted in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010, on the establishment of the Pan-African University;
2. *Further recalling* the Assembly Decision AU/Dec.391 (XVIII) adopted by the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Union in Addis Ababa in February 2012 concerning the Pan-African University (PAU);
3. *Commends* the partners to the Pan-African University for their support and encourages them to continue their collaboration;
4. *Authorizes* the admission of students and recruitment of temporary staff for the running of the Pan-African University and its Rectorate;
5. *Requests* the Commission to submit the structure and financial implications of the Pan-African University to the policy organs through the PRC Subcommittee on Structure for adoption;
6. *Authorizes* the Commission to establish a special fund called the Pan-African University Fund, and proceed to mobilize resources for the functioning of the PAU;
7. *Decides* to accelerate the adoption of the draft Statute of the Pan-African University through the relevant AU Subcommittees to ensure that the operationalization of the Pan-African University is not delayed.

Assembly/AU/Dec.419 (XIX)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC)
(Doc. EX.CL/731 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice and/or Attorneys General held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 and 15 May 2012, and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraphs (h) and (o), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and underscores the importance of putting the interests of victims at the centre of all actions in sustaining the fight against impunity;
3. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice and/or Attorneys General to approach the International Court of Justice (ICJ), through the United Nations General Assembly, for seeking an advisory opinion on the question of immunities, under international law, of Heads of State and senior State officials from States that are not parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC and this regard, requests the Commission to undertake further study on the advisability and implications of seeking such advisory opinion from the ICJ and to report thereon to the Executive Council;
4. *Reiterates* its request to the United Nations Security Council for deferral of the proceedings against President Omar al Bashir of Sudan and those issued in the Kenyan situation;
5. *Urges* African State parties to the Rome Statute to implement Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.296 (XV) adopted by the Fifteenth Ordinary Session in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010, which requested Member States to balance, where applicable, their obligations to the African Union (AU) with their obligations to the ICC;
6. *Endorses* Libya's request to put on trial in Libya its own citizens charged with committing international crimes;
7. *Encourages*, for effective reliance on Article 98 of the Rome Statute, African State parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC and African non-State parties to consider concluding bilateral agreements on the immunities of their senior State officials;
8. *Urges* African States parties to the Rome Statute to enhance African representation on the bench of the ICC in order to ensure that Africa contributes optimally to the evolution of the Court's jurisprudence and in this context, Member States shall in the future respect the decisions of the AU endorsing candidatures to international institutions;
9. *Requests* the AU Chairperson, the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and the African Groups in New York and in The Hague to promote and support the African Common Position on the ICC;
10. *Also requests* the Commission, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to publicize, within the continent, what it has done towards the protection of civilians in situations where international crimes have been perpetrated;
11. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Commission to follow up on various Assembly decisions on the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by some non-African States, in particular the elaboration of a model national law on universal jurisdiction over international crimes, and encourages Member States to fully take advantage of this Model National Law in order to expeditiously enact or strengthen their national laws in this area;
12. *Requests* the Commission to follow up on this matter and to report regularly on the implementation of the various Assembly decisions on the ICC.

Assembly/AU/Dec.420 (XIX)

**Decision on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction
(Doc. EX.CL/731 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice and/or Attorneys General held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 and 15 May 2012, and the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Urges* Member States to participate actively in the upcoming discussions and negotiations on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction at the level of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly during the sixty-seventh session of General Assembly scheduled for the last quarter of 2012;
3. *Invites* Member States which have not yet done so, to submit their observations and information on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction to the United Nations Secretary-General should the General Assembly through a resolution make a similar request in the future;
4. *Urges* Member States through the African Group in New York to strongly put forth the concerns expressed on the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by some non-African States as indicated in the various relevant decisions of the Assembly;
5. *Also urges* Member States to use the principle of reciprocity to defend themselves against the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction;
6. *Reiterates* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.199 (XI) on the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction which requested that the warrants of arrest issued on the basis of the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction shall not be executed in any Member State;
7. *Requests* the Commission, on behalf of the Assembly, to send an official communication to the European Commission, requesting the latter to transmit the AU concerns and request the Government of Spain to comply with the laws of Spain with respect to the arrest warrants issued against Rwandan leaders on the basis of the application of the principle of universal jurisdiction and also requests the AU Chairperson to send a similar request directly to the Prime Minister of Spain;
8. *Also requests* the Commission to follow up on this matter and to report regularly on the implementation of the various Assembly decisions on the abuse of the application of universal jurisdiction.

Assembly/AU/Dec.421 (XIX)

**Decision on Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. EX.CL/733 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the situation in Palestine and the Middle East; and recalls all resolutions and decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine and to achieve lasting peace and security in the Middle East;
2. *Reaffirms* its full support to the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to end the Israeli occupation and to establish their independent State, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people;
3. *Also reaffirms* its support for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions to ensure the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the borders of June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital;
4. *Renews* the recognition of the State of Palestine on the borders of June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital and demands the State of Israel to recognize the State of Palestine within the borders of 1967;

5. *Confirms* that comprehensive, just and lasting peace can be achieved only through full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab and Palestinian territories to the lines of June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and Lebanese territories;
6. *Confirms* its full support for the efforts of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, the President of the State of Palestine, President Mahmoud Abbas, which aims to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, by applying the principle of the two-State solution, and renews its support to the Palestinian leadership and Arab leaders to achieve reconciliation in Palestine;
7. *Calls on* Member States of the African Union to be committed not to sign agreements with Israel which affect the Arab territories occupied since June 1967, including East Jerusalem, because it is contrary to the resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations;
8. *Condemns* all Israeli actions related to changing the cultural and historical monuments of the city of Jerusalem, through a policy of Judaization, house demolitions, the expulsion of the Palestinian population, the destruction of the Islamic and Christian holy and historic monuments, the construction of the bridge of the Mughrabi Gate, the Apartheid Wall, and the expansion of the illegal settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem;
9. *Condemns* the Israeli official programmed and designed campaign to undermine President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian leadership, which is irrelevant to the desired peace, and calls upon the Quartet, the United Nations, international organizations and the international community to condemn these statements and attitudes that reflect the organized State terrorism, and inciting to murder and violence;
10. *Holds* Israel responsible for the stalemate and deadlock in the peace process, and condemns the continued settlement expansion in Palestinian territories, and that the United Nations considers void and illegitimate, which constitute a major obstacle in the way of peace, and demands that Israel stop all settlement activities in the Palestinian occupied territories since 1967;
11. *Calls on* the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations and the Quartet to take the necessary measures to maintain security, peace and stability, and achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace, by applying the provisions of relevant international law and the previous resolutions of the Security Council, and put pressure on Israel to adhere to the peace process, and to refrain from provocations against the Palestinian people;
12. *Condemns* the Israeli inhuman practices against the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and expresses its rejection of the arbitrary measures and the tough sanctions on detainees in the Israeli prisons, as well as the "administrative detention", which is a violation of all principles and laws of humanity and international law, and contrary to international humanitarian law;
13. *Calls upon* the international community and human rights bodies for an immediate intervention for the release of the Palestinian prisoners detained in Israeli prisons, and calling for the formation of an international investigation committee about the circumstances of the prisoners in the jails of Israel, and the abolition of the "administrative detention" and the immediate release of all of them, where their condition is getting worse because of the open hunger strike, especially patients whose lives are in danger;
14. *Calls on* Israel, the occupying Power, to desist from the use of natural resources of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Syrian people in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and that any violation of natural resources is a violation of international law and international humanitarian law, and the occupying power has no right to use, in any way, the natural resources of the land it occupies;
15. *Expresses its grave concern* about the deteriorating economic and humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the blockade, and calls upon the Security Council

and the Quartet for an immediate intervention and pressurize Israel to respect the human rights and international humanitarian law, and to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention;

16. *Calls on* Israel to abide by the decision of the United Nations and to sign the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in order to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction;

17. *Urges* the African Union Commission to work with all members to activate the African Union Committee on Palestine;

18. *Expresses grave concern* at the recent expulsion of African nationals from Israel and condemns this unwarranted act;

19. *Urges* all Member States of the United Nations who have suspended their contributions to UNESCO to rescind that decision and further calls on them to resume contributions for the continuation of UNESCO programmes.

Assembly/AU/Dec.422 (XIX)

**Decision on the Progress Report on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.412 (XVIII) on the Preparations for the Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the OAU/AU on 25 May 2013
(Doc. EX.CL/735 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report on the preparation for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the OAU/AU and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Commends* the Ethiopian Government for the arrangements already made and the huge effort deployed for active preparation of the fiftieth anniversary of OAU/AU;

3. *Encourages* the Commission, in close collaboration with the Ethiopian Government, to work together with all the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as other AU organs to organize various activities, including media events, debates and competitions in schools and universities, public opinion surveys, sessions in local and national legislatures, and other activities to celebrate the Year of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance so as to enhance the awareness of the new generation of Africans about the ideals of Pan-Africanism;

4. *Requests* the Commission, in close collaboration with the Ethiopian Government, to submit the final proposals on the activities to be undertaken together with the financial implications to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) through the Advisory Subcommittee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters and authorizes the PRC to approve the necessary expenditures in this regard, using the arrears of contributions as well as voluntary contributions from Member States and other African sources of funding;

5. *Decides* that, in accordance with the Decision of the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (Assembly/AU/Dec.412 (XVIII)), which declared 2013 as the Year of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance, the theme of the summit in 2013 shall be "Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance";

6. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia to host a special summit of the African Union in Addis Ababa on 25 May 2013 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity;

7. *Decides* the regular sessions of the policy organs of the African Union initially planned to take place in Libya in July 2013 will instead be held in Addis Ababa back-to-back with the special summit as follows:

- (a) 26 and 27 May 2013 Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
- (b) 22 and 23 May 2013 Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union;
- (c) 19 and 20 May 2013 Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee;

8. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Government, to report on the implementation of this Decision to the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2013.

Assembly/AU/Dec.423 (XIX)

**Decision on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report and the Post-2015 MDGs Agenda
(Doc. EX.CL/736 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the assessment of Africa's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, including Africa's new perspectives on the post-2015 Development Programme, and requests the Commission to present the comprehensive report on the progress achieved and the challenges encountered at the level of the African Union and the various regions and countries, in particular the consultations carried out during the meeting held in Addis Ababa on this issue in March 2012;

2. *Expresses satisfaction* at the joint efforts and the active cooperation between the AU Commission, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), African Development Bank (AfDB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the elaboration of the assessment report;

3. *Recommends* that the post-2015 Development Programme should include all areas of action currently covered by the MDGs, focusing more particularly on local context over and above social needs, and with emphasis on the productive sector, job creation for the youth, food security, peace and security, adaptive capacities and adoption of sustainable development programme vis-à-vis the challenges posed by climate change in particular, and other challenges;

4. *Underscores* the absolute need for Africa to prepare in an appropriate manner to bring substantial contribution to bear on general assessment of the MDGs on the eve of 2015 with a common position in the preparation of the post-2015 Development Programme; to this end, requests the Commission to coordinate the efforts deployed by all the stakeholders in this process;

5. *Also underscores* the need for Africa to strengthen its autonomy by focusing on capitalization of the continent's immense resources and on sustainable development programmes;

6. *Encourages* Member States to sign and ratify the Africa Charter on Statistics if they have not already done so;

7. *Urges* African countries to strengthen their statistical systems and institutions in order to produce reliable and timely statistics for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa;

8. *Mandates* the African Union Commission, in close consultation with Member States and Regional Economic Communities to identify Africa's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in order to consider

making 2015-2024 a decade of transformation for Africa with the support of the AfDB, the UNDP, the ECA and all other stakeholders.

Assembly/AU/Dec.424 (XIX)

Decision on the Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHASA)

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* countries which have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics, and calls on those which have not done so to sign and ratify it as expeditiously as possible;
2. *Invites* countries to incorporate the principles of the Charter into statistics law and into national strategies for the development of statistics;
3. *Calls on* countries and Regional Economic Communities to incorporate the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa into national and regional strategies for the development of statistics, and invites all stakeholders to mobilize resources for implementation of the Strategy and its sectoral strategies;
4. *Endorses* the institutionalization of a biennial meeting of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration within the framework of a relevant specialized technical committee of the African Union;
5. *Invites* the Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and partners to strengthen the civil registration and vital statistics secretariat to enable it to respond to the ever-growing demand for assistance in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa;
6. *Urges* the Commission to coordinate all activities on labour market information systems at the continental level and to reinforce its capacity with suitable staffing and adequate resources, and calls on the Economic and Statistical Observatory for sub-Saharan Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Union (EU), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and other partners, to support this effort;
7. *Requests* the Commission, the ECA, the AfDB and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to mobilize the required resources for operationalization of the Africa Info Database Initiative and provide the necessary support to enable countries to develop effective data management and dissemination systems aimed at enabling full public access to official statistics;
8. *Recommends* that the Commission in collaboration with ECA, and the AfDB follow up the work of other statistical institutions on strengthening the capacity of national and regional training centres, endorses the creation of an African Statistical Training Centre including adopting the proposed document on the strategy for alignment of training initiatives to SHaSA; and supports empowerment of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources and its secretariat, to coordinate statistical training programmes in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.425 (XIX)

Decision on the African Solidarity Initiative for Support to Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) in Africa (Doc. EX.CL/738 (XXI))

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* paragraph 12 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.408 (XVIII) adopted at its Eighteenth Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa from 30 to 31 January 2012, in which it stressed the need for renewed efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction and development in order to consolidate peace where it has been achieved, and welcomed the steps being taken by the Commission for the launch of an African Solidarity Initiative to support Member States emerging from conflicts;
2. *Notes with satisfaction* the launch of the Initiative on 13 July 2012, which provides an opportunity to mobilize, from within the continent, support for African countries emerging from conflicts, consolidate and expand intra-African cooperation and mutual self-help, in line with the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, as well as the 1975 Inter-African Convention Establishing an African Technical Cooperation Programme;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in close collaboration with the countries concerned and all other Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and other relevant African institutions, to roll out a full implementation plan, to mobilize in-kind, capacity-building, as well as financial contributions to support post-conflict reconstruction activities and efforts in African countries concerned;
4. *Invites* partners, including the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Secretariat and agencies, as well as other relevant partners, to fully support this African Initiative;
5. *Requests* the Commission to regularly update the Assembly, as well as the Peace and Security Council, on progress made in this Initiative.

Assembly/AU/Dec.426 (XIX)

**Decision on Boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the Continental Free Trade Area
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII) taken on 30 January 2012 at its Eighteenth Ordinary Session;
2. *Reaffirms* the commitment to deepen Africa's market integration through the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by the indicative date of 2017 and the implementation of the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade;
3. *Expresses satisfaction* on the progress made in the operationalization of the High-Level African Trade Committee (HATC) and for purposes of continuity and operational effectiveness agrees that each region shall nominate one Head of State to serve as a member of the HATC for a period of two years;
4. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the consultations mandated to our Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government on the challenges of low levels of intra-African trade, infrastructure, and productive capacities to the fast tracking of the CFTA and the boosting of intra-African trade and welcomes the conclusion that there are positive aspects of intra-African trade manifested particularly in the significant level of manufactured goods in the intra-African trade composition, and a sufficient level of infrastructure density that can constitute a good basis for fast tracking the CFTA and for boosting intra-African trade;
5. *Affirms* nonetheless the critical importance of continuing to address the inadequacy of infrastructure, including roads, rail, ports, energy, ICT, transport, inter alia, and productive capacity by promoting value added products in order to exploit the larger economies of scale prospects and opportunities offered by the CFTA;

6. *Requests* all Member States and the RECs to promote and actively support the realization of the CFTA and the boosting of intra-African Trade;
7. *Calls for* the development of trade-related infrastructure and productive capacity-building programmes and an enabling policy and legal framework by the AUC, RECs and Member States which build upon the frameworks of PIDA, AIDA, and CAADP so as to contribute specifically to the boosting of intra-African trade;
8. *Underscores* the importance of mainstreaming the implementation of the CFTA and the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade at the national level through various measures and actions including the identification of focal points at national and regional levels, taking into account the need for dedicated technical and financial resources from Member States, Regional Economic Communities and development partners for Africa;
9. *Welcomes and encourages* the continued support by development partners for the AU Agenda on Boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the Establishment of the CFTA, and mandates the AUC to coordinate and harmonize their efforts in this regard for coherence and effectiveness.

Assembly/AU/Dec.427 (XIX)

**Decision on the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of
the African Court of Justice and Human Rights
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XIX) a)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council on the draft Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights;
2. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, to prepare a study on the financial and structural implications resulting from the expansion of the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and submit the study along with the draft Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol to the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights for consideration by the policy organs at the next summit slated for January 2013;
3. *Stresses* the need for the AU to adopt a definition of the crime of unconstitutional change of government and, in this regard, requests the Commission, in collaboration with the AU Commission on International Law and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, to submit this definition for consideration by the policy organs at the next summit to be held in January 2013.

Assembly/AU/Dec.428 (XIX)

**Decision on the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union Relating to the Pan-African Parliament
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XIX) b)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Executive Council recommendation contained in Decision EX.CL/Dec.707 (XXI) on the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union Relating to the Pan-African Parliament;
2. *Decides* that more in-depth consultations should be undertaken on the draft Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union Relating to the Pan-African Parliament with respect to its Article 8, paragraphs 1 (a) and 2, on legislative and oversight powers, which should be deferred to a later date for consideration taking into account the progress accomplished in the integration process.

Assembly/AU/Dec.429 (XIX)

**Decision on the Progress Report on Maternal, New Born and Child Health
(Doc. Assembly/AU/16 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report: “Annual Status of Maternal, New Born and Child Health in Africa, 2012”;
2. *Acknowledges with appreciation* that progress has been registered in improving maternal, new born and child health on the continent and that 37 Member States have launched the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) as an advocacy strategy for the promotion of maternal, new born and child health, and urge other Member States that have not yet done so to launch CARMMA;
3. *Urges* Member States to accelerate implementation of actions adopted at the July 2010 Kampala Summit, including the institutionalization of maternal, new born and child mortality census;
4. *Calls upon* development partners and other stakeholders at national, regional and international levels to provide sustained support;
5. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with other organs, RECs and partners to strengthen the implementation of the reporting system with aligned indicators as adopted by the Ministers of Health; and also urges Member States to provide the Commission with up-to-date information in this respect.

Assembly/AU/Dec.430 (XIX)

**Decision on the Report of the Committee of Ten on United Nations Reform
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Eleventh Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
2. *Also takes note* of the recent developments in the intergovernmental negotiations on the Security Council reform;
3. *Reaffirms* its strong commitment to Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declarations containing the African common position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;
4. *Commends and appreciates* the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in promoting and defending the continent's interest in the United Nations Security Council reform, and of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in participating in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform;
5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations directed at building alliances in support of the African common position with diverse interest groups and Member States engaged in the intergovernmental negotiations, and urges the need to continue to build on the progress made and to intensify all efforts in this regard;
6. *Recalls* its previous decisions on the overriding need to ensure that the interest of Africa continues to be maintained and safeguarded at all times in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council

reform, and reiterates its call for Africa to continue to speak with one voice and cohesively on all issues relating to the United Nations Security Council reform process;

7. *Further reiterates* its requests to the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations to continue to work closely with other African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, in participating in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the United Nations Security Council reform, and to continue also to dialogue with and engage other Member States and interest groups in the reform process, with a view to advocating, canvassing and promoting the African common position;

8. *Requests* the Committee of Ten in continuing to intensify efforts in advocating, canvassing and promoting the African common position, to endeavour to reach out at the highest political levels for the purpose of garnering and galvanizing the necessary political will in support of the African common position, and to consider holding high-level meetings of the Committee of Ten outside margins of the Summit of the African Union to discuss issues relating to the United Nations Security Council reform process including the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations, as well as the need to seek any guidance, if necessary, in furtherance of its mandate;

9. *Calls upon* Member States of the African Union to include the issue of the reform of the Security Council among the priorities of their foreign policy while engaging with non-African partners;

10. *Also requests* the Commission to continue to facilitate the activities of the Committee of Ten and of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in the intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform and related consultations thereon;

11. *Reiterates* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and requests the Committee to present a report to the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2013.

Assembly/AU/Dec.431 (XIX)

**Decision on the Report of the High-Level Panel on Alternative Sources of Funding the African Union,
Headed by the Former President of Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo
(Doc. EX.CL/732 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report while taking into account that it is an interim report;

2. *Commends* the High-Level Panel chaired by H.E Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for the effort deployed;

3. *Requests* the Commission through the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to undertake a comprehensive study of all options to provide quantifiable data on the expected impact on all Member States to enable the High-Level Panel to make definitive recommendations;

4. *Also requests* the High-Level Panel to take into account the criteria of equity for each option proposed;

5. *Requests* the Panel to pursue this work and produce an interim report to be submitted for consideration by ministers of finance before submission to the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2014;

6. *Requests* the High-Level Panel on alternative sources of funding to send the report to Member States, ministers of finance and economy so that Member States can provide their final observations and positions before the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly in May 2013;

7. *Invites* Member States to provide comments on the draft final report of the High-Level Panel before submission to the Assembly for decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.432 (XIX)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the promotion of lasting peace, security and stability in Africa. The Assembly commends the PSC and the Commission, as well as the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), for their commitment and efforts;
3. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the consolidation of peace in Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and urges Member States and international partners to lend the necessary support to the ongoing processes in these countries. The Assembly welcomes the dialogue initiated in CAR between the Government and the political class, as well as the other measures taken to consolidate peace in the country. The Assembly encourages all stakeholders in the Republic of Guinea to overcome the current difficulties with a view to the rapid holding of legislative elections under conditions of transparency, freedom and the requisite fairness;
4. *Expresses serious concern* at the situation prevailing in Mali, and condemns the illegal occupation of the northern part of the country by armed groups, terrorists and criminals, as well as the recourse to armed rebellion to assert political claims. The Assembly also condemns the coup d'état that took place in Mali on 22 March 2012, as well as the manoeuvres of the Military Junta and its civilian supporters aimed at thwarting the ongoing transition and the efforts of ECOWAS and the AU, including the unacceptable physical attack against the Interim President Mr. Dioncounda Traoré, on 21 May 2012. The Assembly reiterates the indefectible commitment of the AU to the respect of the national unity and territorial integrity of Mali, which are non-discussable and non-negotiable, as well as the imperative to respect constitutional order;
5. *Reiterates* the commitment of the AU, in close collaboration with ECOWAS and the countries of the region, as well as with the support of international partners, to the re-establishment of State authority in the north of Mali. The Assembly reaffirms the imperative need for the effective restoration of constitutional order and demands the cessation of all interference from the Military Junta in the political life of the country. The Assembly reiterates AU support for the efforts deployed by ECOWAS and the countries of the region, including dialogue with the armed groups prepared to seek a negotiated solution based on AU principles, security for the transitional institutions and the expansion of the current Government to make it more representative and inclusive. The Assembly encourages the Commission and the PSC to continue with the efforts initiated with a view of promoting the necessary pooling of efforts and the coordination of initiatives in the search for a solution to the crisis in Mali, including through the elaboration of a strategic concept that articulates the political, security and military measures to be taken to that effect;
6. *Stresses* the relevance of the Strategy for the Sahel adopted by the PSC in Bamako on 20 March 2012, and calls on all stakeholders to ensure that their action is in keeping with that framework;
7. *Reiterates* the unequivocal condemnation by the AU of the coup d'état that took place in Guinea-Bissau on 12 April 2012 and underscores the need to definitively put an end to the repeated interference of the Guinea-Bissau army in the political life of the country. The Assembly reiterates the support of the AU to ECOWAS efforts and encourages uninterrupted consultations between the different international stakeholders, namely ECOWAS,

the AU, the CPLP, the United Nations and bilateral partners, in order to promote a coordinated approach to the situation;

8. *Expresses serious concern* at the situation prevailing in DRC and strongly condemns the armed group and all other negative forces in DRC, the perpetrators of attacks against the Congolese Government in North Kivu, expresses its full support for the efforts of the Congolese Government at restoring peace and re-establishing State Authority in the east of the country, and encourages the countries of the region, within the framework of the Pact on Peace, Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region to lend their full support to the efforts of the Congolese Government;

9. *Also notes with satisfaction* the significant progress which has continued to be made by the countries engaged in transition processes in North Africa. The Assembly renews AU support to the ongoing transition in Tunisia, and welcomes the holding of crucial elections in Egypt, particularly the election of the President of the Republic, and calls on the international community to provide the necessary economic and financial support to the two countries with a view to consolidating the progress achieved. The Assembly commends the Libyan people and political actors for the major accomplishment of successfully holding of Constituent Assembly elections on 7 July 2012, and urges them to persevere in this direction in order to conclude the transition. The Assembly encourages all stakeholders in the three countries to work towards the success of the ongoing process in order to meet the hopes generated by the popular revolutions that took place there;

10. *Expresses its concern* over the delays in the implementation of the Road Map signed in Antananarivo, on 16 September 2011, urgently appeals to the Malagasy parties to scrupulously abide by the commitments made in their spirit and letter, and requests the Malagasy parties to extend their full cooperation to SADC. The Assembly welcomes the operationalization of the Joint AU/SADC Liaison Office and encourages the two organizations to continue their efforts towards ensuring the success of the transition;

11. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the progress that has continued to be made in the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, in particular the gains made on the ground, as well as the implementation of the Political Road Map of September 2011. The Assembly urges the Somali stakeholders to pursue and intensify their efforts, with a view to effectively concluding the transition on 20 August 2012 as scheduled, and reiterates the AU's determination to take measures against all those whose action is undermining the peace and reconciliation process. The Assembly commends AMISOM for its outstanding achievements and pays tribute to the troop and police contributing countries and other interested countries, as well as to IGAD, for their commitment to the achievement of lasting peace, democracy and reconciliation in Somalia. The Assembly appeals to Member States and international partners to extend the necessary support for reconstruction and recovery in the liberated areas, as well as to the Somali Security Sector. The Assembly expresses the AU's appreciation to the United Nations Security Council and the other bilateral and multilateral partners for their support to AMISOM and the peace process in Somalia. The Assembly notes with satisfaction the outcome of the London Conference of 23 February 2012 and the Istanbul follow-up Conference of 31 May and 1 June 2012;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued progress in the security and political situation in Darfur, particularly with respect to the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), encourages the parties to remain committed to this process, stresses the need to empower the mechanisms set forth in the DDPD and appeals once again for renewed efforts to provide the requisite support to the peace process and early recovery initiatives. The Assembly renews its calls to the holdout group to join the peace process without any further delay;

13. *Deplores* the ongoing fighting in some parts of Blue Nile and South Kordofan, stresses the urgent need for the two parties to immediately cease hostilities, as well as facilitate humanitarian access to all populations in need and the return of IDPs and refugees. In this respect, the Assembly requests the AUHIP to pursue the efforts it has initiated regarding the two areas and specifically to expedite the launch of negotiations between the Republic of Sudan and SPLM-N in Blue Nile and South Kordofan States in conformity with the AU road map and with United Nations Security Council resolution 2046;

14. *Notes* that, while some progress has been made in the implementation of the AU Road Map of 24 April 2012, as endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, through resolution 2046 (2012) of 2 May 2012, this has nonetheless been slow and uneven, and needs to be significantly speeded up. In this regard, the Assembly stresses the need and obligation on the part of the parties to fully and expeditiously fulfil their obligations under the Road Map bearing in mind the timelines contained therein. The Assembly welcomes the expressed commitment of the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to promote their new spirit of strategic partnership in the negotiations and to ensure their completion by 2 August 2012, as provided for in resolution 2046 (2012), including the expeditious resolution of the issue of the definition of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ), bearing in mind, as stressed by the PSC and the United Nations Security Council, that the AUHIP map of November 2011 in no way prejudices the outcome of the final demarcation of the border and the resolution of the disputed areas. The Assembly welcomes the acceptance by the Government of Sudan of the Joint AU/League of Arab States and United Nations initiatives regarding humanitarian access to affected populations in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan, and requests the Commission to take all the necessary steps for the implementation of all the elements of the proposal, in particular through participation in the assessment of the humanitarian situation and deployment of monitors to ensure that assistance is delivered in a transparent and neutral manner;

15. *Expresses appreciation* to the AUHIP and to its members, former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, as well as to the Panel support team, for their untiring efforts and outstanding commitment. The Assembly urges the parties to extend all the necessary cooperation to the Panel. The Assembly also commends the multilateral and bilateral partners for their support to the AUHIP efforts and appeals for continued unity of purpose and action to facilitate the early and successful completion of the negotiations;

16. *Expresses concern* at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and reiterates the AU's call for renewed African efforts to help the two countries to overcome the current difficulties, normalize their relations and lay the foundation for lasting peace and security in the Horn of Africa. The Assembly also reiterates the urgent need for the full and scrupulous implementation of the 6 June 2010 Agreement between Djibouti and Eritrea, and requests the PSC to actively follow up on the matter and report to it;

17. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), and encourages the countries concerned and the Commission to persevere in their efforts. The Assembly expresses the AU's gratitude to the international partners who have extended support to the efforts being deployed for the elimination of the LRA;

18. *Stresses* the need for renewed efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction and development in order to consolidate peace where it has been achieved. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the launch of the African Solidarity Initiative, on 13 July 2012, and requests the Commission to ensure the necessary follow-up and to report to it, on regular basis, on progress made and challenges encountered;

19. *Expresses serious concern* over the trivialization of the recourse to armed rebellion to assert political claims, stresses the gravity of the tendency which poses a threat to the viability of democratic processes on the continent, as well as to peace, security and stability in Africa, and strongly condemns the practice, as well as any support to armed rebellions. The Assembly also condemns the secessionist tendencies observed in some parts of the continent, particularly in Mali, and underscores the unalloyed commitment of the AU to the principle of inviolability of borders inherited by African countries at independence, as well as the respect of the national unity and territorial integrity of Member States. The Assembly requests the Commission to submit concrete recommendations on how best to address the scourge of armed rebellion and secessionist demands.

Assembly/AU/Dec.433 (XIX)

**Decision on the Offer of the Republic of Rwanda to Host the Assembly of the African Union in June/July 2016
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XIX) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with high appreciation* of the offer of the Republic of Rwanda to host the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union and preceding meetings scheduled to be held in June/July 2016;
2. *Accepts* the offer of Rwanda to host the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union and preceding meetings scheduled to be held in June/July 2016;
3. *Requests* the Commission to set the exact dates for the holding of the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, in agreement with the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Republic of Rwanda.

Assembly/AU/Dec.434 (XIX)

**Decision on the Offer of the United Republic of Tanzania to Host
the Assembly of the African Union in June/July 2017
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XIX) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with high appreciation* of the offer of the United Republic of Tanzania to host the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union and its preceding meetings to be held in Tanzania in June/July 2017;
2. *Accepts* the offer of the United Republic of Tanzania to host the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly and preceding meetings to be held in that country in June/July 2017;
3. *Requests* the Commission to set the exact dates for the holding of the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, in agreement with the Permanent Representatives Committee and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Assembly/AU/Dec.435 (XIX)

**Decision on Integrating the Centre for Tick and Tick Borne Diseases into the AU Structures
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XIX) Add.3)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal made by the Republic of Malawi to integrate the Centre for Tick and Tick Borne Diseases into AU structures;
2. *Recognizes* the importance of the mandate and work being undertaken by CTTBD in the development of the livestock industry in Africa;
3. *Decides* to integrate this Centre into the structures of the AU;
4. *Requests* the Commission in consultation with the PRC to undertake relevant studies on the legal, institutional, structural and financial implications of integrating the CTTBD into AU structures, with a view to coming up with appropriate recommendations in this respect.

Assembly/AU/Dec.436 (XIX)

**Decision on the Establishment of the African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XIX) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of the Gambia on the establishment of the African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF);
2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the establishment of the APHEF by the WHO Regional Office for Africa with a view to addressing the high occurrence of disease outbreaks, natural and man-made disasters and other public health emergencies in Africa;
3. *Supports* the Resolution of the Ministers of Health on the APHEF for its endorsement by the Assembly of the Union;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to support the implementation of the APHEF and to make annual voluntary contributions to the Fund.

Assembly/AU/Dec.437 (XIX)

**Decision on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20),
Held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012; and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Commends* H.E. Denis Sassou N'Guesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Africa's Spokesperson and Political Coordinator for Rio+20 and all African Heads of States and Government and Heads of Delegation for their commitments and demonstration of excellent leadership at the conference;
3. *Also commends* the collective efforts exerted by all African negotiators under the leadership of the Republic of Congo (ministers, parliamentarians, experts, civil society organizations and the private sector) for demonstrating solidarity with a strong united voice in advocating the African Consensus Statement as the Common African Position at the global negotiations at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development; and further commends, the permanent representatives in New York under the leadership of the Republic of Kenya in its capacity as chief negotiator for the African Group, for the outstanding work to ensure that Africa's interests were heard – particularly within the G-77 plus China – and fully reflected in the Rio+20 outcomes document;
4. *Further commends* the Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN-OSAA) and other partners for the preparatory work and successful organization of the African Day event and other side events in Rio during the Conference;
5. *Congratulates* Brazilian President H.E Dilma Rousseff for having successfully hosted the Conference and steering the leadership to build consensus at the Conference which was instrumental for the commitments and outcomes achieved at the Rio+20 Conference;
6. *Urges* the United Nations General Assembly at its sessions to accelerate the process to strengthen and upgrade UNEP and further urges Member States to continue to speak with one voice, ensure the adequate representation of Africa in all the committees to be established consequent to the outcome of Rio+20, and to use the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to conduct a

substantive analysis of the Rio+20 outcomes in order to develop a plan of action for Africa and to prepare for the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly;

7. *Requests* the Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme and other partners to step up efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards an effective implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes to support sustainable development efforts in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.438 (XIX)

**Decision on the Budget of the African Union for the 2013 Financial Year
(Doc. EX.CL/721 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Executive Council, endorses its recommendations and requests the African Union Commission to implement them;

2. *Adopts* the budget of African Union (AU) for the Year 2013 amounting to US\$ 278,226,622 as follows:

(i) A total amount of US\$ 122,866,637 assessed to Member States on the basis of the current scale of assessment;

(ii) A total amount of US\$ 155,359,986 that is earmarked for the programmes is secured from international partners;

3. *Approves* the budget breakdown among the AU organs as follows:

Organ	Member States			Partners	Budget 2013		
	Operational	Programme	Total		Operational	Programmes	Total
AUC	90,594,106	4,782,764	95,376,870	121,178,534	90,594,106	125,961,298	216,555,404
PAP	10,372,998		10,372,998	120,000	10,372,998	120,000	10,492,998
AfCHPR (The Court)	6,607,632		6,607,632	2,362,315	6,607,632	2,362,315	8,969,947
ACHPR (The Commission)	3,881,947		3,881,947	4,606,770	3,881,947	4,606,770	8,488,716
ECOSOCC	1,015,372		1,015,372		1,015,372	-	1,015,372
NEPAD	4,200,000		4,200,000	25,853,921	4,200,000	25,853,921	30,053,921
AUCIL	353,357		353,357	233,918	353,357	233,918	587,275
Advisory Board on Corruption	470,486		470,486	501,850	470,486	501,850	972,336

Peace & Security Council		587,975	587,975	112,962	-	700,937	700,937
ACERWC				389,716	-	389,716	389,716
Total	117,495,898	5,370,739	122,866,637	155,359,986	117,495,898	160,730,725	278,226,622

4. *Also adopts* a budget of US\$ 12.1 million for the Pan-African University (PAU) to be established as a special fund and mandates the Commission to mobilize resources from international partners.

Assembly/AU/Dec.439 (XIX)

**Decision on the Appointment of Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/741 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election conducted by the Executive Council at its Nineteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 13 July 2012;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following persons as Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, as elected for a six-year term:

No.	Name	Country
(1)	Mr. Gerard Niyungeko	Burundi;
(2)	Mr. El Hadji Guisse	Senegal;
(3)	Mr. Ben Kioko	Kenya.

Assembly/AU/Dec.440 (XIX)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Institute for Remittances (AIR)
(Doc. EX.CL/724 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Fifth Joint Annual Meeting of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development relating to the establishment of an African Institute for Remittances (AIR);
2. *Recalls* the Declaration of the Global Diaspora Summit of May 2012 in South Africa that adopted the establishment of the African Institute for Remittances as one of the five legacy projects of the African Union;
3. *Endorses* the establishment of the African Institute for Remittances and requests the AUC to work on the modalities for its structures and location and submit to relevant organs to facilitate its early operationalization;
4. *Calls upon* the African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other partners to support the implementation of this initiative.

Assembly/AU/Dec.441 (XIX)

Decision on the Improved Collaboration between the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the very successful convening of the Fifth Meeting of the Joint African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development whose theme was “Unleashing Africa’s Potential as a Pole of Global Growth”;
2. *Recalls* its previous decisions on strengthening the cooperation between the Commission, the AfDB and ECA adopted in Banjul, Gambia, and Kampala, Uganda;
3. *Further recalls* its previous decisions welcoming the repositioning of the ECA to support the agenda of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme and help the continent meet its development challenges;
4. *Notes with approval* the active implementation of its decision for the African Union and the ECA to continue to undertake joint activities, projects and programmes for Africa’s development and the emergence of the Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development as the major annual ministerial platform for deliberation and exchange of views on issues relating to Africa’s growth and development;
5. *Also notes with satisfaction* the highly improved functioning of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies working in support of the African Union and its NEPAD Agency, which is jointly convened by the Commission and ECA, as well as the successful take-off of the AU-AfDB-ECA Joint Secretariat Support Office;
6. *Reaffirms* the continued importance of the strong relations of collaboration, cooperation and coherence developed between the Commission and ECA and calls for the continued alignment of the ECA strategic plan to the priorities of the AU;
7. *Recognizes* the positive role of Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, the outgoing United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, in promoting the regional integration agenda of the AU and the Regional Economic Communities as well as the building of strong partnerships and coherent programme delivery between the Commission, the AfDB and the ECA;
8. *Highly commends* Mr. Janneh for his Pan-Africanist spirit, laudable service and commitment to the integration and development of Africa and urges his continued involvement in this agenda as an exceptional gesture.

Assembly/AU/Dec.442 (XIX)

Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on NEPAD (Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XIX))

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the report by the Vice-Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. President Macky Sall of the Republic of Senegal;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Twenty-seventh NEPAD HSGOC Meeting;

3. *Reaffirms* NEPAD as a unique continental programme designed by Africans for Africans and serving as a shared vision to advance regional political and economic integration for the economic emancipation of African peoples;
4. *Notes* the outcomes of the High-Level NEPAD Colloquium and Congress of Stakeholders held in March 2012 in Addis Ababa to round up the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of NEPAD, which reaffirmed the imperative for Africa to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD through effective mobilization and utilization of domestic resources;
5. *Further welcomes* the continued harmonization efforts between the Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) towards strengthening coordination and coherence in programme implementation in line with the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union;
6. *Recalls* the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.413 (XVIII) while noting the NPCA organizational structure proposed by the Executive Council through the Permanent Representatives Committee, reiterates the critical need for a more suitable and practical structure that fully reflects the continent-wide mandate of the Agency to enable it to function effectively and move on the path of results-based delivery for the benefit of Member States;
7. *Commends* the conclusions of the Regional Dialogue for Enhanced Coordination for NEPAD Structures and Focal Points at national and regional levels and endorses the Action Plan developed with UNECA to guide the harmonization and coordination of NEPAD programmes and, in this regard, calls for regular peer learning exchanges and knowledge sharing on NEPAD implementation at the subregional level;
8. *Endorses* the report of the programmatic activities of NPCA for the period from January to December 2012, particularly noting the progress on implementing key NEPAD regional and continental projects in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities;
9. *Recalls* the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.348 (XVI) and adopts the final draft Rules of Procedure for NEPAD governance structures as a means to facilitate the functioning of the NEPAD HSGOC as a subcommittee of the Assembly and the Steering Committee based on the African Union established rules, regulations and practices. Accordingly requests the NPCA to certify and publish the adopted Rules in consultation with the Office of the Legal Counsel of the Commission for circulation to HSGOC Members;
10. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.413 (XVIII) and notes the ongoing work being done by NPCA and UNECA, along with partner institutions, on the policy study on domestic resource mobilization which will be presented to the HSGOC in January 2013. Urges the final study to come up with concrete and innovative mechanisms to effectively mobilize domestic funding for NEPAD regional projects and proposes the convening of a special HSGOC session in the first half of 2013 to address this matter;
11. *Deplores* the low level annual contributions from Member States for funding NPCA operations with the implied continued reliance on development partners which hampers the Agency's delivery and infringes on African ownership of the NEPAD agenda; and thereby directs the NEPAD Steering Committee to convene an extraordinary meeting to deliberate on funding for NPCA and its programmes before the end of 2012;
12. *In recalling* the Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVIII) on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) relating to Member States' commitment to support the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPFF) Special Fund, recognizes that NEPAD continues to inspire PIDA implementation based on the role assigned to NPCA as the executing agency in the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA);
13. *Welcomes with appreciation* the progress report presented by H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa as Chair of the HSGOC High-Level Subcommittee on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) focusing on the North-South Corridor project and the proposal to undertake a road show to garner

support for implementing the project and acknowledging the support of the Commission, NPCA, RECs, UNECA, African Development Bank and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) for PICI;

14. To effectively roll out the North-South Corridor project, notes in particular the efforts to provide an efficient operational framework with desired outcomes aimed at removing bottlenecks and developing a project preparation fund and calls on the PICI champion countries in the HSGOC to promptly nominate relevant ministers to support the work of each Presidential Champion in view of the planned convening of the PICI Ministerial Working Group and Technical Task Teams by the Government of South Africa;

15. *Acknowledges* Africa's recent partnership engagements at the G8 and G20 Summits held in Camp David, United States, and Los Cabos, Mexico, in May and June 2012, respectively, and welcomes the New Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa as a notable outcome of the G8 Summit while underscoring the imperative for the Initiative to be aligned with identified African priorities and systems as reflected in CAADP and reiterates that G8 countries should fulfil their outstanding commitments to Africa especially those made at Gleneagles and L'Aquila;

16. *Calls for* deeper engagement and increased level of interaction between African and G8 leaders at G8/Africa Outreach Sessions, adequate consultations among invited African leaders prior to these sessions and appropriate preparations through the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) to assure its value addition as platform for dialoguing on the continent's priorities for the G8 partnership process;

17. *Therefore mandates* the HSGOC Chairperson to lead a multipronged lobby campaign to reinvigorate this high-level partnership with the G8 with the technical support of the Agency, and requests the NPCA, in collaboration with the Commission, to engage the Government of the United Kingdom as a country to assume the G8 Presidency in 2013 to ensure that African priorities and interests are fully reflected in the agenda of the G8 in 2013;

18. *Reaffirms* the G20 as a key platform for Africa to strengthen collaboration towards promoting global economic cooperation and acknowledges the relevant outcomes arising from the 2012 G20 Summit as they relate to Africa, especially the 'AgResults' Initiative to improve food security by encouraging private sector innovation of new agricultural products and systems, encouraging the implementation of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) programme and the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan to stimulate global employment and growth; and appreciates the continuing work of the G20 High-Level Panel on Infrastructure and restates the need for the Panel to consider leveraging public funds in the form of surpluses available in emerging economies for higher investment returns in developing Africa's infrastructure;

19. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/7 (XVIII) and notes progress by the Commission and NPCA under the auspices of the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev) in actively advancing Africa's quest for adequate voice in the Global Partnership (GP) for Effective Development Cooperation and commends the contributions of the Governments of South Africa, Rwanda and Mali to the Post-Busan Interim Group (PBIG) which made proposals on the governance structures and monitoring framework for the Busan commitment;

20. *Notes* the allocation of two seats to Africa in the new Global Partnership namely Co-Chair, representing the AU and other recipients of development cooperation, and member of the Steering Committee in the category of recipient of development cooperation and expresses deep concern that such an arrangement falls short of the basic minimum required in ensuring gains to Africa as a major constituency for development cooperation. Therefore calls for the allocation of a third seat for the African Union through the Commission and NPCA while reiterating the Union's position on the absolute necessity to meaningfully partner through broad-based and adequate representation for impact;

21. *Welcomes* the process of nominating AU Member States to the Global Partnership through established procedures under the aegis of the African Union Regional Ambassadorial Deans and consequently endorses the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister for the Economy of the Government of Nigeria and the Secretary-

General of the Ministry of Economics and Planning of the Government of Chad as the Ministerial Co-Chairs and Steering Committee candidates to represent the Union in the appropriate categories for a term up to two years while noting that future nominations will be on the basis of rotation and inclusiveness in line with AU practices and procedures;

22. *Requests* the Commission and NPCA, in addition to occupying a seat on the Global Partnership Steering Committee, to serve as the secretariat for the AU representatives and coordinating focal point with OECD/UNDP Joint Support Team in fully formalizing African representation and guiding the continent's effective participation in the Global Partnership through Ministerial and Technical Reference Groups;

23. *Recalling* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.413 (XVII) and welcomes the Road Map for Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa developed in collaboration between the Commission, NPCA and UNAIDS while reiterating the critical need to intensify African efforts for more diversified, balanced and sustainable financing for health, with support of traditional and emerging partners; and calls upon the Commission, NPCA and UNAIDS to contribute to the successful implementation of the Road Map;

24. *Notes with appreciation* the update on the 2012 Report of Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness (MRDE) by UNECA and the Empower Women in Agriculture (EWAG) Initiative in support of CAADP implementation aimed at building the capacity of women farmers and promoting fair access of women to land inputs and agricultural technology by the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF), and in this respect urges the NPCA to continue its institutional collaboration with UNECA and ACBF.

Assembly/AU/Dec.443 (XIX)

**Decision on the Outcome of the Global African Diaspora Summit
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XIX) Rev.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Outcome and Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit;
2. *Commends* the Commission and the Government of South Africa for the sterling work and active cooperation that led to the success of the Summit;
3. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of Member States, leaders and people of the African diaspora community worldwide and friends and partners of the AU in attaining the objectives of the AU Global African Diaspora Summit and its outcomes which are reflected in the Declaration, its Programme, Plan of Action and Implementation Mechanism;
4. *Decides* that the Road Map should continue to be recognized as a vehicle for the implementation process of Summit outcomes;
5. *Emphasizes* the requirement of adequate resourcing of the Diaspora Programme to support processes of effective implementation;
6. *Endorses* the five flagship or Legacy Projects and requests the Commission to urgently organize appropriate seminars and workshops of Member States of the Union in the fourth quarter of 2012 to consolidate their feasibility studies and present the outcome to the next ordinary session of the AU Assembly in January 2013 for consideration;
7. *Decides* on the need to establish and set criteria for increasing the presence and participation of the diaspora in AU programmes and policies in a systematic and global manner through the African Union Commission rather than in a piecemeal and uncoordinated fashion through various structures and organs of the AU;

8. *Requests* the Commission to engage regional diaspora groupings with a view to helping them to organize themselves into regional networks that will facilitate their representation as “observers” at the AU Summit and eventually, in the future, as the Sixth Region of the continent that would contribute substantially to implementation of policies and programmes;
9. *Requests* the Commission, the PRC and Council to strengthen the responsible Department, CIDO, in human resource and material terms to support the implementation of the Diaspora Plan of Action;
10. *Requests also* that the Commission and the Republic of South Africa should continue their process of active cooperation to achieve this objective along with other regional champions that are willing and able to contribute towards the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit;
11. *Further requests* that emphasis continue to be placed on putting in place effective organizational processes including the setting up and consolidation of regional networks.

Assembly/AU/Dec.444 (XIX)

Decision on the Theme, Date and Venue of the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the date of the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme “Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance” shall be the following:
 - (i) Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee: 21 and 22 January 2013;
 - (ii) Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 24 and 25 January 2013;
 - (iii) Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 27 and 28 January 2013.

Assembly/AU/Dec.445 (XIX)

**Decision on the Election of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Elects* Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, as Chairperson of the AU Commission;
2. *Congratulates* the newly elected Chairperson and wishes her the very best in carrying out her mandate and assures her of the unwavering support of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.446 (XIX)

**Decision on the Election of the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Elects* Mr. Erastus J.O. Mwencha as Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission;

2. *Congratulates* the newly elected Deputy Chairperson and wishes him the very best in carrying out his mandate and assures him of the unwavering support of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.447 (XIX)

**Decision on the Appointment of the Commissioners of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/740 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election by the Executive Council of the Commissioners of the African Union Commission;
2. *Appoints* the following persons as Commissioners of the Commission:
- | | Name and Country | Portfolio |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) | Ramtane Lamamra (Algeria) | Peace and Security; |
| (b) | Aïsha L. Abdullahi (Nigeria) | Political Affairs; |
| (c) | Elham Mahmoud (Egypt) | Infrastructure and Energy; |
| (d) | Mustapha S. Kaloko (Sierra Leone) | Social Affairs; |
| (e) | Fatima H. Acyl (Chad) | Trade and Industry; |
| (f) | Rhoda P. Tumusiime (Uganda) | Rural Economy and Agriculture; |
3. *Congratulates* the newly elected Commissioners;
4. *Decides* that the Commissioners for Human Resources, Science and Technology and Economic Affairs shall be elected only from among male candidates from the Central and Southern Regions in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the Commission as well as the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, during the January 2013 Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
5. *Also decides* that the elected Commissioners who did not take the oath of office during the current session of the Assembly should do so before the Chairperson of the Commission.

Assembly/AU/Dec.448 (XIX)

Decision on Africa's Preparation for the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 18/CMP 8)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on the Progress on Implementation of the Assembly Decision on the United Nations Conference on Climate Change; and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Decides* to extend the role of H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi as Coordinator of CAHOSCC until the end of the Eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and

the Eighth Meeting of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol (COP 18/CMP 8) scheduled from 26 November to 7 December 2012 in Doha, Qatar;

3. *Urges* all Member States to support the bid by the Republic of Namibia, on behalf of Africa, to host the Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on the continent where the impact of climate change has been and is likely to be felt most acutely in future;

4. *Requests* Africa's negotiators to play an enhanced role at the Doha conference and through other appropriate platforms to aid quick consensus-building on sources of finance; and calls on the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to expedite action on the operationalization of the GCF to start delivering on its principal functions, namely, mobilizing and allocating financial resources;

5. *Urges* CAHOSCC to convene a meeting to consider and take forward the updated African common position on climate change to COP 18/CMP 8, which the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) will have considered and endorsed at its Fourteenth Ordinary Session to be held in September 2012 in Arusha, Tanzania;

6. *Requests* the Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other partners to step up their efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards an effective Africa's preparation for the COP 18/CMP 8.

Assembly/AU/Dec.449 (XIX)

Decision on the Proclamation of 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security

The Assembly,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in agricultural development policies in Africa;

2. *Proclaims* 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa to mark the tenth anniversary of CAADP.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XIX)

Solemn Declaration on Mali

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at our Nineteenth Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15 to 16 July 2012,

Deeply concerned and alarmed by the prevailing situation in Mali,

Noting that the continued occupation of the northern part of Mali by various armed, terrorist and criminal groups poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and beyond,

Strongly condemning the serious violations of human rights perpetrated in the northern part of Mali, as well as the senseless and unacceptable destruction by the armed, terrorist and criminal groups active on the ground of the cultural, spiritual and historical heritage of this region, notably in Timbuktu,

Deeply concerned by the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the northern part of Mali, and stressing the need for urgent action to allow the delivery of food aid to the affected populations,

Stressing the urgent need to consolidate the transitional institutions established as part of the process towards the return to constitutional order, to enable Mali to address the existential challenges facing it and the mobilization of the required international support to this end,

Expressing our appreciation to ECOWAS, the core countries and the larger international community for their sustained efforts and contribution towards the early resolution of the crisis, and welcoming, in this respect, the adoption, by the United Nations Security Council, on 5 July 2012, of resolution 2056 (2012),

Noting that the situation in Mali calls into question some of the most basic principles of the AU, notably the respect of the national unity and territorial integrity of Member States, the utter rejection of armed rebellion to further political demands as well as the rejection of terrorism and related criminal activities,

Reiterating the terms of all communiqués and decisions of the AU and ECOWAS on the situation in Mali,

Affirming our determination to work collectively to address the prevailing situation and overcome the challenges at hand,

Agree as follows:

(a) *Fully endorse* communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM/1. (CCCXXVII) adopted by the 327th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council, held in Addis Ababa, on 14 July 2012, under the chairmanship of H.E. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and current Chair of ECOWAS, in his capacity as Chairperson of the PSC for the month of July 2012, which reads as follows:

"The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 327th meeting held on 14 July 2012, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Republic of Mali:

The Council,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Mali (PSC/AHG/3 (CCCXXVII)). The Council also takes note of the statements made by the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the ECOWAS Mediator, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, the United Nations, and by the core countries, namely Mauritania, Niger and Algeria, as well as by South Africa and Togo, as AU Member States in the United Nations Security Council;
2. *Recalls* its earlier communiqués on the situation in Mali;
3. *Reaffirms* the unflinching commitment of the AU and that of all its Member States to the national unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali, which cannot be the subject of any discussion or negotiation, and Africa's determination to spare no effort to ensure their preservation. The Council also reaffirms the AU's utter rejection of terrorism and the recourse to armed rebellion to further political demands;
4. *Expresses its deep concern* at the seriousness of the situation in northern Mali, marked by the increasing consolidation of control of the region by the armed, terrorist and criminal groups. The Council notes with concern the presence in northern Mali of different armed and terrorist groups, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Dine, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA) and Boko Haram. The Council further notes that this situation poses a serious threat to regional and international peace and security and, as such, calls for urgent and effective action by the entire international community;
5. *Strongly condemns* the violations of human rights perpetrated by the various armed, terrorist and criminal groups which occupy the northern part of Mali, and the senseless and unacceptable destruction of the cultural, spiritual and historical heritage of this region, notably in Timbuktu, which is a serious violation of international law, and urges that the perpetrators be brought to justice before the relevant international jurisdictions. The Council

also notes the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the region, and stresses the need for urgent action to allow the delivery of food aid to the affected populations. The Council reiterates the gratitude of the AU to Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger, for hosting Malian refugees and for their support and assistance. The Council also thanks all humanitarian agencies providing support to the affected populations;

6. *Reiterates* the full support of the AU to the ECOWAS efforts aimed at resolving the crisis in Mali. In this regard, the Council pays tribute to President Alassane Dramane Ouattara, President of Côte d'Ivoire and current Chairman of ECOWAS, President Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso and Mediator in the Malian crisis, President Goodluck Jonathan, President of Nigeria and Associate Mediator, and the other members of the ECOWAS Contact Group on Mali, as well as to President Thomas Yayi Boni, President of Benin and Chairman of the AU, for their commitment and sustained efforts. The Council also notes with satisfaction the action of the core countries. The Council welcomes the interaction that has developed between ECOWAS and the core countries, and encourages all stakeholders to continue on this path, in accordance with its decision of 20 March 2012, in Bamako (PSC/MIN/COMM.(CCCXIV));

7. *Endorses* the communiqués issued by the Forty-first Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Yamoussoukro, on 28 and 29 June 2012, and the second meeting of the ECOWAS Contact Group on Mali, held in Ouagadougou, on 7 July 2012. The Council also welcomes the adoption, on 5 July 2012, by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 2056 (2012);

8. *Reiterates* its strong condemnation of the physical assault against the interim President, Mr. Dioncounda Traore, and requests the Chairperson of the Commission, in collaboration with the President of the ECOWAS Commission, to put in place, with the support of the United Nations, an international commission of inquiry to shed light on the assault and to identify its perpetrators and sponsors, with a view to bringing them to justice. The Council requests the current authorities, working closely with ECOWAS, to facilitate the return to Mali of the interim President, to enable him to fully and effectively assume his responsibilities;

9. *Reiterates* the urgent need to strengthen the transitional institutions, to enable Mali to address the serious challenges it faces, particularly in the northern part of the country. In this regard, the Council demands an end to the unacceptable interference of the military junta and their civilian supporters in the management of the transition and the effective dissolution of the National Committee for the Recovery of Democracy and the Restoration of the State (CNRDRE). The Council calls for the early finalization of the list of individuals whose action is impeding the transition, to allow for the immediate imposition of sanctions by the AU and ECOWAS. The Council requests the United Nations Security Council and other AU partners to support such sanctions;

10. *Urges* the interim President and the Prime Minister to immediately commence the required consultations with the Malian political and civil society actors, with a view to forming an expanded national unity government, as requested by ECOWAS, the AU and the United Nations. The Council requests the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, in close consultation with the Mediation and with the support of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa and other partners, on the basis of the communiqué of the Ouagadougou Contact Group meeting, to facilitate the holding, as soon as possible, of consultations among the Malian stakeholders, in Bamako, for the formation of the Government of national unity by 31 July 2012, in accordance with the decision of the Contact Group meeting. The Council emphasizes that the formation of this government will mark the completion of institutional normalization and pave the way for the lifting of the suspension measure taken by the AU, as well as for greater mobilization of Africa and the rest of the international community, in support to the efforts of the transitional authorities;

11. *Encourages* dialogue with groups willing to negotiate on the basis of the respect of the unity and territorial integrity of Mali, and the total rejection of armed rebellion, terrorism and related criminal activities. In this regard, the Council reaffirms its support to the efforts of the ECOWAS Mediator and the Contact Group, and stresses the need for continued coordination with the core countries;

12. *Reiterates* its determination to impose sanctions against terrorist and criminal groups operating in northern Mali, as well as against any other armed group that impedes the search for a solution to the crisis and the efforts of ECOWAS and the AU. In this regard, the Council calls upon all Member States concerned to extend full cooperation to the Commission to expedite the finalization of the list of armed, terrorist and criminal groups operating in the northern part of Mali, for their inclusion on the list of terrorist groups established by the AU, in conformity with communiqué PSC/PR/COMM. (CCCXVI), adopted at its 316th meeting held on 3 April 2012;

13. *Recalls* its communiqué PSC/PR/COMM. (CCCXIII) of 12 June 2012, authorizing ECOWAS, in collaboration, as appropriate, with the core countries, to put in place the required security and military arrangements, to achieve the following objectives: (i) ensure the security of the transitional institutions, (ii) restructure and reorganize the Malian security and defence forces, and (iii) restore State authority over the northern part of the country, as well as fight against terrorist and criminal networks. The Council welcomes the measures taken by ECOWAS in this regard, including the dispatching of a technical assessment mission to Bamako, with the participation of the AU. The Council reiterates its call on all Member States and the international community as a whole, for them to provide the necessary technical, logistical and financial support;

14. *Welcomes* the launching by the AU Commission, during the consultative meeting held in Addis Ababa, on 23 June 2012, of the process towards the development of a strategic concept articulating, in a holistic manner, the political, security and military measures towards the early resolution of the crisis in Mali. The Council calls for the early finalization of this concept with ECOWAS, in collaboration with the core countries, the United Nations, and other partners. The Council stresses that this document and the planning conducted by ECOWAS must be mutually reinforcing. The Council expresses its intention to consider and adopt this concept as quickly as possible, before its submission to the United Nations Security Council, to enable the latter to further consider the request of ECOWAS and the AU, in accordance with paragraph 18 of resolution 2056 (2012);

15. *Calls upon* the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to investigate the human rights situation in northern Mali, including the atrocities committed against the Malian military and their families in Aguel'hoc, in January 2012, and to submit a comprehensive report with concrete recommendations on the way forward;

16. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the situation:*

(b) Requests the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, in consultation with the ECOWAS Mediator on the Malian crisis, the core countries and other relevant AU Member States from the region, including Chad, to take urgent steps for the effective implementation of all the provisions of the PSC communiqué;

(c) Urges the United Nations Security Council and Secretary-General, as well as all other AU partners, to extend full support to the African-led efforts and take all decisions required to this end;

(d) Welcomes the establishment, by the PSC, on 20 March 2012, of the Support and Follow-up Group on the situation in Mali, and the holding of its inaugural meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 7 June 2012, and calls for its strengthening, in particular, the expansion of its membership to include other AU Member States in the region, such as the Republic of Chad, and the convening of specific meetings at the appropriate level in support of the efforts aimed at speedily resolving the crisis in Mali;

(e) Requests the PSC to meet, as and when required by the situation, at the level of Heads of State and Government, and/or at the ministerial level, to closely follow the developments and take all appropriate measures on behalf of the entire membership of the African Union, in accordance with Article 7 of the PSC Protocol, including the provisions of its paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.

* Editor's note: There is no subparagraph (a) in the English or French version of paragraph 16.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XIX)

Declaration on the Report of Aids Watch Africa (AWA) Action Committee of Heads of State and Government

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Nineteenth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15 to 16 July 2012, following our consideration of the Report of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Action Committee of Heads of State and Government,

Recalling Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.395 (XVIII) whereby AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) was revitalized as an African high-level platform to advocate for action, accountability and resource mobilization for response to HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria in Africa; and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.413 (XVII) requesting the AU Commission, NEPAD and UNAIDS to work out a road map on shared responsibility for a viable response to AIDS, including health financing,

Also recalling the global and Abuja commitments on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, as well as the Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Africa Health Strategy, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, and African Plan towards Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive,

Acknowledging that efforts to implement these commitments should be redoubled by all stakeholders for Africa to achieve universal access to health services and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015,

Also acknowledging and commending the role played by international development partners in the response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, particularly through availing the required financing and promotion of access to health services,

Recognizing that the achievements of the last decade in promoting access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria services depended largely on the political will and commitment by Africa's top leadership, increased financing as well as improved partnerships at all levels,

Appreciating the support of UNAIDS in the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa,

Deeply concerned that, in spite of these achievements, the challenge posed by HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria on the continent remains immense,

Hereby declare as follows:

1. *Recommit* individually and collectively to continued implementation of all our previous commitments towards universal access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria services in Africa including maternal and child health, equitable access to affordable and quality-assured medicines and health commodities, promotion of social protection and strengthening of health systems in the context of gender-equality and human rights;
2. *Also recommit* to keeping the struggle against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria high on national, regional and continental agendas; and ensuring accountability for results and targets to be achieved in the response to these diseases, and for efficient utilization of resources budgeted for health;
3. *Endorse* the Report and recommendations on the Future Direction of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) 2012-2015, and the "Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria Response in Africa: Road Map 2012-2015";
4. *Decide* to fully incorporate the AWA Secretariat into the structures and regular budget of the African Union Commission from 2013 onwards;

5. *Also decide* that each AWA Action Committee Head of State and Government nominate an expert conversant with AIDS, TB and Malaria as his/her representative on the Consultative Experts Committee and the National Working Group on AWA;
6. *Further decide* to call for a parallel meeting on shared responsibility and Global Solidarity for the AIDS response on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2012 and urge all AU Heads of State and Government to participate in the meeting;
7. *Encourage* all AU Heads of State and Government to join AIDS Watch Africa and, led by the AWA Action Committee, to champion the campaign against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa by 2015. To this end, we will lay emphasis on mobilizing increased domestic resources, improving value for money, enhancing planning and using existing resources more rationally;
8. *Urge* Member States to collaborate with people living with and affected by HIV and remobilize society as a whole for renewed response to AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa through more innovative and sustainable mechanisms and well-coordinated partnerships. Focus should be on prevention of new HIV, TB and Malaria infections, ensuring good nutrition and more equitable access to affordable and quality-assured medicines and health-related commodities;
9. *Call upon* development partners to meet their previous commitments, sustain and coordinate their support for the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria on the continent, in the spirit of promoting global solidarity, health and development;
10. *Request* United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector and other international organizations and partnerships, to intensify and coordinate their support and collaboration at all levels;
11. *Also request* Regional Economic Communities and Regional Health Organizations, in collaboration with the AU and other partners, to redouble their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria in their respective regions;
12. *Finally request* the AU Commission to coordinate, follow up and report annually on the implementation of this Declaration; and the NEPAD Agency, African Peer Review Mechanism, the Pan-African Parliament and other relevant regional and continental bodies to fully incorporate HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria control and accountability into their respective programmes and also report annually on related progress.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XIX)

Declaration on Palestine

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Nineteenth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 15 to 16 July 2012,

Recalling the admission of the State of Palestine as a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Underscoring that full membership of the United Nations is a right to be enjoyed by all sovereign States,

Noting that the membership of the United Nations and all its programmes and agencies is part of the peace process,

Reaffirming its support to the two-State solution as the only viable option for peaceful coexistence between the State of Palestine and Israel,

Concerned that the continued suspension of contributions constitutes unwarranted punishment of not only the children and people of Palestine but also of others beyond the State of Palestine,

Call on all Member-States of the United Nations which have suspended their contributions to UNESCO to rescind that decision and further calls on these Member States to resume contributions for the continuation of UNESCO programmes.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XIX)

Declaration on Israel

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Nineteenth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 15 to 16 July 2012,

Expressing grave concern at the recent expulsion of African nationals in Israel and condemn this unwarranted act,

Reminding Israel of its obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees and the 1961 United Nations Convention on the Prevention of Statelessness,

Expressing the concern that the continued expulsion of African nationals in this manner constitutes a systematic, flagrant and gross violation of the rights of these Africans,

Have agreed as follows:

1. *Call upon* the State of Israel to deploy normal status determination means, in conformity with internationally acceptable due process;
2. *Invite* the State of Israel to live up to its obligations as stipulated under international law.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XIX)

Resolution on the Lifting of the Economic and Trade Embargo Imposed on the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Nineteenth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15 to 16 July 2012,

Recalling the outcomes of the Global African Diaspora Summit, held on 25 May 2012 in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa,

Recalling Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XV) adopted by our Assembly at its Fifteenth Ordinary Session held in Kampala, Uganda, on 27 July 2010, and Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVII) adopted at its Seventeenth Ordinary Session held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 1 July 2011 and in particular, the calls made to the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba to enable it to enjoy all the legitimate prospects for its sustained development,

Reaffirming our commitment to further strengthen Africa-Caribbean relations as expressed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at Kampala, Uganda, in June 2010,

Reaffirming our full support to the annual resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations titled: "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba",

Reiterate our call and, once again, invite the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on the people of the Republic of Cuba.

Assembly/AU/Motion/1 (XIX)

**Special Vote of Thanks to H.E. Dr. Jean Ping,
Outgoing Chairperson of the Commission**

The Assembly,

Noting with satisfaction the contribution of H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, outgoing Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the period 2008-2012, and the personal commitment and sacrifices he has made in the realization of the objectives of our Union,

1. *Expresses* its sincere thanks to H.E. Dr. Jean Ping for his achievements, in particular in areas of peace and security as well as strengthening cooperation, integration and development, shared values as well as capacity-building of the Commission;
2. *Also expresses* the gratitude of all AU Member States and the people of Africa to H.E. Dr. Jean Ping for the outstanding work he has accomplished during his mandate;
3. *Decides* to confer on H.E. Dr. Jean Ping on the occasion of its next ordinary session, an honorary award in recognition of the outstanding services he has rendered to Africa and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to this effect.

Assembly/AU/Motion/2 (XIX)

Special Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Commissioners of the African Union

The Assembly,

Noting with satisfaction the contribution by the following outgoing AU Commissioners for the period 2008-2012 and their personal commitments and sacrifices in the realization of the objectives of our Union,

1. *Expresses* its sincere thanks to:

Commissioner Julia Dolly Joiner (Political Affairs);

Commissioner Adv. Bience Gawanas (Social Affairs);

Commissioner Maxwell Mkwezalamba (Economic Affairs);

Commissioner Jean Pierre Onvehoun Ezin (Human Resources, Science and Technology);

Late Commissioner Elisabeth Tankeu (Trade and Industry);

for their achievements, in particular, in the areas of political, social, economic and trade and industry development of the continent as well as strengthening cooperation, integration and development, shared values as well as capacity-building of the Commission;

2. *Also expresses* the gratitude of all AU Member States and the people of Africa to the outgoing Commissioners for their valuable contribution to the work of African Union;

3. *Decides* to confer on the concerned Commissioners, on the occasion of its next ordinary session, honorary awards in recognition of the outstanding services they have rendered to Africa and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to this effect.

TWENTIETH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
27 to 28 January 2013**

Assembly/AU/Dec.450 (XX)

**Decision on Refocusing the Economic Commission for Africa to Support the
Transformation Agenda of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/755 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the continued close collaboration between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) which is manifested in the alignment of the ECA's work with the agenda of the Africa Union;
2. *Further welcomes*, in this regard, the strategic reorientation and refocusing of the ECA to support accelerated socio-economic transformation of Africa;
3. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide required support to the ECA to enhance its work in accordance with Africa's priorities.

Assembly/AU/Dec.451 (XX)

**Decision on the Pan-African University Statute
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.290 (XV) adopted in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2010 to create the Pan-African University (PAU) in accordance with the model proposed by the Commission;
2. *Also recalls* the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.418 (XIX) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2012, on the operationalization of the PAU;
3. *Commends* the Member States and their institutes who have responded to the request of the Assembly to operationalize the PAU by hosting regional centres according to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.391 (XVIII) adopted in Addis Ababa in January 2011;
4. *Congratulates* the PAU host countries that have signed the relevant memoranda of understanding;
5. *Urges* the Southern African region to expedite the selection of the host country for the PAU thematic Institute on Space Sciences;
6. *Further takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council regarding the adoption of the PAU Statute;
7. *Adopts* the PAU Statute.

Assembly/AU/Dec.452 (XX)

**Decision on the Creation of the African Observatory on Science, Technology and Innovation
in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
(Doc. EX.CL/766 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Decision of the Executive Council on the Report of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the African Union Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST V) held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 12 to 15 November 2012;
2. *Decides* to create the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI) in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea;
3. *Recalls* the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.235 (XII) on the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI);
4. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the Commission and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in the creation of AOSTI;
5. *Expresses appreciation* to the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for hosting the Observatory and providing a seed funding of US\$ 3.6 million;
6. *Calls upon* the Member States and development partners to avail the necessary technical and financial support for sustaining the AOSTI and its programmes;
7. *Requests* the Commission to submit to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in May 2013 the statute, structure and financial implications of the AOSTI to the relevant African Union policy organs.

Assembly/AU/Dec.453 (XX)

**Decision on the Creation of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO)
(Doc. EX.CL/766 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Decision of the Executive Council on the Report of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Science and Technology (AMCOST V) held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 12 to 15 November 2012;
2. *Recalls* the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.138 (VII) on the need to establish the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
3. *Decides* to create the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
4. *Takes note* of the offer by the Government of Tunisia to host PAIPO and expresses its appreciation for this offer;
5. *Requests* the Commission to convene a meeting of all stakeholders dealing with intellectual property in the implementation of this Decision by the January 2014 Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.454 (XX)

**Decision on the Progress Report on the Transformation of
the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report;
2. *Commends* the Government Experts for the work accomplished to date, pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Assembly on the transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority;
3. *Reaffirms* its conviction that the ultimate objective of the African Union is the political and economic integration of the continent with the establishment of the United States of Africa, as envisaged by the founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and stated in the Accra Declaration adopted by the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly devoted to the theme “Grand Debate on the Union Government” held in July 2007 in Accra, Ghana;
4. *Also reaffirms* that in the meantime, the Commission and all other organs as well as their relations with the Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders, should be strengthened;
5. *Decides* to consider, at the appropriate time, all related issues, on the basis of all the relevant reports, recommendations and declarations, as well as decisions of the Assembly, the different Committees of Heads of State and Government, the Executive Council, and the Ministerial Committees that have considered the issue, as well as the recommendations of the High-Level Panel on the Audit of the Union;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee, and in conformity with set procedure, to first make appropriate recommendations on the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the work already carried out relating to the Authority, to the ordinary session of the Assembly in May 2013.

Assembly/AU/Dec.455 (XX)

Decision on the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union Relating to the Pan-African Parliament

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council contained in Decision EX.CL/Dec.707 (XXI) on the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union Relating to the Pan-African Parliament;
2. *Decides* that more in-depth consultations should be undertaken on the draft Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union Relating to the Pan-African Parliament, in particular, with respect to its Article 8, paragraphs 1 (a) and 2, on legislative and oversight powers;
3. *Also decides* to defer consideration of the draft Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union Relating to the Pan-African Parliament to its next ordinary session in May 2013.

Assembly/AU/Dec.456 (XX)

Decision on Development and Integration Issues

The Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to work towards speeding up the “process of implementing the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community in order to promote the socio-economic development of Africa and to face more effectively the challenges posed by globalization”, as stated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

2. *Reiterates* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.392 (XVIII) of its Eighteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 and 30 January 2012 by which it agreed to devote one of its ordinary sessions to considering development and integration issues;
3. *Decides* to devote its June/July sessions to the consideration of development and integration issues;
4. *Requests* the Commission to take the necessary measures for the implementation of this decision starting from July 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.457 (XX)

**Decision on the Coordination of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) and Africa's Preparation for COP 19/CMP 9
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) on the session which took place on 3 December 2012 on the margins of the Eighteenth Conference of Parties (COP 18) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Doha, Qatar;
2. *Commends* H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Coordinator of CAHOSCC, as well as the Members of CAHOSCC for their continued commitment in providing the necessary political leadership and guidance in ensuring Africa's effective participation in the global climate change negotiations;
3. *Endorses* the coordination function of CAHOSCC respectively, as follows:
 - (i) The coordination of CAHOSCC rotates for a period of two years for two Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
 - (ii) The country of the host of the Presidency of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) serves as the Coordinator at the summit level to enhance the linkage between the AMCEN processes to CAHOSCC in addition to providing the necessary support given the nature of expectations at this level;
 - (iii) The President of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) serves as the Coordinator at the ministerial level;
 - (iv) The Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) experts elected at the UNFCCC forum serves as the Coordinator at the expert level;
4. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other partners to step up their efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards an effective Africa's preparation for the COP 19/CMP 9;
5. *Requests* the CAHOSCC to submit a report to the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in January 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.458 (XX)

Decision on the Establishment of an International Constitutional Court

(Doc Assembly/AU/12 (XX) Add.1)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee on the item “Establishment of an International Constitutional Court”;
2. *Recognizes* the importance of the establishment of an International Constitutional Court as an advisory and jurisdictional body responsible for ensuring the respect and promotion of democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law;
3. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Republic of Tunisia on the establishment of an International Constitutional Court;
4. *Requests* the African Union Commission on International Law to examine the proposed establishment of an International Constitutional Court and make recommendations to the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.459 (XX)

**Decision on the Integration of the New Africa-Asia Strategic Partnership (NAASP)
into African Union Structures and Processes
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XX) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of South Africa on the integration of the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership (NAASP) into the African Union structures and processes;
2. *Endorses* the recommendations on NAASP, as contained in the “Global Review of Africa’s Strategic Partnerships with other Parts of the World,” which were endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union at its Twentieth Session held in January 2012;
3. *Underscores* the need to promote African-Asian solidarity and further enhance South-South Cooperation aimed at improving the lives of the peoples of the two continents and determining their place within the global community of nations;
4. *Welcomes* the proposal for the integration of NAASP into the structures and processes of the AU;
5. *Requests* the Commission, to take the necessary steps towards the integration of the New Africa-Asia Strategic Partnership (NAASP) into the African Union structures and processes.

Assembly/AU/Dec.460 (XX)

**Decision on the Representation of Local Communities in Organs of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU12 (XX) Add.3)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal submitted by the Republic of Senegal on the establishment of a Supreme Council of Local Communities within the framework of the African Union;

2. *Commends* the Republic of Senegal for its commitment to an integrated Africa driven by its own citizens as well as its contribution to the entrenchment of shared values of democratic representation and participation within African Union structures;
3. *Requests* the Republic of Senegal to avail itself to work with the Commission and to facilitate consultations in view of deepening the proposal;
4. *Also requests* the Commission to work closely with the Republic of Senegal as well as other relevant stakeholders on the proposal;
5. *Finally requests* the Commission to submit a comprehensive report on the opportunity, feasibility, and implications, including financial ones, of the proposal at the January 2014 Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.461 (XX)

**Decision on the Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality and Morbidity in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XX) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its previous commitments, while underscoring those contained in the Maputo Plan of Action; the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa (CARMMA); the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Other Related Infectious Diseases and the universal access to prevention, treatment and support services; as well as its commitment to redouble efforts to improve the health of African women and children as spelled out in the “Actions on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Development in Africa” (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI));
2. *Takes note* of the reduction of maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality over the last two decades in Africa;
3. *Welcomes* the generous offer of Egypt and Mauritius to put at the disposal of the Member States concerned, their expertise in this campaign;
4. *Recognizes* that the reduction of the current rate of maternal, newborn and child mortality is low and should be accelerated;
5. *Requests* that the Ministers of Health of the African Union examine the progress made regarding the state of maternal, newborn and child health, map out concrete and innovative strategies at a larger scale in order to adequately address the health needs of African women and children and submit a report to the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly;
6. *Decides* to place this item on the agenda of the next Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.462 (XX)

**Decision on the Establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics in Tunisia
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XX) Add.5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Republic of Tunisia for the establishment of an African Union Institute for Statistics in Tunis;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of the African Union Institute for Statistics to promote the production of official statistics of the African Union mainly by collecting, harmonizing and aggregating data published by the national statistics institutes of African countries;
3. *Also recognizes* the importance of the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics in the collection and publication of statistical data at the African level in order to shed light on the decisions of African institutions and educate African citizens accordingly;
4. *Approves* the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics that will be based in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, and express gratitude to Tunisia for its commitment to cover operating costs at the stage of its inception;
5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement the African Charter on Statistics for its entry into force;
6. *Invites* development partners to support the project for the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics;
7. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with the Government of Tunisia to take the necessary measures for the effective establishment and hosting of the proposed African Union Institute for Statistics;
8. *Further requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Tunisian Government, to consider ways and means of establishing the Institute and to report to the Summit in January 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.463 (XX)

**Decision on the Promotion of Critical Knowledge for the Accelerated and Sustainable Development of Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XX) Add.6)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal of Burkina Faso on the promotion of critical skills for accelerated and sustainable development in Africa; the proposal complements other initiatives such as the African Union Action Plan of the Second Decade of Education;
2. *Commends* the Government of Burkina Faso for having hosted the 2012 Triennial Meeting on Education and Vocational Training in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 12 to 17 February 2012;
3. *Approves* the initiative of Burkina Faso and endorses the recommendations of the Triennial Meeting;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to implement the recommendations of the Triennial Meeting conclusions because of the important role that education and vocational training are expected to play in the development of the continent and the African renaissance;
5. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the implementation of educational policies based on equality and geared towards the accelerated and sustainable development of Africa;
6. *Requests* the Commission to arrange a consultation with the ADEA, the ADB and the relevant institutions to develop a programme of support to African countries concerned for the appropriation, adaptation and implementation of the conclusions from the Triennial Meeting on Education and Vocational Training in Ouagadougou;

7. *Also requests* the Commission to report regularly to the Assembly on the implementation of this Decision through the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF) or the Specialized Technical Committee.

Assembly/AU/Dec.464 (XX)

**Decision on the Hosting of a Special Follow-up Summit on the Abuja 2001 African Union Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases in the Third Quarter (July/August) of 2013
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XX) Add.7)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host a Special Follow-up Summit on the Abuja 2001 African Union Summit on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases in the third quarter of 2013;
2. *Recalls* the 2000/2001 Declarations and Framework on Roll Back Malaria, and on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases; and also recalls the 2006 Abuja “Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa”;
3. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the implementation of the declarations for action by Member States, RECs, the African Union Commission and the international community;
4. *Expresses concern* that Africa still carries the highest burden of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases which have negatively impacted on the socio-economic development of the continent;
5. *Expresses deep concern* over existing funding gaps for the implementation of related programmes and the need to enhance Africa’s ownership of these initiatives through increased and sustained domestic funding;
6. *Welcomes* the offer by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and decides to host a Special Follow-up Summit on the Abuja 2001 African Union Summit on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases in the third quarter of 2013; and further calls on Nigeria to propose a suitable date as soon as possible.

Assembly/AU/Dec.465 (XX)

**Decision on the South-South and Triangular Coalition in Support of Africa Post-2015
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XX) Add.8)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of Guinea relating to the creation of a South-South and Triangular Coalition in support of Africa Post-2015;
2. *Stresses* the strategic importance of such coalition aimed at enhancing development assistance to the continent within the framework of the Post-2015 Agenda while ensuring dynamic mobilization of internal resources to the continent and its development;
3. *Recognizes* the importance of the role of the Coalition in building the financial capacities of the continent;
4. *Approves* the creation of a South-South and Triangular Coalition to assist Africa within the framework of its Post-2015 Agenda;

5. *Accepts* the candidacy of Guinea to host the headquarters of the Coalition in January 2016 and the regional project on capacity-building for the implementation of the 2013-2015 preparatory phase;
6. *Requests* the Sixth Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Economy and Planning to deepen reflections on the operationalization of the Coalition;
7. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with ECA, UNDP, AfDB, the NEPAD Agency, the European Union, World Bank, OIF, the bilateral partners of the South and the North and the Government of Guinea to take the necessary steps to implement this Decision, and report thereon to the January 2014 session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.466 (XX)

**Decision on the Report of the Committee of Ten on United Nations Reform
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with high appreciation* of the supplement to the last report of H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Coordinator of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council, and further takes note of recent developments on United Nations Security Council reform since the last report;
2. *Commends* the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in promoting and defending the continent's interest in the United Nations Security Council reform, and of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations for the commitment and determination in carrying out their mandate in participating in the intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform;
3. *While reaffirming* its strong commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration containing the Common African Position on reform of the United Nations Security Council, stresses the need for Africa to continue to speak with one voice and cohesively on all issues relating to the United Nations Security Council reform process;
4. *Appreciates* progress and developments to date directed at building alliances, dialoguing and engaging other interest groups and Member States in the reform process in support of the African common position, and encourages the intensification of efforts to continue to build on and advance progress so made;
5. *Reaffirms* AU Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.430 (XIX) on the last report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
6. *Underscores* the need for the Committee of Ten to continue, in collaboration with the chief executives of regional groupings, to intensify efforts in advocating, canvassing and promoting the African common position to reach out at the highest political levels for the purpose of garnering and galvanizing the necessary political will in support thereof, and to consider holding high-level meetings of the Committee of Ten outside the margins of the Summit of the African Union, to discuss issues relating to the United Nations Security Council reform process, including the intergovernmental negotiations, and the need to seek any guidance, if necessary, in furtherance of its mandate;
7. *Reiterates* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council and requests the Committee to present a report to the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly in May 2013.

Assembly/AU/Dec.467 (XX)

**Decision on the Election of the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology and
the Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/777 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election by the Executive Council of the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology and the Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union (AU);
2. *Appoints* the following persons as Commissioners of the AU Commission:

	Name and Country	Portfolio
(a)	Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga (Congo)	Human Resources, Science and Technology;
(b)	Dr. Anthony Mothae Maruping (Lesotho)	Economic Affairs;
3. *Congratulates* the newly elected AU Commissioners;
4. *Decides* that the elected AU Commissioners who did not take the oath of office during the current session of the Assembly should do so before the Chairperson of the Commission.

Assembly/AU/Dec.468 (XX)

**Decision on the Election of Five Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/778 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the five members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following five members of the Peace and Security Council for a three-year term as of 1 April 2013:

1.	Equatorial Guinea	Central Region;
2.	Uganda	Eastern Region;
3.	Algeria	Northern Region;
4.	Mozambique	Southern Region;
5.	Nigeria	Western Region.

Assembly/AU/Dec.469 (XX)

**Decision on the Election of One Judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/779 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of one judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* Mr. Kimelabalou Aba (Togo) as judge of AfCHPR for a year and a half term.

Assembly/AU/Dec.470 (XX)

**Decision on the Election of the Eleven Members of the Advisory Board against Corruption
(Doc. EX.CL/780 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the eleven members of the Advisory Board on Corruption by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following Members of the Advisory Board against Corruption for a two-year term:

No.	Name	Country
1.	Mr. Jacques III Achiaou	Côte d'Ivoire;
2.	Dr. Tony Aidoo	Ghana;
3.	Ms. Akossiwa Ayena	Togo;
4.	Ms. Angèle Barumpozako	Burundi;
5.	Mr. Salem Ben-Gharbia	Libya;
6.	Mr. M'Père Diarra	Mali;
7.	Mr. Jean-Baptiste Elias	Benin;
8.	Mr. Edward Gamaya	Tanzania;
9.	Mr. Ali Sulaiman Mohamed	Ethiopia;
10.	Mr. Pierre Nzobabela	Congo;
11.	Mrs. Julie Onum-Nwariaku	Nigeria.

Assembly/AU/Dec.471 (XX)

**Decision on the Election of Five Members of the African Union Commission on International Law
(Doc. EX.CL/781 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of five members of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following members of the AUCIL for a five-year term:

No.	Name	Country
1.	Mr. Rafâa Ben Achour	Tunisia;
2.	Mr. Daniel Makiesse Mwanawanzambi	D.R.C.;
3.	Mr. Boniface Obinna Okere	Nigeria;
4.	Mrs. Naceesay Salla-Wadda	Gambia;
5.	Mr. Kholisani Solo	Botswana.

Assembly/AU/Dec.472 (XX)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. *Commends* the PSC, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution for their commitment and efforts;
3. *Notes* the recent advances in the process of ending the crisis in Madagascar, notably the announcement by Mr. Marc Ravalomanana and Mr. Rajoelina André that they will abstain from the next presidential election. The Assembly encourages the continuation of ongoing efforts for the full implementation of the Road Map for ending the crisis in Madagascar, and requests the Commission to convene an early meeting of the International Contact Group on Madagascar (ICG-M) and the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to meet immediately thereafter to assess the situation and take appropriate measures;
4. *Welcomes* the remarkable progress in Somalia, both in terms of security, with the continuous expansion of areas under the control of Somali forces and AMISOM, and on the political level, with the end of the Transition and the election of a new President of the Republic. The Assembly appeals to Member States and international partners to provide the necessary assistance for consolidating the gains, and strengthening the capacity of the Somali State, especially in terms of security. The Assembly welcomes the review of AMISOM conducted by the Commission between December 2012 and January 2013, and awaits with interest the implementation of the recommendations contained therein, as have been reviewed and approved by the PSC;
5. *Expresses concern* at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia and reaffirms the African Union's appeal for an intensification of efforts by Africa to help the two countries overcome the current difficulties, normalize relations and lay the foundations for sustainable peace and security in Africa. The Assembly also reiterates the urgent need for an effective and scrupulous implementation of the 6 June 2010 Agreement between Djibouti and Eritrea and requests the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to actively follow up on the matter and report thereon;
6. *Reiterates its support* for a regional and holistic approach to resolving challenges to peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa, in support of IGAD; the Commission, in consultation with countries of the region, IGAD, the European Union, the United Nations and other partners, to take the necessary steps with a view to launching this process, and to submit a report to the PSC thereon before the next ordinary session of the Assembly;

7. *Encourages* the parties to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DHRD), namely the Government of Sudan and the Movement for Freedom and Justice (LJM), to intensify their efforts towards the implementation of the Agreement, and stresses the need for renewed efforts to make the peace process more inclusive. The Assembly appeals to the international community to provide financial and other assistance required in order to consolidate the progress made in Darfur. The Assembly expresses concern over the deterioration of the security situation on the ground, calls on all actors concerned to exercise utmost restraint and affirms its support to the efforts of the AU/United Nations Hybrid Operation (UNAMID). The Assembly welcomes the appointment of Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas as new Joint Special Representative for UNAMID;

8. *Reiterates its full support* for the Road Map adopted by the PSC on 24 April 2012 on the situation between Sudan and South Sudan, welcomes the signing of the 27 September 2012 Agreements between the two countries, as well as the outcomes of the Summit between Presidents Omar Hassan Al Bashir and Salva Kiir Mayardit held in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 January 2013, and stresses the need and the obligation of both countries to scrupulously implement the commitments made. The Assembly commends the AU High-Level Implementation Panel and its members, former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, for their commitment and perseverance, and Ethiopia, Chair of IGAD, for its active role in promoting peace within and between the two countries. The Assembly encourages them to continue their efforts;

9. *Reiterates its strong condemnation* of the armed groups and all other negative forces operating in the eastern part of DRC and its absolute rejection of the use of armed rebellion to assert political claims. The Assembly gives full support to the efforts of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), SADC and those of the Congolese Government to promptly and fully restore its authority over its entire territory. The Assembly requests the Commission to continue efforts for the rapid deployment of the International Neutral Force (INF), on the basis of a linkage with MONUSCO, whose mandate should be revised to be more coercive, and of the strengthening of the Extended Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM), which will operate under the authority of the African Union (AU) and supervision of the Peace and Security Council (PSC);

10. *Expresses satisfaction* at the Agreements concluded in Libreville under the auspices of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), between the Central African parties, as well as the first measures taken for its implementation, including the appointment of a Prime Minister from the ranks of the opposition; underscores the urgent need for the scrupulous respect of the Agreements, and requests the international community to support the process of ending the crisis and the efforts of ECCA;

11. *Expresses satisfaction* at the progress made in the implementation of the regional cooperation initiative against the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) and encourages the countries concerned and the Commission to persevere in their efforts;

12. *Endorses* the various communiqués on the situation in Mali adopted by the PSC, including the communiqué of its 352nd meeting held on 25 January 2013. The Assembly welcomes the assistance given by the AU partners, particularly France, in order to block the offensive launched by the terrorist and criminal groups on 10 January 2013, efforts by the AU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the rapid deployment of the international support mission to Mali under African command (MISMA), as well as contributions in troops made by many African countries in the region and beyond. The Assembly urgently requests all Member States to generously contribute to the mobilization of the necessary support for MISMA and the Defence and Security forces of Mali (FDSM), particularly on the occasion of the donors' conference scheduled to take place on 29 January 2013. The Assembly also calls on the AU partners to contribute to the success of the Donors' Conference, and invites the United Nations to promptly implement the request of the AU and ECOWAS for the execution of a module of financial support by contributions to be collected by the United Nations and meanwhile, authorize the immediate establishment of transitional arrangements to enable the diligent deployment of MISMA and its effective operation. The Assembly reaffirms its support to the transitional authorities and warns the members of the former junta and the other players concerned against any hindrance in the smooth conduct of the transition and efforts designed to restore the authority of the Malian State on its whole territory. The Assembly

expresses satisfaction at the appointment of the former President Pierre Buyoya, as AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel;

13. *Expresses satisfaction* at the strides recorded in the conduct of the Transition in Guinea-Bissau. The Assembly underscores the need for unity of action between the members of the international community and, in that regard, welcomes the smooth running of the joint Mission AU/ECOWAS/CPLP/EU/United Nations in Bissau, from 16 to 21 December 2012, and requests the PSC and the Commission to monitor it;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the transition process in North Africa and encourages all the players concerned to do everything possible to meet the expectations generated by the popular revolutions which took place in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya;

15. *Notes with satisfaction* the advances that continue to be recorded in the consolidation of peace in the Comoros, in Côte d'Ivoire and in Liberia, and urges Member States and international partners to provide all necessary support to the processes under way in these countries;

16. *Stresses* the need to intensify efforts for reconstruction and post-conflict development to consolidate peace where it has not been done. In that regard, the Assembly requests the Commission to fully operationalize the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI);

17. *Reiterates its serious concern* over the routine use of armed rebellion to assert political claims, stresses the threat which this trend poses to the viability of democratic processes on the continent, as well as to peace, security and stability in Africa and strongly condemns this practice as well as any support given to armed rebellions. The Assembly reiterates its request to the Commission to submit concrete recommendations on ways and means to deal with the scourge of armed rebellion and that of secession claims;

18. *Welcomes* the convening in Pretoria, from 21 to 22 November 2012, of a workshop on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa, on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors, stresses in this respect the relevance of AU non-proliferation and counter-terrorism instruments, and requests the Commission to take the necessary steps, in collaboration with the 1540 Committee and all other stakeholders, to further promote and enhance the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa;

19. *Notes with satisfaction* the convening of the Second Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), as well as of the Second Conference of States Parties to the Treaty, in Addis Ababa, on 26 July 2012 and from 12 to 13 November 2012, respectively. The Assembly encourages the Commission and the Republic of South Africa to finalize, as soon as possible, their consultations on the establishment of the AFCONE headquarters in Pretoria, and other related aspects;

20. *Notes with satisfaction* the finalization by the Commission of the "African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons", in the context of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.369 (XVII) of July 2011, and encourages Member States to make use of the Strategy and its Action Plan. The Assembly also notes with satisfaction the elaboration of an Africa Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), as requested by Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.369 (XVII), and encourages Member States to make use of the Common Position to further Africa's concerns and interests during the Final United Nations Conference on the ATT which will be held in New York in March 2013;

21. *Commends* the Commission for having completed the development of the draft AU Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform (SSR), in fulfilment of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.177 (X) of January 2008, urges Member States to take advantage of the Policy, and encourages the Commission to avail the required assistance to Member States in this respect.

Assembly/AU/Dec.473 (XX)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee on
the New Partnership for Africa's Development
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the Report of the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, following his election at the Twentieth-eighth Session to a two-year term based on the adopted Rules of Procedure of NEPAD governance structures;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Twenty-eighth Session of the NEPAD HSGOC;
3. *Notes* the optimism and opportunities of a rising continent to better shape Africa's future taking into account the theme of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance for the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the OAU and the second decade of NEPAD as the flagship programme of the African Union;
4. *Endorses* the progress and recommendations to take forward NEPAD programmes elaborated in the Activity Report of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) for the period from July to December 2012 presented by the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki;
5. *Commends* the intensive efforts and focus of NPCA towards achieving better results in its programmatic delivery and reinforces the need for direct impact of NEPAD programmes and projects on the livelihoods of African people;
6. *Notes* the commemoration of a decade of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as an opportunity to consolidate achievements and draw lessons to deliver more substantial results and thereby commends the "Sustaining CAADP Momentum" exercise conducted by the AUC and NPCA aimed at strengthening policy, institutions, local leadership and knowledge support with greater emphasis on investments to transform African agriculture, food and nutrition security;
7. *Welcomes* the joint initiative of the Government of Egypt and NPCA to develop an integrated programme to address the recurrent food insecurity situation exacerbated by climate change and conflict in the Sahel region by linking food security and global security while noting the proposed design of a blueprint for rural transformation under the NEPAD Rural Futures Programme;
8. *Further notes* progress made in the Initiative to Empower Women in Agriculture (EWA) with priority areas of land reform, leadership, access to inputs and knowledge and pledges support for enhancing the role of women in agriculture;
9. *Refers* to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.413 (XVIII) based on the conclusions of Twenty-sixth HSGOC Session on Domestic Resource Mobilization for NEPAD programmes and projects and welcomes the progress so far recorded in the joint conduct of the in-depth study by NPCA and UNECA; and requests NPCA, UNECA and partners to finalize the study report before May 2013 for consideration by the Twenty-ninth HSGOC;
10. *Renews* its commitment to the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) and notes with satisfaction the progress achieved to date in advancing PICI projects, particularly the outcomes of the January 2013 Technical Focal Points Workshop held in Abuja, Nigeria, in the context of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA); and agrees to consider the inclusion of energy and sanitation projects, not currently covered under PICI, and commends the leadership of H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa as Chair of HSGOC PICI High-Level Subcommittee and the Presidential Champions;

11. *Emphasizes* the critical need for PICI projects to promote inter-connectivity among African countries and regions to adequately address infrastructure deficits and boost intra-African trade and affirms the advantage of PICI in providing the strategic impetus for clear and effective communication and coordination; and notes that the PICI Ministerial Forum will be convened in May 2013, prior to the Twenty-ninth HSGOC;
12. *Recalls* the Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVIII) and restates the need for active collaboration between the Commission, NPCA, and African Development Bank (AfDB) in revamping the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Fund (IPPF) through domestic funding by Member States and concerted efforts to increase private sector involvement in infrastructure development in conjunction with the World Economic Forum (WEF);
13. *In this regard, welcomes* the Africa Public Private Partnership Network (AP3N) as a continental platform for peer-learning to strengthen the role of PPPs in Africa's infrastructure development through the harmonization of PPP projects;
14. *Notes with appreciation* the briefings by H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa on hosting the sixth Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Summit in Durban on 27 March 2013, for the first time on African soil, and H.E. Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin on Africa's engagements with the G8 and G20 in 2012 under the auspices of the Chairpersons of the Union and HSGOC;
15. *Accordingly welcomes* the Summit theme: "BRICS and Africa – Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization" and the BRICS-African Leaders Dialogue Forum to focus on infrastructure cooperation as well as the expected participation of the AU leadership, PICI Champions, RECs, regional and global agencies;
16. *Reiterates* the urgent call for the G8 to fulfil its commitments to Africa and requests for stronger G20 support to Africa in ensuring resilience against the impact of the global economic crisis; urges that Africa's development priorities be placed on the 2013 agenda of the G8 and G20 Summits in the United Kingdom and Russia, respectively; and calls for adequate and effective African representation in global development processes especially the G20 and the Global Partnership (GP) for Effective Development Cooperation;
17. *Recalling* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.442 (XIX) on G8 New Alliance for Agriculture and Food Security, calls for stronger African participation in the Leadership Council of the G8 New Alliance while requesting the Commission and NPCA to monitor the implementation of the commitments under the New Alliance and the G8 L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI);
18. *Affirms* the essence of NEPAD in the priority setting for the post-2015 development agenda and requests NPCA to continue to work with the Commission and partner institutions to shape the African input;
19. *Re-emphasizes* mutual accountability as a core partnership element and notes the ongoing work on the AU accountability report of Africa-G8 commitments with focus on AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by NPCA, AUC and UNAIDS and the evaluation of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) after 10 years of existence by NPCA and OECD Secretariat through the NEPAD Steering Committee;
20. Based on the Rules of Procedure of the NEPAD governance structures, endorses the election of H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, as HSGOC Chairperson, H.E. Mohamed Morsi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the re-election of H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria, as HSGOC Vice-Chairpersons each for two years; and further endorses the membership of the five initiating countries and the outcomes of election of the 15 rotating HSGOC members by the Twenty-eighth HSGOC Session as follows:

Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
Cameroon	Ethiopia	Algeria	South Africa	Nigeria;

Gabon	Rwanda	Egypt	Malawi	Senegal;
Congo (Republic)	Tanzania*	Libya	Zambia*	Benin;
Chad*	Uganda*	Mauritania*	Zimbabwe*	Mali;

21. *Recalls* the appointment by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in consultation with the Chairperson of the HSGOC, and the Chairperson of the African Union, of Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger, as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NPCA in January 2009 and having acknowledged his exceptional leadership, high competency and improved performance of the Agency, endorses the continuation of the services of Dr. Mayaki as NPCA Chief Executive Officer for a new term of four years, congratulates the CEO on his reappointment and wishes him success;

22. *Welcomes* the set-up of the Meles Zenawi Centre (MZC) on Sustainable Development within the NPCA structure to promote knowledge generation on African Ownership and Strategy for Transformation as a tribute to the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia for the outstanding leadership he provided to the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) for the period 2007-2012.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XX)

Declaration of Solidarity with Algeria following the Terrorist Attack on Gazier Site in Amenas

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twentieth Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 27 to 28 January 2013,

Deeply concerned about the terrorist attack on Gazier d'In Amenas site in Algeria,

Hereby,

1. *Condemn* with utmost firmness this cowardly and vicious act of aggression against a Member State of the African Union;
2. *Commend* the prompt and firm response by the Algerian authorities, which frustrated the criminal designs of the terrorist gangs and thereby saved hundreds of human lives and prevented incalculable material damage;
3. *Express our full solidarity* with the Government and people of Algeria;
4. *Express our sincere condolences and deep sympathy* to the Government and people of Algeria and the families of the victims of this despicable terrorist act;
5. *Note* that the terrorist aggression against Algeria is not only an act against Algeria but also against the security and stability of Africa as a whole. It testifies to the terrorist threats which target Africa, and in particular Mali, as well as other parts of the African continent. The response demonstrates the determination and unwavering approach of the Union in combatting the scourge of terrorism and other related phenomena such as organized international crime;
6. *Seize* this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the African Union to spare no effort to permanently avert these threats to the security, stability and development of the African continent and to combine its efforts with the rest of the international community in this salutary enterprise.

* Note: newly-elected members.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XX)

Declaration on Palestine

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twentieth Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 27 to 28 January 2013,

Deeply concerned about the plight of the Palestinian people in particular the continuous illegal Israeli practices of collective punishment and settlements building in occupied Palestinian territories,

Hereby,

1. *Welcome* the United Nations General Assembly's decision granting the State of Palestine "observer non-member" status in the United Nations;
2. *Commend* Member States for their solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people as manifested by their overwhelming support to the aforementioned General Assembly's decision;
3. *Reiterate* our support for this landmark achievement that constitutes a political and diplomatic victory for the Palestinian people, and a step towards the full realization of Palestine's legitimate right to be admitted as a full member of the United Nations;
4. *Urge* the international community to pressure Israel to comply with United Nations resolutions and previous agreements signed with Palestine as well as to halt the illegal policy of settlements building in the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 5 June 1967;
5. *Acknowledge* that peace, security and stability in the Middle East are necessities for all peoples of the region and stress that that peace can never be attained except by the creation of an independent sovereign viable Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital on the borders of 4 June 1967, existing side by side in peace with the State of Israel.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XX)

Solemn Declaration on the Situation in Mali

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting at our Twentieth Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27 and 28 January 2013,

Deeply concerned about the security situation in Mali, as well as the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the northern part of the country,

Reiterating our firm commitment to the national unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali,

Noting that the continued occupation of the northern part of Mali by various armed, criminal and terrorist groups is a serious threat to peace, security and stability in Mali, the region and beyond,

Reaffirming Africa's deep solidarity with Mali, a founding member of the OAU and of our Union, whose commitment to Pan-Africanism and the causes of the continent never wavered in half a century of independence, and our determination to pool our efforts together to help this sisterly country overcome the challenges currently facing it,

Welcoming the progress being made in Mali towards addressing the challenges at hand, in particular the adoption of the Transition Road Map,

Expressing our deep appreciation to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the core countries, the other African countries contributing troops and all bilateral and multilateral partners, and acknowledging in that respect the substantial assistance extended by France in these trying moments for Mali,

Further reaffirming our previous and ECOWAS decisions on the situation in Mali,

Decide as follows:

(A) *Fully endorse* communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM/2. (CCCLIII) adopted by the 353rd meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), held in Addis Ababa, on 25 January 2013, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya, in his capacity as Chairperson of the PSC for the month of January 2013, which reads as follows:

“The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 353rd meeting held on 25 January 2013, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Republic of Mali:

The Council,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the evolution of the situation in Mali (PSC/AHG/3 (CCCLIII)), as well as of the briefings made by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and the AU High Representative for Mali and Sahel. The Council also takes note of the statements made by the representatives of Mali, the Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS (Mediation and Commission), the core countries, namely, Algeria, Mauritania and Niger, as well as by the United Nations and the European Union (EU);
2. *Recalls* its earlier communiqués on the situation in Mali;
3. *Reaffirms* the AU’s commitment to the national unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali, as well as Africa’s determination to spare no efforts to ensure their safeguard. The Council reaffirms, once again, the AU’s total rejection of terrorism and transnational crime, as well as of recourse to armed rebellion to further political claims;
4. *Reiterates* its profound concern at the serious threat that the presence, in the northern part of Mali, of different armed terrorist and criminal groups, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Din and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), pose to regional and international peace and security, as well as its firm condemnation of the abuses committed by these groups against the civilian population and the destruction of monuments of historical, cultural and religious significance. The Council also notes with great concern the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the region;
5. *Reiterates* the AU’s strong condemnation of the attacks perpetrated by an alliance of armed terrorist and criminal groups against the city of Konna, in the Mopti area, on 10 January 2013. In this respect, the Council expresses satisfaction at the fact that the prompt and efficient assistance extended by France at the request of the Malian authorities, within the framework of Security Council resolution 2085 (2012) and Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, has made it possible to block the military offensive launched by these groups and to commence regaining control over the areas they occupy. The Council also welcomes the decision by several Member States, both from and outside the region, to contribute troops as part of the African-led Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA). The Council reiterates its appreciation to ECOWAS and its current Chairman, President Alassane Dramane Ouattara of Côte d’Ivoire, for all the initiatives taken to address the sudden deterioration of the situation, and endorses the communiqué of the ECOWAS Extraordinary Summit held in Abidjan, on 19 January 2013. The Council commends the immediate neighbors of Mali for the measures they have taken to strengthen the monitoring of their borders, in order to prevent any movement of combatants and flow of supplies in favor of the armed rebel, terrorist and criminal groups;

6. *Strongly condemns* the terrorist attack against the In Amenas gas processing facility in Algeria, on 16 January 2013. The Council expresses its sympathy and solidarity with the families of the victims, as well as with the Government of Algeria and the other countries whose citizens were affected by the attack. The Council expresses support for the steps taken by the Government of Algeria to deal with the situation, and notes that the professionalism of the Algerian Armed Forces has made it possible to save hundreds of human lives, of both Algerian and foreign workers, and to limit the material damage to the gas processing facility;

7. *Stresses* the need to expedite AFISMA's deployment and to ensure its efficient running, as well as the need to enhance the capacity of the Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF). In this respect, the Council:

(a) Requests the AU and ECOWAS Commissions, in collaboration with the United Nations, the EU and other partners, to revise the AFISMA Concept of Operations (CONOPS), as endorsed by its 341st meeting, held on 13 November 2012 (PSC/PR/COMM.2 (CCCXLI)), in order to increase AFISMA's strength, including through the integration of the troops provided by Chad and other contingents that are being prepared and, in so doing, to better respond to the needs on the ground;

b) Requests the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with the President of the ECOWAS Commission and the troop contributing countries (TCCs), to immediately appoint the Special Representative, Head of AFISMA, and to put in place all necessary mechanisms to ensure effective command and control;

(c) Requests the AU Commission, together with ECOWAS and the United Nations, to immediately put in place the Mali Integrated Task Force (MITF), to ensure coordinated strategic implementation of the relevant decisions of the three organizations on the situation in Mali;

(d) Requests the AU and ECOWAS Commissions to deploy, as quickly as possible, as part of AFISMA and with the support of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), civilian observers to monitor the human rights situation in the liberated areas and to assist the Malian authorities to create the necessary conditions for lasting reconciliation among the different components of the Malian population, as well as for the consolidation of peace in the country;

(e) Urges all AU Member States, in line with its relevant decisions and United Nations Security Council resolutions, to extend the necessary financial and logistical support to AFISMA and to the MDSF, and to seize the opportunity of the donors' conference, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, on 29 January 2013, to meaningfully contribute towards the mobilization of the necessary resources;

(f) Decides, without prejudice to the contributions that Member States are expected to make during the donors' conference referred to above, to recommend to the Assembly of the Union to instruct that part of the AFISMA budget be covered by assessed contributions from AU Member States, and requests the Commission to take all necessary steps to this end;

(g) Invites Member States willing to contribute troops for AFISMA to notify the AU and ECOWAS Commissions of their intentions, within a period of one week, in order to facilitate the efforts aimed at enhancing AFISMA and appropriate arrangements for their deployment, as early as possible; and

(h) Requests the immediate neighbours of Mali to provide the necessary support in terms of intelligence and any other support that could facilitate the ongoing operations, and the restoration of the authority of the Malian State on its entire national territory. In this respect, the Council encourages the Commission to convene, as soon as possible, a meeting bringing together Mali's neighbors, members of ECOWAS, the Joint Operational Command (CEMOC) and the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL), to facilitate coordination and enhance the effectiveness of the border monitoring measures;

8. *Expresses once again*, the AU's gratitude to all the bilateral and multilateral partners supporting the AU and ECOWAS efforts in Mali. The Council urges the international partners to generously contribute financially and

logistically to AFISMA and to the MDSF on the occasion of the donors' conference of 29 January 2013, in line with the relevant provisions of resolution 2085 (2012). The Council also expresses appreciation to the EU for its commitment to provide support to Mali, including through the deployment of a training team to contribute to capacity-building efforts for the MDSF;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Secretary-General for the arrangements already made in the context of the implementation of resolution 2085 (2012), including the establishment of a trust fund for AFISMA and the MDSF. The Council, while recalling its request for the establishment of a support package funded by United Nations assessed contributions, urges the Security Council to authorize, in the meantime, the immediate establishment by the United Nations of temporary arrangements that would enable AFISMA to speedily deploy and effectively implement its mandate;

10. *Renews* the AU's support to President Dioncounda Traoré and to his Prime Minister Diango Cissoko, who have the responsibility of successfully carrying out the Transition, and urges them to take the necessary steps for the elaboration and adoption of the Transition Road Map, including measures to be taken for the holding of free, transparent and credible elections, ahead of the meeting of the Support and Follow-up Group scheduled to take place in Brussels, on 5 February 2013. The Council also encourages the Malian authorities to resolutely work towards national reconciliation, including within the MDSF, as well as towards the emergence of a consensus on the key challenges at hand, in order to facilitate efforts aimed at addressing the root causes of the multidimensional crisis facing Mali;

11. *Expresses its determination*, in close cooperation with ECOWAS and with the support of the rest of the international community, to take measures against all individuals, civilian and military, undermining the conduct of the Transition and the military chain of command;

12. *Stresses* the continued relevance of the Strategic Concept for the Resolution of the Crises in Mali, as adopted at its 337th meeting held on 24 October 2012 (PSC/MIN/COMM.2 (CCCXXXIX), and encourages the Chairperson of the Commission to continue and intensify the efforts being deployed towards the implementation of the Strategic Concept. In this respect, the Council welcomes the sustained efforts of the AU High Representative for Mali and Sahel, former President Pierre Buyoya, including his visits to Mali and other countries in the region. The Council further welcomes the steps being taken to enhance the AU's presence on the ground, and requests the urgent operationalization of the AU Liaison Office in Bamako;

13. *Requests* the Commission to develop, in consultation with the Government of Mali, ECOWAS, as well as bilateral and multilateral partners, a strategy for post-conflict reconstruction in Mali, as part of the AU Strategy for Sahel, as endorsed by the Council at its 314th meeting held in Bamako on 20 March 2012 (PSC/MIN/DECL.(CCXIV)), as well as within the framework of the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI);

14. *Stresses the need* for the early operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF) Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC), within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). In this respect, the Council requests the Commission to submit to it a report on progress made and challenges encountered, ahead of the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, in May 2013;

15. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the situation, and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to submit to it monthly reports on the evolution of the situation in Mali."

(B) On the basis of this solemn declaration, the Assembly:

Mindful of the fact that all necessary resources should be mobilized to enable the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA), authorized by the PSC and United Nations Security Council under resolution 2085 (2012), to successfully deploy and carry out its mandate, and

Stressing Africa's responsibility to extend utmost solidarity with Mali in the context of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU and in furtherance of Pan-Africanism and African renaissance, in order to lead by example:

- (i) *Decides* that the AU shall contribute a total amount of US\$ 50 million, out of the budget for AFISMA, which amounts to US\$ 460 million, to be paid as follows: US\$ 20 million from arrear contributions to the AU regular budget, US\$ 5 million from the Peace Fund and US\$ 25 million to be assessed among Member States on the basis of the scale of assessment to the AU regular budget. The Assembly further decides that, out of this amount, US\$ 45 million shall be used to contribute to cover AFISMA budget, and US\$ 5 million to support the Malian Defense and Security Forces (MDSF);
- (ii) *Strongly urges* all Member States to seize the opportunity of the donors' conference scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, on 29 January 2013, to generously contribute, in a spirit of Pan-African solidarity and shared responsibilities, financial, logistical and other in-kind support to AFISMA and the MDSF;
- (iii) *Requests* the Commission to immediately implement this Decision in its entirety and to ensure that the agreed amount is made available without delay; and
- (iv) *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to report to it at its next ordinary session on steps taken in furtherance of this Decision.

TWENTY-FIRST ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
26 to 27 May 2013**

Assembly/AU/Dec.474 (XXI)

**Decision on the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on progress made in 2013 towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa;
2. *Commends* the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for preparing the report which documents the progress made, lessons learned and challenges to be addressed in implementing the MDGs in each country;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in consultation with Regional Economic Communities and relevant stakeholders, to continue to engage Member States, including the Permanent Representatives Committee in Addis Ababa and the African Group in New York, with a view to developing the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda for consideration during the next summit to be held in January 2014;
4. *Further requests* the Commission, the NEPAD Agency, the UNECA, the ADB, the UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other relevant organizations working in the social domain to set up a technical working group to translate the African priorities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda into goals, targets and specific indicators for inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process and the Post-2015 Global Agenda;
5. *Invites* Member States to provide inputs and contributions towards the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
6. *Calls upon* all Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to support, promote, own and build alliances for the African Common Position to enable Africa to speak with one voice during the discussions at the United Nations General Assembly aimed at defining the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
7. *Mandates* the Commission to update on a regular basis the statistical data and other relevant information in concert with Member States; and, in this regard, appeals to Member States to sign and ratify the African Charter on Statistics.

Assembly/AU/Dec.475 (XXI)

**Decision on the Establishment of the High-Level Committee of Heads of State and Government on
the Post-2015 Development Agenda
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* to establish a High-Level Committee of Heads of State and Government to sensitize and coordinate the activities of African leaders and members of the High-Level Panel, and build regional and inter-continental alliances on the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
2. *Appoints* H.E. Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of the Republic of Liberia, as the Chairperson of the High-Level Committee which comprise two Heads of State and Government per region to be nominated by the five regions, through consultations to be carried out by the Regional Deans;

3. *Requests* the High-Level Committee to further crystalize and synthesize, and even further consult as deemed necessary, so as to finalize the African Common Position and ensure that the priorities identified in the said African Common Position are integrated in the New Global Agenda;
4. *Also requests* the High-Level Committee to report annually on the implementation process by Member States of the new development agenda;
5. *Mandates* the Commission, the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with UNECA, AfDB, UNDP, UNFPA and other relevant organizations operating in the social sector to support the activities of the High-Level Committee.

Assembly/AU/Dec.476 (XXI)

**Decision on the Development of the African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2014 to 2017
and the AU Agenda 2063
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of Decision Ext/EX.CL/Dec.1 (XIV) taken by the Executive Council during its Fourteenth Extraordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8 April 2013, and Decision EX.CL/Dec.768 (XXIII) of the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 22 and 23 May 2013, which approved and recommended the draft Strategic Plan 2014—2017 of the African Union (AU) Commission to the Assembly for adoption;
2. *Also takes note* that all inputs provided by Member States during the above-mentioned sessions of the Executive Council have been adequately integrated into the document;
3. *Adopts* the Strategic Plan 2014—2017 of the AU Commission;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 of the AU Commission;
5. *Further takes note* of the progress in the development of the AU Agenda 2063 and encourages the AU Commission, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa to continue refining the draft Framework document through a consultative process involving all segments of African society;
6. *Endorses* the recommendation by the Executive Council calling upon the Commission to present the Framework document for consideration by AU policy organs in January 2014 and the final Agenda 2063 for adoption in June 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.477 (XXI)

**Decision on the Report of the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) and the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Urges* Member States to ensure the effective implementation of the Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa and to report on progress made;

3. *Decides* to include AIDS, TB and malaria indicators as well as those of maternal, newborn and child health in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as part of our accountability for the implementation of commitments undertaken and directs the Commission to facilitate this;
4. *Further urges* AWA to ensure that best practices among Member States in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related infectious diseases are identified, propagated and adopted by all;
5. *Calls upon* countries and all partners to take action in support of achieving the US\$ 15 billion target and to fully fund the Global Fund in order to completely control the three diseases and save lives;
6. *Requests* AU Member States to develop a sustainable investment plan for health, particularly AIDS, TB and malaria, with year on year increases in domestic funding;
7. *Also requests* the Commission to convene a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) Consortium including the pharmaceutical private sector in Africa during the Abuja+12 Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, TB & Malaria in Abuja, Nigeria, in July 2013;
8. *Further requests* the Chairperson of AWA to report on progress made to the next June/July 2014 ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.478. (XXI)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Global African Diaspora Legacy Projects
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXI) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note and welcomes* the proposal by the Republic of South Africa for the establishment of a self-funding Technical Committee of Experts for the implementation of the Diaspora Legacy Projects;
2. *Recalls* the outcomes of the Global African Diaspora Summit that took place in Sandton, South Africa, on 25 May 2012, and the adoption of the Declaration on the Global African Diaspora Summit;
3. *Further recalls* the deliberations of the Assembly during its Nineteenth Ordinary Session that took place in Addis Ababa in July 2012 and endorsed these outcomes;
4. *Recognizes* that such a Technical Committee of Experts will have the necessary capacity and technical expertise to ensure the expeditious implementation of the five Diaspora Legacy Projects;
5. *Approves* the establishment of a self-funding Technical Committee of Experts for the implementation of the Diaspora Legacy Projects;
6. *Further approves* the composition of the Technical Committee of Experts composed of the heads/representatives of the following institutions:
 - (i) African Union Commission;
 - (ii) NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA);
 - (iii) African Development Bank;
 - (iv) United Nations Development Programme;

- (v) United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;
- (vi) Regional Economic Communities;
- (vii) Africa Capacity-Building Institute;
- (viii) Representatives of the private sector;
- (ix) Representatives of the diaspora;
- (x) Heads/representatives of implementing agencies (to be identified);

7. *Mandates* the Technical Committee of Experts to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Five Legacy Projects that were adopted at the Global African Diaspora Summit in May 2012, and endorsed by the Assembly in July 2012;

8. *Further mandates* the Committee to establish the parameters and terms of reference, identify implementing agencies and explore funding modalities for the implementation of each of the Five Legacy Projects;

9. *Requests* the Commission to facilitate the convening of the first meeting of this Committee in June 2013, in order to expedite the fulfilment of its mandate in this regard;

10. *Also requests* the Technical Committee of Experts to report to the next ordinary session of the African Union in January 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.479 (XXI)

**Decision on the Need to Strengthen African Leadership in the
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Process
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXI) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Reiterates* the terms of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.255 (XIII) taken at the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Sirte, Libya, in July 2009, recognizing the importance of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, for the livelihoods of millions of Africans affected by land degradation, desertification and drought;

2. *Takes note* of the various declarations and decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, particularly its Thirteenth Session (Bamako Declaration of June 2010) and its Fourteenth Session (Arusha Declaration of September 2012) on the Rio+20 Commitments and their effective implementation by the African continent, within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

3. *Invites* Member States to include land degradation, desertification and drought related issues on the list of priorities for their sustainable development;

4. *Urges* Member States to place desertification, land degradation and drought related issues at the centre of the debate on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and recognize it as one of the sustainable development goals, particularly the neutralization of land degradation (Zero Net Land Degradation);

5. *Reiterates* the crucial importance accorded by Africa to the Convention, and recommends that the Secretary-General of the United Nations ensure that African leadership is maintained at the helm of the UNCCD

Permanent Secretariat and calls upon the United Nations to provide adequate financial support to that important institution;

6. *Pays tribute* to the outgoing Executive Secretary, Mr. Luc Gnacadja, who has greatly contributed to the advancement of the objectives of the Convention;

7. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to initiate consultations with all the principal stakeholders, take all appropriate measures for implementation of this Decision, and report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Assembly;

8. *Urges* Member States to participate actively in the Conference organized on the UNCCD in Namibia next September 2013 and commends Namibia for hosting that important Conference.

Assembly/AU/Dec.480 (XXI)

**Decision on Supporting Film Production for Increased Contribution to Africa's Development
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXI) Add.3)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note of and commends* the proposal by Burkina Faso for the initiative as well as the observations made by Member States on the same;

2. *Commends* Burkina Faso for hosting the Symposium of African Movie Professionals as a side event of the twenty-third edition of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO);

3. *Congratulates* the President of Burkina Faso, H.E. Blaise Compaoré, for the excellent initiative he has taken to place such an important issue on the agenda for discussion by the Assembly;

4. *Takes note* of the Ouagadougou Declaration and the concerns expressed by the participants at the Symposium and endorses the recommendations thereon;

5. *Urges* Member States to:

(a) Join forces for a more dynamic pursuit of public policies for the African film industry, focusing on priority and innovative actions that could, most expeditiously, allow for the production, dissemination and distribution of African movie and audio-visual products;

(b) Establish a credit fund in each Member State as a way to step up film production;

(c) Implement the legal instruments and tools provided for in national cultural policies;

(d) Ensure progressive and sustainable systematization of co-production with all TV networks;

6. *Requests* the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities to support African film production, promote free circulation of African film industry products and activate movie production tools and instruments;

7. *Requests* the Commission to report on a regular basis to the Assembly on the status of implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.481 (XXI)

Decision on the Amendment of Article 8, Paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Pan-African University

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.451 (XX) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2013 on the adoption of the Statute of the Pan-African University;
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.418 (XIX) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2012, on the operationalization of the PAU;
3. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council contained in Decision EX.CL/Dec.3 (XXIII) regarding the amendment of Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Pan-African University Statute;
4. *Decides* to amend Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Pan-African University Statute to read as follows:

“The grades and privileges of the PAU Rectorate and all other positions should be determined by the Executive Council, upon the recommendation of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC).”

Assembly/AU/Dec.482 (XXI)

**Decision on International Jurisdiction, Justice and the International Criminal Court (ICC)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the presentation made by the Republic of Uganda, on behalf of the Eastern African Region, on international jurisdiction, international justice and the International Criminal Court, as well as the recommendations made by the Executive Council;
2. *Reiterates* the African Union’s unflinching commitment to combating impunity and promoting democracy, the rule of law and good governance throughout the entire continent, in conformity with its Constitutive Act;
3. *Deeply regrets* that the request by the African Union (AU) to the United Nations Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against President Omar Al Bashir of Sudan and senior State officials of Kenya, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on deferral of cases by the United Nations Security Council, has not been acted upon; reaffirms that Member States such as the Republic of Chad that had welcomed President Omar Al Bashir of Sudan did so in conformity with the decisions of the Assembly and, therefore, should not be penalized;
4. *Further reaffirms* its previous decisions on the activities of the ICC in Africa, adopted in January and July 2009, January and July 2010, January and July 2011, January and July 2012, respectively, in which it expressed its strong conviction that the search for justice should be pursued in a way that does not impede or jeopardize efforts aimed at promoting lasting peace and reiterated the AU’s concern with the misuse of indictments against African leaders;
5. *Stresses* the need for international justice to be conducted in a transparent and fair manner, in order to avoid any perception of double standard, in conformity with the principles of international law, and expresses concern at the threat that the indictment of H.E Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta and H.E William Samoei Ruto, the President and Deputy-President of the Republic of Kenya, respectively, may pose to the ongoing efforts in the promotion of peace, national healing and reconciliation, as well as the rule of law and stability, not only in Kenya, but also in the region;
6. *Recalls* that, pursuant to the principle of complementarity enshrined in the Rome Statute of the ICC, Kenya has primary jurisdiction over the investigations and prosecutions of crimes in relation to the 2007 post-

election violence, and, in this regard, deeply regrets the decisions of the Pre-trial Chamber II and the Appeals Chamber of the ICC on the admissibility of the cases dated 30 May and 30 August 2011, respectively, which denied the right of Kenya to prosecute and try alleged perpetrators of crimes committed on its territory in relation to the 2007 post-election violence;

7. *Supports and endorses* the Eastern Africa Region's request for a referral of the ICC investigations and prosecutions in relation to the 2007 post-election violence in Kenya, in line with the principle of complementarity, to allow for a national mechanism to investigate and prosecute the cases under a reformed judiciary provided for in the new constitutional dispensation, in support of the ongoing peacebuilding and national reconciliation processes, in order to prevent the resumption of conflict and violence in Kenya;

8. *Requests* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL), to organize, with the participation of Member States, all the relevant organs of the African Union and other relevant stakeholders, a brainstorming session, as part of the fiftieth anniversary discussion on the broad areas of the international criminal justice system, peace, justice and reconciliation as well as the impact/actions of the ICC in Africa, in order not only to inform the ICC process, but also to seek ways of strengthening African mechanisms to deal with African challenges and problems;

9. *Also requests* the African Union Commission to follow up on this matter and to report regularly on the implementation of the various Assembly decisions on the ICC.²

Assembly/AU/Dec.483 (XXI)

**Decision on the Election of Four Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
(Doc. EX.CL/793 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of four members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) by the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2013;

2. *Appoints* the following Members of the ACHPR for a six-year term:

No	Name	Country
1.	Ms. Lucy Asuagbor	Cameroon;
2.	Ms. Soyata	Mali;
3.	Mr. Lawrence Murugu Mute	Kenya;
4.	Mr. Yeung Kam John Yeung Sik Yuen	Mauritius.

Assembly/AU/Dec.484 (XXI)

**Decision on the Election of Four Members of the African Committee of Experts on
the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACEWRC)
(Doc. EX.CL/794 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

² Reservation entered by the Republic of Botswana on the entire decision.

1. *Takes note* of the election of four members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACEWRC) by the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2013;

2. *Appoints* the following members of the ACEWRC for a five-year term:

No	Name	Country
1.	Ms. Azza Ashmawy	Egypt;
2.	Ms. Suzanne Aho-Assouma	Togo;
3.	Ms. Sidikou Aissatou Alassane Moulaye	Niger;
4.	Mr. Joseph Ndayisenga	Burundi.

Assembly/AU/Dec.485 (XXI)

**Decision on the Twelfth Report of the Committee of Ten on United Nations Security Council Reform
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.430 (XIX); and takes note of the Twelfth Report of H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Coordinator of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;

2. *Also takes note* of the recent developments in the intergovernmental negotiations on the Security Council reform, in particular, the high-level meetings of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government at the levels of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representatives held in Freetown;

3. *Reaffirms* its strong commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration containing the African Common Position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council; and commends the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government for implementing the aspect of holding high-level meetings;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in promoting and defending the continent's interest in the United Nations Security Council reform process and underscores the overriding need to ensure that the interest of Africa continues to be maintained and safeguarded at all times in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, and reiterates its call for Africa to continue to speak with one voice and cohesively on all issues relating to the United Nations Security Council reform and related matters;

5. *Reiterates* its request that the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in participating in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the United Nations Security Council reform, continue to liaise with other African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, and to continue also, to dialogue with and engage other Member States and interest groups in the reform process, with a view to advocating, canvassing and promoting the African Common Position;

6. *Encourages* the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations to continue to build on and intensify efforts directed at building alliances in support of the African common position with diverse interest groups engaged in the intergovernmental negotiations and to seek any further guidance if necessary, in furtherance of its mandate;

7. *Requests* the Committee of Ten to continue with its high-level meeting outside the margins of the summit to discuss issues relating to the reform of the Security Council with a view to further building on the gains made so far;
8. *Also requests* the Committee of Ten in continuing to intensify efforts in advocating, canvassing and promoting the African Common Position to endeavour to reach out at the highest political levels for the purpose of garnering and galvanizing the necessary political will in support of the African Common Position;
9. *Further requests* the Commission to continue to facilitate the activities of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in the intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform and related consultations thereon;
10. *Reiterates* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and requests the Committee to present a report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.486 (XXI)

**Decision on Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and members of his panel for the excellent report and its recommendations;
2. *Agrees* that the African Union should be provided with adequate and predictable resources to enable it to fund its programmes, thus reducing the dependency on external resources in this regard;
3. *Approves* the report in principle;³
4. *Commits* to self-reliance in the mobilization of resources in the financing of the African Union programmes in order to avert undue dependency;
5. *Requests* the Commission to submit the report to the Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning for their urgent consideration and concrete proposals of financing and the implementation modalities of different options proposed, including exploring increased assessed contributions and other additional proposals by Member States, and report to the Assembly at its next ordinary session in January 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.487 (XXI)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Union Foundation for
Voluntary Contributions towards Financing the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* the High-Level Panel on Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union for the quality of their work undertaken over the past two years;

³ Reservation entered by the Republic of Cape Verde on paragraph 3.

2. *Welcomes* the proposal of creating an AU Foundation for voluntary contributions towards financing the African Union;
3. *Decides* to establish an AU Foundation to accommodate the private sector, individuals and any other donations or contributions;
4. *Calls upon* Member States, the private sector, donors, philanthropists, and individuals to contribute towards the Foundation to ensure its operationalization.

Assembly/AU/Dec.488 (XXI)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Twenty-ninth Session of the NEPAD HSGOC;
3. *Reaffirms* the continued relevance and role of NEPAD as the African Union flagship development strategy and programme and its continued contributions to advancing continental transformation in the spirit of championing Pan-Africanism and African renaissance as Africa celebrates the fiftieth OAU-AU anniversary;
4. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.413 (XVIII) based on the conclusions of the Twenty-sixth HSGOC Session on Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) for NEPAD programmes and projects regarding the conduct of a comprehensive study on innovative mechanisms and instruments, towards energizing African ownership of the continent's development agenda and programmes;
5. *Welcomes* the offer of the Republic of Senegal to convene a High-Level Summit and Business Conference on Financing NEPAD programmes and projects in Senegal, at a later date, to take forward the domestic resource mobilization agenda with a view for focused discussion at the High-Level Conference;
6. *To this effect, requests* the NPCA and UNECA to finalize the findings and conclusions of the study report on "Mobilizing Domestic Financial Resources for Implementing NEPAD National and Regional Programmes – Africa Looks Within" in collaboration with UNDP and the African Development Bank, after due consideration by the NEPAD Steering Committee;
7. *Appreciates* the launching of the Virtual PIDA Information Centre (VPic) by the HSGOC as a centralized platform to consolidate information and statistical data on regional infrastructure projects in the context of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICl);
8. *Commends* the NPCA and AUC for this critical milestone to improve communication on PIDA Priority Action Projects (PAP) and PICl by targeting African countries, policy makers, investors and the RECs; and emphasizes that VPic will support the PIDA Africa Infrastructure Database (AID) and advance monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure project implementation;
9. *Affirms* the critical need to include key regional infrastructure projects covering the Central and East African subregion in the PIDA Priority Action Projects (PAP) which was raised during the BRICS-Africa Dialogue; based on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Commission, welcomes the set-up of the AU-RECs Task Team on Infrastructure coordinated by the NPCA Chief Executive Officer as a key outcome of the AUC-RECs Retreat

held of March 2013 in Durban following the Fifth BRICS Summit and agrees to place the progress report of the work of the Task Team on the agenda of the next HSGOC;

10. *Congratulates* the Government of the Republic of South Africa under the leadership of H.E. President Jacob Zuma for his vision and successfully hosting the Fifth Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Summit in Durban in March 2013, along with the landmark BRICS-Africa Dialogue Forum, wherein Africa's priority regional infrastructure projects were showcased by the NEPAD HSGOC Chairperson on behalf of the Union;

11. *Specifically notes* the briefing by H.E. President Jacob Zuma on the outcomes of the BRICS Summit, particularly the high attendance and unity displayed by African leaders, the commitment by BRICS countries to strengthen cooperation with the continent in infrastructure and industrialization and the proposed BRICS-led Development Bank as the expected funding model to promote and accelerate the implementation of multi-country projects;

12. *Therefore welcomes* the key outcomes of the Fifth BRICS Summit reflected in the eThekweni Declaration premised on the theme "BRICS and Africa – Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization" and the path being forged to strengthen partnership between the BRICS countries, the AUC, the NPCA and the RECs and the proposition to convene similar BRICS-Africa Retreats during the upcoming Sixth BRICS and G20 Summits to be hosted by Brazil and Russia, respectively;

13. *Also welcomes and endorses* the 2013 African Union accountability report on Africa-G8 commitments focusing on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as a firm demonstration of Africa's pledge to advance mutual accountability in its partnership engagements and expresses appreciation to the NPCA, AUC and UNAIDS for jointly producing this second African accountability report;

14. *Requests* the NPCA, AUC and UNAIDS to widely disseminate the key messages in the accountability report to African stakeholders and partners for the implementation of the conclusions;

15. *Reiterates* the need for Africa's partnership engagement with the G8 and G20 to remain focused on the continent's development priorities especially in agriculture and infrastructure development.

Assembly/AU/Dec.489 (XXI)

Decision on the Establishment of an African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Establishment of an African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) submitted to the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Security and Safety (STCDSS), held in Addis Ababa, on 30 April 2013, as well as the Declaration adopted by the STCDSS requesting a comprehensive assessment and evaluation of the challenges encountered in the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF) and its Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC);

2. *Decides* in principle to immediately establish, as a transitional arrangement and pending the full operationalization of the ASF and its RDC, an African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises, to provide the AU with a flexible and robust force, made up of military/police capabilities, force enablers and multipliers, equipment and resources to be voluntarily provided by Member States on the basis of their willingness and capabilities, to be deployed very rapidly to effectively respond to emergency situations, within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA);

3. *Decides further* that the contributions, referred to in paragraph 2 above, will be promptly provided by individual Member States and/or by the regional capabilities being developed within the framework of ASF;

4. *Decides also* that Member States willing and ready to immediately contribute military and police capabilities, force enablers and multipliers, as well as equipment and financial resources and any other necessary assets, or make a contribution in any specific area among the above, will make appropriate notification to the AU Commission at their earliest convenience;
5. *Determines* that this strategic endeavour of historic value and scope, aimed at helping in bringing about African solutions to Africa's problems, calls for continued commitment and involvement of Heads of State and Government themselves;
6. *Requests* the Chair of the Union and the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake appropriate consultations to build the broadest possible support and adherence to the implementation of this Decision;
7. *Requests* the Commission to work out the detailed modalities for the operationalization of the ACIRC and to submit recommendations in this respect to a meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Security and Safety (STCDSS) to be held not later than the last quarter of 2013;
8. *Further requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit to it a report on the implementation of this Decision at its next ordinary session, in January 2014.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXI)

**Declaration on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXI))**

The Assembly,

Having reviewed the state of peace and security on the continent and the steps we need to take to hasten the attainment of our common objective of a conflict-free Africa, on the basis of the report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa,

Welcoming the significant progress made in the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the adoption of a number of instruments on democracy, human rights and good governance, which represent a consolidated framework of norms and principles towards the structural prevention of conflicts, the advances in conflict resolution and peacebuilding on the continent, as well as the partnerships built with relevant international stakeholders,

Noting, however, the challenges that continue to be encountered in the full operationalization of the APSA, including key components such as the African Standby Force (ASF), continued prevalence of conflict, insecurity and instability in some parts of the continent, with its attendant humanitarian consequences and socio-economic impact, as well as the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government, the frequent recourse to armed rebellion to further political claims, the threats posed by terrorism, hostage-taking and the attendant payment of ransoms, illicit proliferation of arms, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, piracy, and illicit exploitation of natural resources to fuel conflicts,

Noting also the need for increased funding from within the continent to assert Africa's ownership and leadership, as well as the challenges faced in building innovative and flexible partnerships with the United Nations and other stakeholders,

Stressing that the fiftieth anniversary of the OAU/AU offers a unique opportunity to review progress made and challenges encountered, as well as to chart the way forward, and reiterating, in this respect, our determination to

address decisively the scourge of conflict and violence on our continent, with the view to bequeath to the next generation of Africans a prosperous continent at peace with itself,

1. *Recommit ourselves* to accelerate the full operationalization of the APSA, including refinement, where necessary, of existing provisions to facilitate their implementation. We call for the strengthening of the relations between the AU and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), notably through the effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol and the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and the RECs/RMs, bearing in mind the AU's primary responsibility in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa. We endorse the establishment of the Pan-Wise network comprising the Panel of the Wise, similar structures within the RECs/RMs and all other African actors contributing to peacemaking through preventive action and mediation, as agreed to during the second retreat of these organs held in Addis Ababa from 11 to 12 April 2013;

2. *Undertake* to make renewed efforts to address the root causes of conflicts in a holistic and systematic manner, including through implementing existing instruments in the areas of human rights, the rule of law, democracy, elections and good governance, as well as programmes relating to cooperation, human development, youth and employment. In this respect, we call on all Member States that have not yet done so, to become parties to these instruments, by the end of 2013, and request the Commission to review thoroughly the implementation status of these instruments and programmes and to submit to the Assembly, by January 2014, concrete proposals on how to improve compliance;

3. *Commit ourselves*, within the framework of the African Solidary Initiative, to extend full support to those African countries emerging from conflict, to assist them to consolidate their hard-won peace and avoid relapse into violence. We look forward to the convening of the planned African Solidary Conference (ASC), in Addis Ababa, in September 2013, and commit to making significant pledges on that occasion;

4. *Stress* the need for all Member States to extend full cooperation and support to the PSC, bearing in mind that, in carrying out its duties under the Protocol, the PSC acts on behalf of the entire membership of the AU;

5. *Commit ourselves* to increase substantially our contribution to the Peace Fund, for Africa truly to own the efforts to promote peace, security and stability on the continent. In this respect, we request the Commission to submit concrete proposals to the Assembly, in January 2014, including with respect to the statutory transfer from the AU regular budget to the Peace Fund. In the meantime, we encourage all Member States to make exceptional voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund on the occasion of the OAU Golden Jubilee, and request the Commission to report, by January 2014, to the Assembly on Member States response to this appeal;

6. *Stress* the need to build an innovative, flexible, action-oriented and balanced partnership with the international partners, notably the United Nations, to ensure that Africa's concerns and positions are adequately taken into account by the Security Council when making decisions on matters of fundamental interest to Africa, reiterate the terms of the communiqué issued by the PSC at its 307th meeting held on 9 January 2012, and request the PSC to convene an open session at the summit level, in order to review the partnership with the United Nations in light of the challenges encountered recently regarding the situation in Mali and other issues related to peace and security on the continent;

7. *Call on* the African civil society to continue to play its positive role in promoting peace, security and stability as called for by the PSC Protocol and request the Commission and the PSC to take all necessary steps to enhance interaction with civil society;

8. *Welcome* the progress made in the relations between Sudan and South Sudan, with the signing of the Implementation Matrix for the Agreements signed on 27 September 2012, and call for a transparent inquiry into the killing of the paramount Chief of the Ngok Dinga Community in Abyei, as well as the strengthening and acceleration of the process of resolving the Abyei issue; in Somalia, with the consolidation of the security and political gains recorded over the past few years; in the Great Lakes Region, with the signing of the Peace, Security

and Cooperation Framework; and in Mali, with the liberation of the northern part of the country and ongoing efforts for the holding of elections. We call on all concerned stakeholders to spare no efforts in consolidating these achievements, and addressing the challenges at hand, in line with the relevant PSC communiqués. We also welcome the progress made in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery in Burundi, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone, encourage the countries concerned to pursue their efforts and call on fellow African countries and the rest of the international community to continue assisting them in their efforts;

9. *Reiterate* the AU's concern at the continued challenges in the peace processes between Eritrea and Ethiopia and the relations between Eritrea and Djibouti, and request the Chairperson of the Commission to take appropriate steps to facilitate progress in these situations, in line with the powers entrusted to her by the PSC Protocol and earlier relevant decisions of the Assembly, and to report to the PSC, no later than October 2013, on the steps taken in this regard. We also reiterate our concern at the continued impasse in the conflict in Western Sahara, and call for renewed efforts based on relevant OAU/AU and United Nations resolutions, in order to overcome this impasse;

10. *Also express concern* at the prevailing situation in Madagascar and fully support the PSC and SADC decisions on the issue of candidatures to the forthcoming presidential elections. We condemn the illegal seizure of power in the Central African Republic and the serious violations of human rights committed by the Seleka rebel group and, in this regard, commend the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), endorse the PSC decisions on the matter and call for renewed efforts to restore security and ensure the return to constitutional order, bearing in mind the relevant PSC decisions and conclusions of the inaugural meeting of the International Contact Group on CAR (ICG-CAR). We stress the need for the early return to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, noting with satisfaction the ECOWAS, AU, CPLP, EU and United Nations coordinated efforts;

11. *Reiterate* our support to the sovereignty of the Union of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte, as well as the sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago;

12. *Request* the PSC to actively keep under review the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Special Session on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, held in August 2009, at its summit meeting referred to in paragraph 6 above;

13. *Pledge our full commitment* to the effective implementation of this Declaration and to adopting new measures, as and if necessary, so as to open a new chapter in our collective action in favour of peace, security, stability and shared prosperity throughout Africa and the rest of the world.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXI)

Declaration on the Terrorist Attacks in Niger and on the Solidarity of Africa with the Republic of Niger

The Assembly,

Deeply shocked and aggrieved by the two heinous terrorist attacks against the public and industrial establishments in Agadez and Arlit in Niger on 23 May 2013,

Recognizing the commitment and determination of Niger to fight against the scourges of terrorism and cross-border criminality as well as its invaluable contribution to the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA),

Recalling the AU instruments relating to the prevention and fight against terrorism, reaffirming the need to pursue and intensify efforts to face the scourges of terrorism and transnational crimes, stressing, in this regard, the importance of enhancing cooperation between the Member States as regards security and bearing in mind the seriousness of the terrorist threat in the Sahelo-Saharan region,

1. *Strongly condemns* the treacherous terrorist attacks perpetrated in Agadez and Arlit, expresses the solidarity of Africa with the people and Government of Niger and assures them of its full support in their efforts to fight against terrorism and organized transnational crimes;
2. *Conveys its heartfelt condolence* to the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Agadez and Arlit and expresses its wishes for the prompt recovery of the injured persons;
3. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment and courageous actions of President Mahamadou Issoufou for the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Sahel-Sahara region as demonstrated particularly by the remarkable contribution of Niger to AFISMA;
4. *Stresses once again* the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination between the AU Member States in the fight against the scourge of terrorism and organized transnational crimes and encourages, in this regard, the Commission to pursue the efforts initiated with the countries of the Sahel-Saharan region, with the organization on 17 March 2013 of the Ministerial Meeting in Nouakchott and that of the Heads of Security and Intelligence Services in Bamako on 18 April 2013 and looks forward with interests to the next similar meeting scheduled in June 2013;
5. *Requests* the Commission, in cooperation with the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (CAERT) and the Committee of African Security and Intelligence Services (CISSA), to send urgently an assessment mission to Niger to determine the modalities for assistance to that country and report to the meeting of the Heads of Security and Intelligence Services scheduled in June 2013;
6. *Appeals* to all Member States which have not yet done so to become party to all the African and international legal instruments relating to the prevention and elimination of terrorism and to take all appropriate measures for cooperation and mutual assistance in this field.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXI)

Solemn Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the OAU/AU

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, assembled to celebrate the golden jubilee of the OAU/AU established in the city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 May 1963,

Evoking the uniqueness of the history of Africa as the cradle of humanity and a centre of civilization, and dehumanized by slavery, deportation, dispossession, apartheid and colonialism as well as our struggles against these evils, which shaped our common destiny and enhanced our solidarity with peoples of African descent,

Recalling with pride, the historical role and efforts of the founders of the Pan-African Movement and the nationalist movements, whose visions, wisdom, solidarity and commitment continue to inspire us,

Reaffirming our commitment to the ideals of Pan-Africanism and Africa's aspiration for greater unity, and paying tribute to the founders of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as well as the African peoples on the continent and in the diaspora for their glorious and successful struggles against all forms of oppression, colonialism and apartheid,

Mindful that the OAU/AU have been relentlessly championing for the complete decolonization of the African continent and that one of the fundamental objectives is unconditional respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each of its Member States,

Stressing our commitment to build a united and integrated Africa,

Guided by the vision of our Union and affirming our determination to “build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”,

Determined to take full responsibility for the realization of this vision,

Guided by the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of our Union and our shared values, in particular our commitment to ensure gender equality and a people-centred approach in all our endeavours as well as respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our countries,

Acknowledge that:

I. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) overcame internal and external challenges, persevered in the quest for continental unity and solidarity; contributed actively to the liberation of Africa from colonialism and apartheid; provided a political and diplomatic platform to generations of leaders on continental and international matters; and elaborated frameworks for Africa’s development and integration agenda through programmes such as NEPAD and APRM;

II. The African Union (AU) carried forward our struggle for self-determination and drive for development and integration; formulated a clear vision for our Union; agreed that the ultimate goal of the Union is the construction of a united and integrated Africa; instituted the principle of non-indifference by authorizing the right of the Union to intervene in Member States in conformity with the Constitutive Act; and laid the groundwork for the entrenchment of the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights, solidarity, promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth in Africa;

III. The implementation of the integration agenda; the involvement of people, including our diaspora in the affairs of the Union; the quest for peace and security and preventing wars and genocide such as the 1994 Rwandan genocide; the alignment between our institutional framework and the vision of the Union; the fight against poverty, inequality and underdevelopment; and, assuring Africa’s rightful place in the world, remain challenges.

We hereby declare:

A. On the African Identity and Renaissance

(i) Our strong commitment to accelerate the African renaissance by ensuring the integration of the principles of Pan-Africanism in all our policies and initiatives;

(ii) Our unflinching belief in our common destiny, our shared values and the affirmation of the African identity; the celebration of unity in diversity and the institution of the African citizenship;

(iii) Our commitment to strengthen AU programmes and Member States’ institutions aimed at reviving our cultural identity, heritage, history and shared values, as well as undertake, henceforth, to fly the AU flag and sing the AU anthem along with our national flags and anthems;

(iv) Promote and harmonize the teaching of African history, values and Pan-Africanism in all our schools and educational institutions as part of advancing our African identity and renaissance;

(v) Promote people-to-people engagements including youth and civil society exchanges in order to strengthen Pan-Africanism.

B. The Struggle against Colonialism and the Right to Self-Determination of People Still under Colonial Rule

- (i) The completion of the decolonization process in Africa; to protect the right to self-determination of African peoples still under colonial rule; solidarity with people of African descent and in the diaspora in their struggles against racial discrimination; and resist all forms of influences contrary to the interests of the continent;
- (ii) The reaffirmation of our call to end expeditiously the unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago, the Comorian island of Mayotte and also reaffirm the right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, with a view to enable these countries and peoples, to effectively exercise sovereignty over their respective territories.

C. On the Integration Agenda

Our commitment to Africa's political, social and economic integration agenda, and in this regard, speed up the process of attaining the objectives of the African Economic Community and take steps towards the construction of a united and integrated Africa. Consolidating existing commitments and instruments, we undertake, in particular, to:

- (i) Speedily implement the Continental Free Trade Area; ensure free movement of goods, with focus on integrating local and regional markets as well as facilitate African citizenship to allow free movement of people through the gradual removal of visa requirements;
- (ii) Accelerate action on the ultimate establishment of a united and integrated Africa, through the implementation of our common continental governance, democracy and human rights frameworks. Move with speed towards the integration and merger of the Regional Economic Communities as the building blocks of the Union.

D. On the Agenda for Social and Economic Development

Our commitment to place the African people, in particular women, children and the youth, as well as persons with disabilities, at the centre of our endeavours and to eradicate poverty. In this regard, we undertake to:

- (i) Develop our human capital as our most important resource, through education and training, especially in science, technology and innovation, and ensure that Africa takes its place and contributes to humanity, including in the field of space sciences and explorations;
- (ii) Eradicate disease, especially HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, ensure that no African woman dies while giving life, address maternal, infant and child mortality as well as provide universal health care services to our citizens;
- (iii) Accelerate Africa's infrastructural development, to link African peoples, countries and economies; and help to drive social, cultural and economic development. In this regard, we commit to meet our strategic targets in transport, ICT, energy and other social infrastructure by committing national, regional and continental resources to this end;
- (iv) Create an enabling environment for the effective development of the African private sector through meaningful public-private sector dialogue at all levels, in order to foster socially responsive business, good corporate governance and inclusive economic growth;
- (v) Take ownership of, use and develop, our natural endowments and resources, through value addition, as the basis for industrialization; promote intra-Africa trade and tourism, in order to foster economic integration, development, employment and inclusive growth to the benefit of the African people;
- (vi) Also take ownership, preserve, protect and use our oceanic spaces and resources, improve our maritime and transport industries to the benefit of the continent and its peoples, including by contributing to food security;

- (vii) Preserve our arable land for current and future generations, develop our rural economies, our agricultural production and agro-processing to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, as well as achieve food security and self-sufficiency;
- (viii) Expand and develop urban infrastructure and develop planned approaches to rapid urbanization and the emergence of new cities;
- (ix) Make our development agenda responsive to the needs of our peoples, anchored on the preservation of our environment for current and future generations, including in the fight against desertification and mitigation of the effects of climate change, especially with regards to island States and land-locked countries.

E. On Peace and Security

Our determination to achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa, to make peace a reality for all our people and to rid the continent of wars, civil conflicts, human rights violations, humanitarian disasters and violent conflicts, and to prevent genocide. We pledge not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans and undertake to end all wars in Africa by 2020. In this regard, we undertake to:

- (i) Address the root causes of conflicts including economic and social disparities; put an end to impunity by strengthening national and continental judicial institutions, and ensure accountability in line with our collective responsibility to the principle of non-indifference;
- (ii) Eradicate recurrent and address emerging sources of conflict including piracy, trafficking in narcotics and humans, all forms of extremism, armed rebellions, terrorism, transnational organized crime and new crimes such as cybercrime.
- (iii) Push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peace support, national reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction and development through the African Peace and Security Architecture; as well as, ensure enforcement of and compliance with peace agreements and build Africa's peacekeeping and enforcement capacities through the African Standby Force;
- (iv) Maintain a nuclear-free Africa and call for global nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
- (v) Ensure the effective implementation of agreements on landmines and the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
- (vi) Address the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees and eliminate the root causes of this phenomenon by fully implementing continental and universal frameworks.

F. On Democratic Governance

Our determination to anchor our societies, governments and institutions on respect for the rule of law, human rights and dignity, popular participation, the management of diversity, as well as inclusion and democracy. In this regard, we undertake to:

- (i) Strengthen democratic governance including through decentralized systems, the rule of law and the capacities of our institutions to meet the aspirations of our people;
- (ii) Reiterate our rejection of unconstitutional change of government, including through any attempts to seize power by force but recognize the right of our people to peacefully express their will against oppressive systems;

(iii) Promote integrity, fight corruption in the management of public affairs and promote leadership that is committed to the interests of the people;

(iv) Foster the participation of our people through democratic elections and ensure accountability and transparency.

G. On Determining Africa's Destiny

Our determination to take responsibility for our destiny. We pledge to foster self-reliance and self-sufficiency. In this regard, we undertake to:

(i) Take ownership of African issues and provide African solutions to African problems;

(ii) Mobilize our domestic resources, on a predictable and sustainable basis, to strengthen institutions and advance our continental agenda;

(iii) Take all necessary measures, using our rich natural endowments and human resources, to transform Africa and make it a leading continent in the area of innovation and creativity.

H. Africa's Place in the World

Our endeavour for Africa to take its rightful place in the political, security, economic, and social systems of global governance towards the realization of its renaissance and establishing Africa as a leading continent. We undertake to:

(i) Continue the global struggle against all forms of racism and discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances;

(ii) Act in solidarity with oppressed countries and peoples;

(iii) Advance international cooperation that promotes and defends Africa's interests, is mutually beneficial and aligned to our Pan-Africanist vision;

(iv) Continue to speak with one voice and act collectively to promote our common interests and positions in the international arena;

(v) Reiterate our commitment to Africa's active role in the globalization process and international forums including in financial and economic institutions;

(vi) Advocate for our common position for reform of the United Nations and other global institutions with particular reference to the United Nations Security Council, in order to correct the historical injustice with Africa as the only region without a permanent seat.

We pledge to articulate the above ideals and goals in our national development plans and in the development of the Continental Agenda 2063, through a people-driven process for the realization of our vision for an integrated, people-centred, prosperous Africa at peace with itself.

As Heads of State and Government, mindful of our responsibility and commitment, we pledge to act together with our peoples and the African diaspora to realize our vision of Pan-Africanism and African renaissance.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXI)

Resolution on the Lifting of the Economic and Trade Embargo Imposed on

the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Twenty-first Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 27 May 2013,

Recalling Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XV) adopted by our Assembly at its Fifteenth Ordinary Session held in Kampala, Uganda, on 27 July 2012, Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVII) adopted at its Seventeenth Ordinary Session held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 1 July 2011, and Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XIX) adopted at its Nineteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2012 and, in particular, the calls made to the Government of the United States of America to lift the unjustifiable and long-standing economic and trade embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba to enable it enjoy all the legitimate prospects for sustainable development,

Reaffirming our commitment to further strengthen Africa-Caribbean relations as expressed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Kampala, Uganda in June 2010,

Also reaffirming our full support for the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the: "Necessity of ending the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba",

Reiterate our call and, once again, invite the Government of the United State of America to lift long-standing and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on the Cuban people.

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
12 October 2013**

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1

Decision on Africa's Relationship with the International Criminal Court (ICC)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.482 (XXI) on the International Jurisdiction, International Justice and the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the presentation made by the Republic of Kenya as well as the recommendations of the Executive Council thereon;
2. *Reiterates*, in accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU), the AU's unflinching commitment to fight impunity, promote human rights and democracy, and the rule of law and good governance on the continent;
3. *Reaffirms* its previous decisions on the abuse of the principles of universal jurisdiction adopted in Sharm El Sheikh in July 2008 as well as the activities of the ICC in Africa, adopted in January and July 2009, January and July 2010, January and July 2011, January and July 2012, and May 2013 wherein it expressed its strong conviction that the search for justice should be pursued in a way that does not impede or jeopardize efforts aimed at promoting lasting peace;
4. *Reiterates* the AU's concern on the politicization and misuse of indictments against African leaders by the ICC as well as at the unprecedented indictments of and proceedings against the sitting President and Deputy President of Kenya in light of the recent developments in that country;
5. *Underscores* that this is the first time that a sitting Head of State and his deputy are being tried in an international court and stresses the gravity of this situation which could undermine the sovereignty, stability, and peace in that country and in other Member States as well as reconciliation and reconstruction and the normal functioning of constitutional institutions;
6. *Recognizes* that Kenya is a frontline State in the fight against terrorism at the regional, continental and international levels and, in this regard, stresses the threat that this menace poses to the region, in particular, and the continent, in general, and the proceedings initiated against the President and the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya will distract and prevent them from fulfilling their constitutional responsibilities, including national and regional security affairs;
7. *Recalls* that following the 2007 post-election violence (PEV), the mediation process in Kenya was initiated by the AU which led to the enactment of the National Accord and Reconciliation Act and the Agreement Establishing the Coalition Government, and expresses concern that the ongoing process before the ICC may pose a threat to the full implementation of the National Accord of 2008 and prevent the process of addressing the challenges leading to the post-election violence;
8. *Expresses its deep appreciation* for the full cooperation that the President and Deputy President of Kenya have demonstrated to the ICC process and calls upon the ICC to show the same level of cooperation in the process;
9. *Reaffirms* the principles deriving from national laws and international customary law by which sitting Heads of State and other senior State officials are granted immunities during their tenure of office;
10. *Now decides:*
 - (i) That to safeguard the constitutional order, stability and, integrity of Member States, no charges shall be commenced or continued before any international court or tribunal against any serving AU Head of State or Government or anybody acting or entitled to act in such capacity during their term of office;

- (ii) That the trials of President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Samoei Ruto, who are the current serving leaders of the Republic of Kenya, should be suspended until they complete their terms of office;
 - (iii) To set up a Contact Group of the Executive Council to be led by the Chairperson of the Council, composed of five members (one per region) to undertake consultations with the members of the United Nations Security Council, in particular, its five permanent members with a view to engaging with the Security Council on all concerns of the AU on its relationship with the ICC, including the deferral of the Kenya and Sudan cases in order to obtain their feedback before the beginning of the trial on 12 November 2013;
 - (iv) To fast track the process of expanding the mandate of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) to try international crimes, such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes;
 - (v) That the Commission expedites the process of expansion of AfCHPR to deal with international crimes in accordance with the relevant decision of the policy organs and invites Member States to support this process;
 - (vi) That African States parties propose relevant amendments to the Rome Statute, in accordance with Article 121 of the Statute;
 - (vii) To request African States parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC, in particular the members of the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties to inscribe on the agenda of the forthcoming sessions of the ASP the issue of indictment of African sitting Heads of State and Government by the ICC and its consequences on peace, stability and reconciliation in African Union Member States;
 - (viii) That any AU Member State that wishes to refer a case to the ICC may inform and seek the advice of the African Union;
 - (ix) That Kenya should send a letter to the United Nations Security Council requesting for deferral, in conformity with Article 16 of the Rome Statute, of the proceedings against the President and Deputy President of Kenya that would be endorsed by all African States parties;
 - (x) Pursuant to this Decision, to request the ICC to postpone the trial of President Uhuru Kenyatta, scheduled for 12 November 2013, and suspend the proceedings against Deputy President William Samoei Ruto until such time as the United Nations Security Council considers the request by Kenya, supported by the AU, for deferral;
 - (xi) That President Uhuru Kenyatta will not appear before the ICC until such time as the concerns raised by the AU and its Member States have been adequately addressed by the United Nations Security Council and the ICC;
 - (xii) To convene, an extraordinary session, towards the end of November 2013, to review the progress made in the implementation of this Decision of the AU Assembly (Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (Oct.2013));
11. *Finally requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2014.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2

**Decision on the Appointment of the New Commissioner for Peace and Security
(Doc. Ext/EX.CL/3 (XV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election by the Executive Council of the new Commissioner for Peace and Security;
2. *Appoints* Mr. Smail Chergui (Algeria) as Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union for the remaining term of Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra and congratulates him on his appointment;
3. *Decides* that Mr. Chergui takes the oath of office during the current Extraordinary Session of the Assembly.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.1

Declaration on the Lampedusa (Italy) Tragic Boat Incident

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Extraordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 12 October 2013,

Recognizing the magnitude and impact of migration on development and over the growing number of migrants in Africa and beyond, and the brain drain syndrome that is increasingly becoming a global scourge affecting all countries around the world, especially in Africa,

Gravely concerned with the serious economic and social impact of the recurrence of the phenomenon of illegal or irregular migration currently taking alarming proportions that threaten peace, security and stability which should be adequately addressed through a comprehensive approach to effective border management and within the context of strict observance of human rights and human dignity,

Recalling Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.125 (VII) adopted at the Banjul Summit in July 2006 on the African Common Position on Migration and Development,

Underscoring that African inter-State collaboration and discourse can strengthen the capacity of States in migration management, including the development of common approaches towards harmonization of policies, laws and strategies on migration,

1. *Deeply regret* the loss of life of over 300 migrants that occurred on 3 October 2013 in a boat accident in Lampedusa Island and express our sincere condolences and deep sympathy to the families of the victims of this incident;
2. *Commit* itself to addressing the root causes of this phenomena of irregular migration from Africa to Europe;
3. *Request* the Commission to investigate the root causes of migration of young people from Africa so as to recommend appropriate action to be taken by Member States with a view to finding a lasting solution to this persistent problem;
4. *Urge* Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other stakeholders to take active part in the implementation of African Common Position on Migration and Development and promote appropriate policies towards lasting peace, stability, democratic governance, sustainable growth, youth employment opportunities and greater regional integration;
5. *Appeal* to the international community to continue to collaborate and increase their involvement in addressing migration and development issues for the attainment of the objectives contained in the African Common Position on Migration and Development;

6. *Underline* the need for a comprehensive review of the issue of migration between Africa and Europe and request that this item be inscribed on the agenda of the third Africa-EU Summit scheduled to be held in Brussels, Belgium, on 2 and 3 April 2014;
7. *Declare* 3 November 2013 as a day of mourning to be observed by all Member States of the African Union, in memory of the victims of the Lampedusa tragedy.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.2

Declaration on Africa's Solidarity with and Support to Libya

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Extraordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 12 October 2013,

1. *Express our concern* on the situation in Libya particularly following the kidnapping of Prime Minister Ali Zeidan, by armed men in Tripoli, on 10 October 2013;
2. *Strongly condemn* this criminal and unacceptable act and express relief at the release of the Prime Minister, a few hours after his kidnapping;
3. *Express our solidarity* with the Libyan leaders and our support to the legitimate Libyan institutions in their efforts to stabilize the situation in the country, address the other challenges at hand and bring to a successful end the ongoing transition process;
4. *Stress* the need for all Libyan stakeholders to seek solutions to their differences within the framework of the existing institutions and a comprehensive process of national dialogue and call on the Libyan people to extend their support to their legitimate institutions;
5. *Mindful* of the need for sustained support and solidarity with Libya in this challenging time, request the Commission, building on the initiatives already taken, to take all necessary steps to facilitate a coordinated and enhanced continental support to Libya; in this regard, we call on Africa's partners to extend similar support;
6. *Also stress* the right of Libya to put on trial, in Libya, its own citizens charged with committing crimes, in conformity with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.419 (XIX) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2012.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.3

Declaration of Solidarity with the Republic of Kenya following the Terrorist Al-Shabab/Al-Qaeda Attack on the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Extraordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 12 October 2013,

Deeply concerned about the terrorist Al-Shabab/Al-Qaeda attack on the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi on 21 September 2013,

Hereby,

1. *Condemn with utmost firmness* this cowardly and vicious act of aggression against a Member State of the African Union;

2. *Commend* the prompt and firm response by the Kenyan authorities, which frustrated the criminal designs of the terrorist Al-Shabab/Al-Qaeda gangs, and thereby saved hundreds of human lives and prevented incalculable material damage;
3. *Express our full solidarity* with the Government and people of Kenya;
4. *Express our sincere condolences and deep sympathy* to the Government and people of Kenya and the families of the victims of this despicable terrorist act;
5. *Note* that the terrorist aggression against Kenya is not only an act against Kenya but also against the security and stability of Africa as a whole. It testifies to the terrorist threats which target Member States in various parts of Africa. The response demonstrates the determination and unwavering approach of the African Union in combatting the scourge of terrorism and other related phenomena such as organized international crime;
6. *Seize* this opportunity to reaffirm the full commitment of the African Union to spare no effort to permanently avert these threats to the security, stability and development of the African continent and to combine its efforts with the East African region and the rest of the international community in the fight against the terrorist Al-Shabab/Al-Qaeda group in Somalia and in the region.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.4

**Declaration of Solidarity with the Federal Republic of Somalia following the
Terrorist Al-Shabab/Al Qaeda Attack on a Market in Mogadishu**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Extraordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 12 October 2013,

Deeply concerned about the persistent terrorist Al-Shabab/Al Qaeda attacks on innocent people in Somalia, in particular, the heinous bombardment of a market in Mogadishu on 21 September 2013,

Hereby,

1. *Condemn with utmost firmness* these cowardly and vicious acts of aggression against a Member State of the African Union;
2. *Commend* the efforts of the Somali security forces to counteract the continuous aggression of the terrorist Al-Shabab/Al Qaeda gangs;
3. *Express our full solidarity* with the Government and people of Somalia in their efforts to consolidate the gradual return to stability in their country and reaffirm their commitment to increase their support through the AMISOM;
4. *Express our sincere condolences and deep sympathy* to the Government and people of Somalia and the families of the victims of these continuous terrorist acts;
5. *Seize* this opportunity to reaffirm the full commitment of the African Union to spare no effort to permanently avert these threats to the security, stability and development of the African continent and to combine its efforts with the East African region and the rest of the international community in the fight against the terrorist Al-Shabab/Al Qaeda group in Somalia and in the region.

TWENTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
30 to 31 January 2014**

Assembly/AU/Dec.490 (XXII)

**Decision on the Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and
the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHASA)
(Doc. EX.CL/806 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* countries which have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics, and calls on those which have not done so to sign and ratify it as expeditiously as possible;
2. *Resolves* to allocate adequate resources for the production and use of statistics in line with the principles of the African Charter on Statistics;
3. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.424 (XIX) of July 2012 on the creation of an African Statistical Training Centre, including the strategy for alignment of training initiatives to SHaSA;
4. *Approves* the offer of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to host the Training Centre that will be based in Yamoussoukro (Institut Polytechnique Felix Houphouet Boigny) and expresses gratitude to Côte d'Ivoire for its commitments to provide adequate facilities and equipment for its inception;
5. *Requests* the Commission, ECA, AfDB and ACBF, in collaboration with the Ivorian Government, to take the necessary measures for the effective establishment and hosting of the Centre.

Assembly/AU/Dec.491 (XXII)

**Decision on the Report of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of
the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.489 (XXI) on the establishment of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC);
2. *Welcomes* the follow-up steps taken by the Commission, notably the establishment of a Panel of Independent Experts to assess the status of the operationalization of the African Standby Force and its Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC), as well as the development of proposals for the operationalization of ACIRC;
3. *Endorses* the Declaration of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU) held in Addis Ababa on 14 January 2014, and its preparatory meetings of Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security, as well as of experts, from 10 to 11 and on 12 January 2014;
4. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of this Declaration at the next ordinary session in June 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.492 (XXII)

**Decision on Enhancing the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Decision of the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2013 on the need to strengthen African leadership in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process;
2. *Congratulates* the Government of the Republic of Namibia for the successful hosting of the Eleventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to UNCCD in September 2013, and on her assumption of the Presidency of the Convention for the next two years;
3. *Commends* the Commission and partners for the efforts in enhancing Africa's visibility in COP 11/UNCCD in Windhoek, Namibia, and endorses the Namib Declaration adopted at that Conference;
4. *Renews* our commitment to the Namib Declaration to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD in Africa in order to address land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss and effects of drought, and to promote sustainable development on the continent;
5. *Endorses* the establishment of an African Working Group on Desertification and Sustainable Land Management, to be convened by the Commission;
6. *Requests* the Commission to review the African Coordination Mechanism in place in order to strengthen it and to improve Africa's engagement in the UNCCD processes;
7. *Also requests* the Commission to support RECs and Members States in collaboration with partners to review the Regional Action Programme to combat desertification in Africa and to align it to the UNCCD Ten-Year Strategy;
8. *Further requests* the Commission to rationalize and strengthen its specialized units, in particular the Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development (SAFGRAD) and the Climate Change and Desertification Unit (CCDU), for an effective and vigorous provision of the necessary platform for guidance, experience sharing and coordination among the existing African Centres of Excellence on Desertification.

Assembly/AU/Dec.493 (XXII)

**Decision on the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of
the Decisions on the International Criminal Court
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Assembly Decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Reiterates* the unflinching commitment of the African Union and its Member States to combating impunity and promoting democracy, the rule of law and good governance throughout the entire continent, in conformity with the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Commends* Member States which are parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC for the unity of action demonstrated at the last Assembly of States Parties in The Hague in November 2013;
4. *Thanks* the Member State of the United Nations Security Council that supported the request of Kenya and the African Union to defer the proceedings initiated by the ICC against the President and Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC;

5. *Also thanks* members of the Contact Group and the African Group in New York for their action in support of the African request;
6. *Expresses its deep disappointment* that the request by Kenya, supported by AU, to the United Nations Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against the President and Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC on deferral of cases by the United Nations Security Council, has not yielded the positive result expected;
7. *Also expresses its deep disappointment* that the request by the African Union to the United Nations Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against the President of the Republic of Sudan in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC on deferral of cases by the United Nations Security Council, has not been acted upon to date;
8. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations Security Council to reserve a timely and appropriate response to requests made by the AU on deferral in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter so as to avoid the sense of lack of consideration of a whole continent;
9. *Decides* that the African Union and its Member States, in particular the African States parties to the Rome Statute, reserve the right to take any further decisions or measures that may be necessary in order to preserve and safeguard peace, security and stability, as well as the dignity, sovereignty and integrity of the continent;
10. *Takes note* of the outcome of the Twelfth Session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the Rome Statute to the ICC and welcomes the inclusion on its agenda of a Special Segment on “ Indictment of Sitting Heads of State and Government and its Consequences on Peace and Stability and Reconciliation” and the amendments to Rule 134 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the ICC;
11. *Also takes note* of the Decision of the Twelfth ASP inviting its Working Group on amendments to continue its consideration of amendments to the Rome Statute submitted prior to the Review Conference and those submitted following the decision by the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union held on 12 October 2013, and calls upon all African States parties to support the proposed amendments to Articles 16 and 27 of the Rome Statute;
12. *Decides that:*
 - (i) African States Parties should comply with African Union decisions on the ICC and continue to speak with one voice to ensure that the African proposals for amendments to Articles 16 and 27 of the Rome Statute of the ICC are considered by the ASP Working Group on amendments as well as by the forthcoming sessions of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute;
 - (ii) There is an imperative need for all Member States to ensure that they adhere and articulate commonly agreed positions in line with their obligations under the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
 - (iii) The Group of African States Parties in New York and the African members of the Bureau of ASP should follow up on the implementation of various decisions of the Assembly on the ICC, in collaboration with the Commission, and ensure that the African proposals and concerns are properly considered/addressed by the ASP and report to the Assembly through the Commission on actions taken regularly;
13. *Recalls* its decision aimed at extending the jurisdiction of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights to hear international crimes on the continent and requests the Commission in collaboration with all stakeholders to speed up the process with a view to reporting thereon to the Assembly in June 2014;

14. *Requests* the Commission to present a report on new developments in the issue, which is important to Africa, at its Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session in January 2015.

Assembly/AU/Dec.494 (XXII)

**Decision on Progress on Maternal, New Born and Child Health (MNCH)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the 2013 Annual Report on the Status of Maternal, New Born and Child Health (MNCH) in Africa and the Report of the International Conference on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Africa held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 1 to 3 August 2013, together with the recommendations and Action Plan contained therein;
2. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in the 2013 Annual Report on the Status of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Africa and the Action Plan towards Ending Preventable Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality;
3. *Commits* to the effective implementation of the recommendations and Action Plan at the national level;
4. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with the United Nations system and other development partners to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations and the Action Plan;
5. *Also requests* the Commission to include the report on the implementation of the Action Plan in its Annual Report on the Status of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Africa;
6. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Commission on the establishment of an annual award to recognize significant contributions or action of individuals, organizations and governments in Africa towards ending preventable maternal, newborn and child mortality as well as enhancing their survival and well-being;
7. *Decides* that the annual award be named “Mama Afrika Award” in honour of Miriam Makeba and requests the Commission to coordinate the process of investiture.

Assembly/AU/Dec.495 (XXII)

**Decision on the Report of the PRC Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation with
Respect to Africa’s Strategic Partnerships**

The Assembly,

On TICAD V Summit

1. *Expresses profound gratitude and appreciation* to the people and Government of Japan for successfully hosting the TICAD V Summit, held in Yokohama, Japan, from 1 to 3 June 2013;
2. *Endorses* the Yokohama Declaration and the TICAD V Action Plan adopted by the TICAD V Summit and requests the Commission, in collaboration with the Co-organizers and other stakeholders, to ensure full implementation of the Action Plan;
3. *Welcomes* the offer made by the Republic of Cameroon to host the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in May 2014 and requests the Commission, in collaboration with the PRC and the host country, to make all the necessary preparations for the successful convening of the meeting;

4. *Also welcomes* the adoption of the principle of rotation in hosting the TICAD V follow-up mechanisms, including the Summit, and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake consultations with Member States of the African Union with a view to identifying the host for TICAD VI Summit to be held in Africa in 2018;

On the Third Africa-Arab Summit

5. *Expresses profound gratitude and appreciation* to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, and the people and Government of the State of Kuwait for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to the respective delegations to the Third Africa-Arab Summit, held in Kuwait City, Kuwait, from 19 to 20 November 2013;

6. *Also expresses profound gratitude and appreciation* to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, for his generous initiative, announced during the Summit, to grant concessionary loans to African countries to the tune of US\$ one billion, in the coming five years, through the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development and also to finance investment and its insurance in Africa, with emphasis on infrastructure, to the tune of US\$ 1 billion, through cooperation and coordination with the World Bank and other international institutions;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment of an annual prize of US\$ 1 million, to be allocated by the State of Kuwait, in memory of the late Dr. Abdurahman Al-Sumet, for development research in Africa, under the auspices of the Kuwait Scientific Development Institutions;

8. *Endorses* the Kuwait Declaration and the eight resolutions adopted by the Third Africa-Arab Summit and requests the Commission, in collaboration with the PRC, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, the State of Kuwait and other stakeholders, to take practical steps to translate the outcomes of the Summit into concrete actions;

9. *Welcomes and endorses* the offer made by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit in 2016 and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake consultations with Equatorial Guinea with a view to identifying the exact dates of the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.496 (XXII)

**Decision on the Adoption and Implementation of the 2050 Africa's
Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/16 (XXII) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Reiterates* the geostrategic importance of seas and oceans in the socio- economic development of Africa;
2. *Recalls* the Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the OAU/AU in which the Heads of State and Government expressed their commitment to preserve, protect and use oceanic spaces and resources to the benefit the African continent and its populations with a view to achieving sustainable food security;
3. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.252 (XIII) adopted by the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in July 2009 in Sirte, Libya, and in which the Assembly expressed serious concern at the growing insecurity in the African maritime space, and welcomed the initiatives taken by the Commission to develop a comprehensive and coherent strategy to handle the challenges and opportunities related to the maritime area of Africa;

4. *Further recalls* the decision of the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.294 (XV), by which the Assembly reaffirmed its support for efforts to this effect by the Commission, including the development of an Integrated Maritime Management Strategy for the continent;
5. *Finally recalls* the communiqué of the 387th Session of the Ministerial Meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council which was held on 29 July 2013 in Addis Ababa, by which the Council endorsed the Solemn Declaration on Maritime Safety and Security proclaimed at the Yaoundé (Cameroon) Summit of 24 to 25 June 2013 by Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) and dubbed the Blue/Ocean Economy, in the 2050 AIM Strategy and conceived therein as the "new frontier of African renaissance";
6. *Endorses* the Addis Ababa Declaration adopted on 6 December 2012 at the Second Conference of African Ministers in charge of Maritime-related Affairs, in which the Ministers adopted the 2050 AIM Strategy and its Plan of Action;
7. *Recognizes* that Africa's oceans and seas are essential to the sustainable development of the continent and that they occupy a critical position within the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
8. *Also decides* to adopt the 2050 AIM Strategic Plan of Action;
9. *Further decides* to retain the 2015-2025 decade as the "Decade of African Seas and Oceans", and the date of 25 July as the African Day of Seas and Oceans;
10. *Underscores* that the 2050 AIM Strategy requires, at the Member State level, inter-agency collaboration to address the challenges and opportunities in the African maritime domain and enhance transborder and subregional cooperation;
11. *Also stresses* the need to build strategic partnerships that support initiatives inherent in the implementation of the 2050 AIM Strategy;
12. *Requests* the Commission to facilitate the establishment of the Strategic Special Task Force to prepare the technical details in view of the early implementation of the strategy AIM 2050 Combined Maritime Exclusive Zone in conformity with international maritime conventions and laws;
13. *Underscores* the importance of reinforcing the capacity of Member States to manage their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) as an important building block towards implementing the Combined Maritime Exclusive Zone;
14. *Calls on* Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to all relevant international instruments including the Revised Charter on Maritime Transport;
15. *Invites* Regional Economic Communities and regional mechanisms to develop and adopt a regional strategy against piracy, armed robbery and other illegal activities committed at sea, consistent with the 2050 AIM Strategy;
16. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Union and the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake consultations with Regional Economic Communities/Mechanisms to spur adherence and garner the widest possible support for the implementation of the 2050 AIM Strategy;

17. *Urges* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority and the Chairperson of the AU Commission to support efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of this Decision;

18. *Requests* the Commission, within the framework of implementation, to carry out an evaluation of the structural and financial implications of the Strategy and report thereon to the next session of the Assembly in June 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.497 (XXII)

**Decision on the Sustainability of the Pan-African E-Network
(Assembly/AU/16 (XXII) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes and welcomes* the proposal submitted by the Republic of Senegal on the extension of the Pan-African E-Network Project under the Africa-India partnership;

2. *Recalls* the Cooperation Framework adopted by the First Summit of the India-Africa Forum held on 8 and 9 April 2008 in New Delhi, in which Africa and India, recognized that information technologies are among the new factors of economic growth and, as such, are increasingly considered as essential elements in the development of socio-economic activities in Africa and India;

3. *Takes into account* the framework for enhanced Africa-India cooperation, adopted by the Second Summit of the India-Africa Forum, held on 25 May 2011, in which both parties undertook to draw lessons from the implementation and effectiveness of the Pan-African online Network Project to bridge the digital divide and exploit the socio-economic benefits of ICT for their common objectives;

4. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the Pan-African online Network Project in the attainment of the development goals of African countries;

5. *Welcomes* the outstanding achievements in the implementation of this project during these five years, which has enabled more than 10,000 students to receive higher and postgraduate studies and more than 5,000 doctors from Africa to receive Continuous Medical Training (CMT) for the improvement of their skills in the highly specialized disciplines;

6. *Thanks* the Indian Government for the establishment of this project with 48 countries connected to the network;

7. *Requests* the Commission to deploy all efforts to ensure the continuity of operation of the network (PAeN) after the end of the assistance of India in collaboration with the host country of the Hub Station network (Senegal), India and the countries participating to the network;

8. *Also requests* the Commission to prepare and submit to Member States at the January 2015 Assembly an action plan for the sustainability of the services of the network. The resources required in this regard should be made available to the Commission which, among other things, could discuss with the Indian Government the provision of possible assistance to attain this objective. Member States should secure necessary resources for the Commission to achieve this objective.

Assembly/AU/Dec.498 (XXII)

Decision on the Organization of an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to Assess the Progress in Implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and

**Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation
(Doc. Assembly/AU/16 (XXII) Add. 3)**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes and welcomes* the proposal presented by Burkina Faso on the organization of an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Governments to assess the progress in the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action, ten years after its adoption;
2. *Recalls* the commitments made by the Heads of State and Governments at the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held on 8 and 9 September 2004, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso;
3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Action Plan adopted at this Extraordinary Summit which should serve as an instrument of implementation of various commitments made by the Heads of State and Government in the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration;
4. *Recognizes* that such an assessment, after ten years of implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action, is needed to reverse the current trend of poverty, unemployment and underemployment;
5. *Endorses* the organization of an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on the assessment of progress made in the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action;
6. *Requests* the Commission, Regional Economic Communities and technical and financial partners, including the International Labour Office (ILO), to support Burkina Faso in organizing this summit;
7. *Invites* Member States to actively participate in the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on the assessment of progress in the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action to be organized by the African Union in September 2014;
8. *Requests* the Commission to conduct consultations with the Government of Burkina Faso and the Chairperson of the African Union to determine the exact dates of the summit and to inform Member States. The Extraordinary Session will be held in conformity with Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.499 (XXII)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ACDCP)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/16 (XXII) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Abuja Declaration of 16 July 2013;
2. *Takes note* of the proposal of Ethiopia to host the Centre in Addis Ababa;
3. *Stresses* the urgency of establishing the Centre;
4. *Requests* the Commission to work out the modalities, in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and other interested Member States, including the legal, structural and financial implications relating to the centre and to submit a report in January 2015 to the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.500 (XXII)

**Decision on the Adoption of the Encyclopaedia Africana Project (EAP)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/16 (XXII) Add.5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of Ghana for the adoption of the Encyclopaedia Africana Project (EAP) by the African Union;
2. *Commends* the Republic of Ghana for its commitment towards the sustenance of the Encyclopaedia Africana Project (EAP) in spite of the numerous challenges;
3. *Requests* the Republic of Ghana, the Secretariat for the Encyclopaedia Africana Project, to avail itself to work with the African Union Commission and to facilitate consultations with the aim of reviving awareness of all Member States concerning the ongoing project;
4. *Calls upon* the Commission, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Encyclopaedia Africana, to submit at the next summit proposals for sustainable financing of the project, including strategies for making it financially self-reliant;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Encyclopaedia Africana Project to ensure that its publications are made available in all AU working languages;
6. *Finally requests* the African Union Commission to facilitate the formation of national cooperating committees in each Member State to be financed by each Member State to enlist the assistance of scholars in various universities and research centres to contribute to the Encyclopaedia.

Assembly/AU/Dec.501 (XXII)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. *Underscores* the need for renewed effort to tackle the challenges to peace and security that have continued to confront Africa. To this end, the Assembly recalls the crucial need for expeditious and comprehensive operationalization of all the components of the African Peace and Security Architecture, as well as the need for more effective action, both operational and structural, in the realm of conflict prevention;
3. *Expresses satisfaction* at the continued progress in the consolidation of peace and reconciliation in Comoros, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire;
4. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the process of transition and restoration of constitutional order in Madagascar sequel to the two rounds of presidential elections conducted on 25 October and 20 December 2013, respectively, the legislative elections coupled with the presidential election run-off and Madagascar's resumption of participation in AU activities. The Assembly commends the Malagasy players for the results obtained and invites them to persevere in their effort at promoting reconciliation, and at deepening democracy and socio-economic recovery. The Assembly commends the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union and the Indian Ocean Commission for their support to the crisis exit process;

5. *Also welcomes* the conduct of legislative elections in Guinea on 26 September 2013, thus marking the end of the electoral process initiated as part of the country's transition, and urges all the concerned players to work together to consolidate the substantial gains so far achieved. The Assembly further welcomes the positive developments in the situation in Tunisia and the commitment of the various Tunisian stakeholders to foster consensus and dialogue with a view to bringing the ongoing transition to a successful conclusion. The Assembly urges Guinea-Bissau stakeholders to spare no effort to abide by the calendar established for the conduct of elections in March 2014, which is expected to mark the restoration of constitutional order in the country, reiterates its support for the action taken by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), commends the latter for the ongoing process, and renews its appeal to the United Nations, the AU, ECOWAS, the EU and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) to continue to coordinate their efforts to support the transition process in Guinea-Bissau;

6. *Takes note* of the effort exerted by the Libyan transition authorities to address the multifaceted challenges facing their country, reaffirms its support for the Libyan Government and stresses the need for increased African and international mobilization in support of Libya. The Assembly takes note of the events in Egypt, recalls the relevant decisions of the PSC on the situation, and expresses its solidarity with the Egyptian people and the wish for speedy success of the efforts invested to re-establish constitutional order in the country. The Assembly strongly condemns the acts of terrorism perpetrated in the country;

7. *Welcomes* the positive developments in Mali, particularly the conduct of two rounds of presidential elections on 28 July and 11 August 2013, respectively, expresses its unalloyed support for the efforts invested by the authorities of Mali to fully re-establish State authority and foster reconciliation, encourages them to move on resolutely towards the opening of inclusive talks within the framework of the Ouagadougou Agreement of 18 June 2013, and urges the international community to continue to support the peace consolidation process in Mali. The Assembly underscores the need for sustained collective action to tackle the multiform challenges confronting the Sahelo-Saharan region, notes with satisfaction the regional and international initiatives undertaken in this regard and encourages the Commission, particularly through the African Union Mission in Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL) and the ongoing strategy by MISAHEL to pool these initiatives and move forward the actions set in motion in this regard. The Assembly welcomes the continued efforts at implementing and deepening the Nouakchott Process on the enhancement of security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in the Sahelo-Saharan region;

8. *Expresses satisfaction* at the positive developments in the situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) following the end of the M23 rebellion and the signing in Nairobi on 12 December 2013, of Declarations by the DRC Government and the M23, endorsed by a joint communiqué signed by the incumbent chairs of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and SADC. The Assembly welcomes the advances made in the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the region signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013 and urges the signatory States to respect their commitments under the terms of the Agreement;

9. *Underscores* that despite the agreement between the Government of the DRC and M23, the continued presence of armed groups however remains a serious threat to peace and lasting stability in the Great Lakes region – of great concern is the group associated with the 1994 genocide against Tutsis in Rwanda, the FDLR. The Assembly notes that, despite multiple decisions by successive International Conferences on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) remains active and, consequently, stresses the need for urgent action to eliminate FDLR, as well as other armed groups in the DRC, in order to bring lasting stability to the Great Lakes region;

10. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued progress in the relations between Sudan and South Sudan, and this, within the framework of the Cooperation Agreements signed between the two countries in Addis Ababa, in September 2012, reiterates its support for the High-Level Implementation Panel and encourages the latter to pursue the implementation of all aspects of its mandate as defined by the PSC, including at its summit level meeting held in New York on 23 September 2013;

11. *Welcomes* the progress that has continued to be recorded in Somalia, and notes with satisfaction the measures taken pursuant to the 10 October 2013 PSC communiqué on the AU/United Nations Joint Strategic Review of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the benchmarking exercise and on resolution 2124 (2013) of 10 November 2013, to strengthen AMISOM, mobilize additional support for the Somali national security forces towards successful conclusion of restoration of Somali State authority in areas still under the control of Al-Shabaab and create the conditions for the conduct of the elections scheduled for 2016. The Assembly urges Somali players to persevere in the path of reconciliation and continue to promote an inclusive process;

12. *Once again underscores* the need for more sustained effort to overcome the difficulties facing the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and to normalize the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea. The Assembly requests the Commission to continue to work towards effective implementation of its previous decisions on the two aforementioned situations, including promotion of a global and holistic approach to the challenges to peace and security in the Horn of Africa;

13. *Recalls* Decision EX.CL/Dec.773 (XXIII) on the situation in Western Sahara adopted by the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 May 2013, and takes note that the report which the Commission was to present to the current Executive Council session in accordance with that Decision, will be finally submitted in July 2014. In the meantime, the Assembly requests the Commission to pursue the efforts set in motion to follow up on Decision EX.CL/Dec.773 (XXIII);

14. *Notes with concern* the eruption on 15 December 2013 of violent conflict in South Sudan and the grave consequences inherent in this situation for both the country itself and the region at large. The Assembly urges the concerned players to scrupulously and urgently implement and respect the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement they concluded on 23 January 2014 under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD). The Assembly calls upon the parties to engage, on the basis of the progress already accomplished, in inclusive dialogue to find a lasting solution to the root causes of the crisis. The Assembly expresses its unalloyed support for the mediation conducted by IGAD, urges members of the international community to continue to back these efforts, appeals for mobilization of increased humanitarian assistance to the effected populations, and expresses its support for the role played by the United Nations Mission to South Sudan (UNMISS) and welcomes the ceasefire agreement in South Sudan and the partial release of detainees;

15. *Expresses its deep concern* at the situation in the Central African Republic and reaffirms Africa's determination to spare no effort to re-establish security in that country and facilitate the successful conclusion of the transition. The Assembly commends the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for its decisive action in support of CAR, welcomes the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR) and the efforts it is deploying on the ground with the support of Opération Sangaris, and requests the mobilization of all the resources required by the Mission for effective implementation of its mandate. To this end, the Assembly expresses gratitude to the concerned partners for the support already accorded to (AFISM-CAR) and underscores the imperative need for close coordination to ensure that their contributions help in strengthening (AFISM-CAR) and in the effective implementation of its mandate. The Assembly urges Central African Republic players to demonstrate commitment and sense of responsibility so as to facilitate the successful conclusion of the ongoing transition;

16. *Welcomes* the advances made in the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), and encourages the Member States of this Initiative to accord the AU all the cooperation required to ensure the success of the efforts invested;

17. *Decides* to declare 2014—2024 as “The Madiba Nelson Mandela Decade Of Reconciliation In Africa” and, in this regard, calls on the Commission to take appropriate measures to promote reconciliation as a means of securing peace, stability and development in Africa; as well as to also take appropriate steps in collaboration with Member States to promote the lessons learned from his indelible legacy in the areas of truth, reconciliation and peacebuilding.

Assembly/AU/Dec.502 (XXII)

**Decision on the Thirteenth Report of the Committee of Ten on United Nations Security Council Reform
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.485 (XXI) and takes note of the Thirteenth Report of H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Coordinator of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;
2. *Also takes note* of the recent developments in the intergovernmental negotiations on the Security Council reform;
3. *Reaffirms* its strong commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration containing the African common position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council; and commends the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government for implementing the aspect of holding high-level meetings;
4. *Underscores* the overriding need to ensure that the interest of Africa continues to be maintained and safeguarded at all times in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform;
5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in promoting, canvassing and defending the continent's interest in the United Nations Security Council reform process;
6. *Reiterates* its request that the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in participating in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the United Nations Security Council reform, continue to liaise with other African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations;
7. *Encourages* the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations to continue intensifying efforts towards building alliances in support of the African common position with diverse interest groups engaged in the intergovernmental negotiations and to seek any further guidance, if necessary, in furtherance of its mandate;
8. *Requests* the Committee of Ten to continue with its high-level meetings outside the margins of the AU Summit to discuss issues relating to the reform of the Security Council with a view to further building on the gains made so far;
9. *Also requests* the Committee of Ten in continuing to intensify efforts in advocating, canvassing and in promoting the African common position, to endeavour to reach out at the highest political levels for the purpose of garnering and galvanizing the necessary political will in support of the African common position;
10. *Further requests* the Commission to continue providing all necessary support as well as facilitating the activities of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in the intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform and related consultations thereon;
11. *Reiterates* its call for Africa to continue to speak with one voice and cohesively on all issues relating to the United Nations Security Council reform and related matters;
12. *Decides* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and request the Committee to present a report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2014;
13. *Requests* the Commission to organize a ministerial retreat on the United Nations Security Council reform.

Assembly/AU/Dec.503 (XXII)

**Decision on the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the decision of the May 2013 Assembly that requested the establishment of a High-Level Committee (HLC) of Heads of State and Government to sensitize and coordinate the activities of African leaders and members of the High-Level Panel, and build regional and intercontinental alliances on the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
2. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the HLC H.E. Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of the Republic of Liberia;
3. *Commends* members of the HLC for their commitment and leadership towards the finalization of the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
4. *Commends* also the coordinating role of the African Union Commission, and the technical support of the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
5. *Adopts* the Common African Position Document on the Post-2015 Development Agenda which are based on the aspirations expressed by a wide spectrum of the African stakeholders during a series of consultations including the Africa regional consultations meeting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
6. *Requests* the HLC to meet before the end of February 2014 in Ndjamena, Chad, to streamline the Document, including the pillar on Peace and Security, and formulate a strategy for advocacy, negotiation and forging alliances;
7. *Stresses* that the Common African Position Document on the Post-2015 Development Agenda is in line with 2063 Africa Vision and should include specific goals to be attained within this framework making use of the technical work already initiated by the Commission, in collaboration with strategic partners;
8. *Requests also* Member States to speak with one voice during the discussions at the United Nations General Assembly aimed at defining the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
9. *Calls upon* the HLC, supported by the Commission in collaboration with Member States, to ensure that the priority areas identified in the Common African Position are integrated into the ongoing post-2015 sustainable development intergovernmental deliberations, including the work of the Open Working Group on SDGs, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development, Financing and the final Global Post-2015 Development Agenda;
10. *Requests* the Commission to mobilize funds under the budget year 2014 to finance the implementation of the activities regarding the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Assembly/AU/Dec.504 (XXII)

**Decision on African Development Goals
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its Solemn Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the OAU/AU and, in particular, its pledge to articulate the ideals and goals of the continent on a fifty year AU agenda;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to African transformation and the importance of existing continental frameworks encompassing the political, economic and social aspirations of the continent;
3. *Recognizes* the need for tracking and monitoring of progress on continental frameworks especially within the ambit of Agenda 2063;
4. *Realizes* that the Post-2015 Development Agenda will be a global framework that is not Africa specific;
5. *Endorses* the articulation of the African Development Goals consistent with the existing continental frameworks and to serve as milestones for tracking and monitoring progress towards Agenda 2063;
6. *Mandates* the Commission, ECA and AfDB to work on the articulation of the African Development Goals in the context of Agenda 2063 and consistent with its stated objectives.

Assembly/AU/Dec.505 (XXII)

**Decision on the Report of the High-Level African Trade Committee on Trade Issues
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII) on Boosting Intra-African Trade/Continental Free Trade Area taken on 30 January 2012 at its Eighteenth Session;
2. *Takes note* of the Report of the High-Level African Trade Committee held on 29 January 2014 and endorses its recommendations;
3. *Reiterates* that boosting intra-African trade, industrial development and economic integration are the most viable means for African countries to achieve structural transformation, sustainable development that yields jobs for all citizens, particularly women and youth, hence the need to prioritize the implementation of the Boosting Intra-Africa Trade and the Continental Free Trade Area (BIAT/CFTA) decisions at the national, regional and continental levels;
4. *Urges* Member States and Regional Economic Communities to consider carefully the impact of the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements on the African integration agenda, as potential trade deals pursued individually by countries and RECs, if not harmonized properly, will fatally compromise the African trade integration process and undermine the vision and scope of the Abuja Treaty;
5. *Also urges* Member States to ensure that the negotiation of multilateral and bilateral agreements does not further constrain the policy space and flexibilities that they need for effective intra-African trade, industrialization, regional integration, value addition and employment creation;
6. *Mandates* the Ministers Of Trade to hold an extraordinary session to consider and adopt a workplan, negotiating modalities and principles towards the effective launch of the CFTA negotiations in 2015 as well as to consider reports on Africa's response and implications of the Bali Agreement and Africa's assessment studies on AGOA, to be presented through the High-Level Committee on Trade, to the next summit meeting in June 2014;

7. *Calls for* the inclusion of Economic Partnership Agreements on the Agenda of the Joint Africa-EU Summit in April 2014 to provide for high-level dialogue to break the current impasse on EPAs. In addition, directs the PRC to meet and discuss EPAs before the EU-Africa Summit and submit the related report to ministers;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to speak with a single voice in order to be heard in the global arena on common AU trade positions. In this regard, Member States should allocate the necessary financial resources to the AUC for the implementation of the above decisions.

Assembly/AU/Dec.506 (XXII)

Decision on the Biennial Joint AU/WHO Conference of the African Union Ministers of Health

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Report of the Sixth Session of the Conference of the African Union Ministers of Health;
2. *Endorses* the holding of biennial Joint AU/WHO Conference of African Ministers of Health;
3. *Calls upon* Member States, RECs, regional health organizations and other stakeholders to utilize the biennial meetings strengthen coordination and create synergies;
4. *Requests* the Commission to work out modalities of holding the biennial conference of African Union Ministers of Health.

Assembly/AU/Dec.507 (XXII)

**Decision on the Election of Ten Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/822 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the ten members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following ten members of the Peace and Security Council for a two-year term as of 1 April 2014:

(1)	Burundi	Central Region;
(2)	Chad	Central Region;
(3)	Ethiopia	Eastern Region;
(4)	Tanzania	Eastern Region;
(5)	Libya	Northern Region;
(6)	Namibia	Southern Region;
(7)	South Africa	Southern Region;
(8)	Gambia	Western Region;

- (9) Guinea Western Region;
- (10) Niger Western Region.

Assembly/AU/Dec.508 (XXII)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Thirtieth Session of the HSGOC;
3. *Reiterates* the overriding importance for NEPAD to speed up the actualization of Africa's development objectives in the context of Agenda 2063 as the African Union long-term strategy by focusing on industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities;
4. *Welcomes and adopts* the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) Strategic Plan: 2014-2017 which is inspired by the AU Agenda 2063 and based on the Commission's Strategic Plan for a similar period. Calls upon Member States, Regional Economic Communities, African regional and global partner institutions to support the Agency in the implementation of the Plan;
5. *Further endorses* the NPCA programmatic activities and initiatives undertaken in 2013 noting in particular the measures taken to fulfill the core mandate of facilitating and coordinating key programmes with particular reference to agriculture, food security and nutrition and infrastructure. Commends the implementation work of the NPCA which has energized regional and continental programme delivery;
6. *Recalls* the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.488 (XXI) based on the conclusions of Twenty-ninth HSGOC on Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) for NEPAD programmes/projects and notes with satisfaction the finalization of the Study Report. Urges the NPCA and UNECA in conjunction with UNDP, AfDB and UNCTAD to engage Member States and stakeholders on the dissemination of the proposed Study conclusions and findings through relevant ministries of finance, planning and economic development, private sector organizations and the investment community;
7. *Highly commends* the impressive update on the progress towards implementing the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) presented by H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the HSGOC PICI High-Level Sub Committee, including the status of the North-South Corridor with additional briefings by H.E. Goodluck Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline; H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, on the East Africa Community Regional ICT project and H.E. Abdelmalek Sellal, Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, on the Trans-Sahara Optic Fiber project;
8. *Endorses* the key outcomes of the Transform Africa Summit hosted by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, in October 2013 which adopted the SMART Africa Manifesto highlighting the need to place ICT at the centre of the national socio-economic development agenda and SMART Africa Alliance as the implementation framework;

9. *Extends appreciation* to the PICI Chair and the Champion Heads of State and Government for their continued political commitment and strategic support, underscoring that PICI serves as the nucleus of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
10. *Accordingly requests* the NPCA to intensify consultations with the footprint Member States, RECs, African Development Bank and UNECA to advance the full implementation of approved PICI projects towards providing in-depth diagnostic of the remaining financing gaps, policy, legal and regulatory obstacles to stimulate project development and bankability;
11. *Recalls* the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Senegal to host a High-Level Summit on Financing NEPAD programmes in the form of the Dakar Financing Summit (DFS) for Africa's Infrastructure to take forward the DRM agenda and regretfully notes that the Summit could not take place in December 2013 as scheduled; agrees that the HSGOC Chairperson would further consult with African leaders on a new period for the Financing Summit;
12. *Reinforces* the critical need for financial investments and leveraging public-private partnerships as direct input for infrastructure development and acknowledges the role of African regional and global development finance institutions (DFIs) to mobilize domestic financial resources, and, in particular, welcomes the Africa50 Investment Vehicle by AfDB as an African-owned and led initiative to mobilize adequate funds for infrastructure development;
13. *Appreciates* the launch of 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture and Development Programme (CAADP)" with focus on "Transforming Africa's Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, through Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development;
14. *Welcomes* the publication on "Agriculture in Africa – Transformation and Outlook for the next 20 years" by the NPCA at the request of the Chairperson of AU Commission;
15. *Requests* Member States, the Commission and the NPCA along with stakeholders and development partners to scale up their collaboration towards sustaining of the CAADP momentum by focusing on agro-industry and entrepreneurship, access to land for small-holder farmers, women and youth, linkages between job creation, food security and nutrition, as well as lesson learning on CAADP accomplishments;
16. *Reaffirms* the immense and continued contributions of NEPAD to forging mutually-beneficial partnerships under the auspices of the African Union by advocating Africa's common positions and interests in global development processes especially the G8, G20 and BRICS; and, in this regard, examines the impact of Africa's current partnership engagements particularly the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) established by the 2003 Evian G8 Summit in France to catalyze support for Africa's development through NEPAD with G8-OECD partners;
17. *Expresses concern* at the recent operational modalities of the APF, particularly in the past two years, noting that the evaluation of the APF after 10 years of existence as reflected in the Dakar Reform Proposals did not deliver the desired results.; and agrees that an umbrella formation bringing together various strands of existing and new African partnership mechanisms should be established driven by the continent's common goals;
18. *Therefore directs* the NPCA to work with the African Co-Chairs of the APF and NEPAD Steering Committee in engaging potential strategic partner countries to determine their interest and willingness to join a new partnership mechanism with Africa;
19. *Urges* the realistic assessment of the impact of a new partnership structure by ascertaining the expected accruing benefits and value addition to Africa to avoid the proliferation of partnership platforms; and calls for the global review process of Africa's partnerships to be completed as soon as possible;

20. Concurrent with this, asserts that Africa should pursue the continuation of the G8-Africa Partnership Outreach in its original conception along with the proposed creation of a G20-Africa Outreach through the Development Working Group (DWG) that will be based on the continent's priorities and the changing global paradigm;

21. *Instructs* the NPCA to develop the technical capacity to monitor the implementation of partnership commitments, given the challenge of dependence on development partners, to track the effective delivery of commitments to Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.509 (XXII)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the offer of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014;

2. *Accepts* the offer of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and requests the Commission to undertake the necessary consultations with this country, in this regard, to ensure that the session is held under the best possible conditions;

3. *Decides* that the dates for the ordinary session of the Assembly shall be as follows:

(i) Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee: 20 to 21 June 2014;

(ii) Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 23 to 24 June 2014;

(iii) Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union: 26 to 27 June 2014.

Assembly/AU/Dec.510 (XXII)

Decision on the Naming of the Large Conference Hall of the African Union Conference Complex

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal by the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria to name the Large Conference Hall of the African Union Conference Complex "The Nelson Mandela Conference Hall";

2. *Decides* to name the Large Conference Hall of the AU Conference Complex the "Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Conference Hall" in honour and memory of Nelson Mandela;

3. *Requests* the Commission to take all necessary measures to implement this decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.511 (XXII)

**Decision on the Progress Report of the Commission on the Development of the African Union Agenda 2063
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report presented by the Chairperson of the Commission on the development of Agenda 2063 and the rich comments and observations made by Member States on the report;

2. *Recognizes* the progress achieved in the development of the Agenda 2063 Framework Document and thanks all those who have contributed to this strategic reflection crucial for the future of the continent;
3. *Encourages* the Commission to pursue its efforts in enlisting the inputs of all Africans and the diaspora, and engages Member States to submit their written inputs before the end of April 2014, to enable the Assembly to adopt the Agenda 2063 at its next session in June 2014;
4. *Underscores* the need to incorporate in Agenda 2063, strategies for optimal management of the immense resources of the oceans and seas bordering Africa, based on the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy).

Assembly/AU/Dec.512 (XXII)

**Decision on the Launch of the Final Report of the High-Level Panel on Fragile States
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* H.E. President Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the AfDB, for the excellent report;
2. *Endorses* the report and its recommendations and mandates the High-Level Panel led by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to press on with her efforts to implement the recommendations of the report, in close collaboration with the Commission and Member States, within the framework of the Union's programme of activities.

Assembly/AU/Dec.513 (XXII)

**Decision on Tunisia's Democratic Transition
(Doc. EX.CL/803 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the paragraphs related to the situation in Tunisia in the annual report of the Chairperson on the activities of the Commission for 2013;
2. *Recalls* the efforts of the African Union Commission to support the process of democratic transition in Tunisia, mainly through regular high-level visits since 2011;
3. *Welcomes* with satisfaction the recent positive developments in Tunisia and the progress achieved in the process of democratic transition;
4. *Also welcomes* the success of the national dialogue which led to a consensus between the different stakeholders by respecting the road map established to this end;
5. *Congratulates* Tunisia on the adoption of a new Constitution that responds to the legitimate aspirations of the Tunisian people for dignity, freedom, democracy and respect of the universal values of human rights;
6. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the establishment of a new government made up of highly qualified technocrats with no affiliation to any political party, mainly tasked with securing the continuation of the democratic transition process that shall be crowned with the organization of free and fair presidential and legislative elections under the supervision of the independent electoral commission;

7. *Encourages* all stakeholders to carry on with the democratic transition process within the spirit of consensus and inclusive dialogue;
8. *Recognizes* that the achievements reached so far in Tunisia's democratic transition process constitute a success not only for this country but for the African continent as a whole;
9. *Reiterates* the continued support of the African Union to all efforts towards the establishment of democracy and prosperity in Tunisia, as the safeguard for peace, security, and development and also reiterates its call to the international community to provide the necessary support for Tunisia in this endeavour.

Assembly/AU/Dec.514 (XXII)

Decision on the Warsaw Climate Change Conference and Africa's Preparation for the Twentieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 20/CMP 10)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. President Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania, on Africa's preparations towards the Nineteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Ninth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol (COP 19/CMP 9) held in Warsaw, Poland, from 11 to 23 November 2013;
2. *Further notes* the conclusions of the CAHOSCC sessions held on 24 September 2013 and 5 December 2013 on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and the Elysée Summit on Peace and Security in Africa in Paris, France, respectively;
3. *Applauds* CAHOSCC and members for valued and continued commitment in leading Africa's collective political engagement in the global climate change negotiations;
4. *Commends* the worthy leadership demonstrated by H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete in his role as the Coordinator of CAHOSCC and requests His Excellency to continue showing the same leadership throughout 2014, at UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima and beyond; and also commends AMCEN and AGN as well as the African Union Commission in collaboration with the AfDB, UNECA/ACPC and other partners for the unanimity and togetherness demonstrated in Warsaw in championing the key messages of the African Common Position on Climate Change that contributed to the achievements registered at the Conference in Poland;
5. *Further commends* the African Union Commission in collaboration with UNECA/ACPC, AfDB, NPCA and partners for the success recorded at the Africa Day celebrations in Warsaw that advanced Africa's interests in the global negotiations and requests the Commission and partners to prepare towards mounting an African Pavilion at COP 20 in Lima, Peru, and at COP 21 in Paris, France;
6. *Congratulates* the Republic of Korea and the Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as well as the Secretariats of the UNFCCC and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on the opening of the headquarters of the Green Climate Fund in Songdo, Korea, on 4 December 2013; and calls upon the Board of the Green Climate Fund to expedite actions on the capitalization of the Fund to so as to enable Africa to benefit from the Fund on its adaptation and mitigation efforts;
7. *Further calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the host of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to ensure that adequate networks are established in Africa, where they are needed most for effective technology development, transfer and capacity-building;

8. *Urges* Member States to ratify the Doha Amendments to the Kyoto Protocol for the Second Commitment Period to enhance reduction of emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs);
9. *Requests* the Commission, UNECA/ACPC and AfDB and other partners to continue to support the AGN in the global climate change negotiations under the political guidance of AMCEN and CAHOSCC.

Assembly/AU/Dec.515 (XXII)

**Decision on the Operationalization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.489 (XXI) on the establishment of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, from 26 to 27 May 2013;
2. *Takes note* of the decision by the following African Union (AU) Member States to be the initial participating countries in the ACIRC: Algeria, Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, South Africa, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, and hereby operationalizes the ACIRC as a transitional arrangement;
3. *Further recalls* that the ACIRC is based on voluntarism and the capacities of the participating countries;
4. *Further decides* as follows:
 - (i) More Member States should be encouraged to volunteer capabilities to ACIRC in the spirit of inclusivity and solidarity;
 - (ii) Upon a request by AU Member State(s), the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) shall authorize the deployment of a force in accordance with the provisions of the AU Constitutive Act, especially Article 4, subparagraphs (h) and (j);
 - (iii) The implementation of the mandate shall be coordinated by the PSC;
 - (iv) An Operations Coordination Strategic Centre shall be established at the AU Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa under the leadership of the Peace and Security Department, to work on the modalities for activating ACIRC;
 - (v) An Operational Command Centre will be located in any of the participating countries near the Mission Area.

Assembly/AU/Dec.516 (XXII)

**Decision on the Report on the Implementation of the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments on
Accelerating Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report and welcomes the very detailed information on progress made by Member States in relation to the commitments made in Sharm El Sheikh as well as the comments and observations from Member States on the report;

2. *Commends* Member States especially Rwanda and Tunisia which recorded the best performances in the achievement of water and sanitation goals;
3. *Decides* to designate H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, to champion the awareness and mobilizing process of Member States towards the effective implementation of the Sharm El Sheikh commitments on water and sanitation States in Africa;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen their capacities and to assess the overall needs in order to facilitate the preparation of bankable projects and to remove barriers that hinder the rapid use of available funds at the African Development Bank and, in particular, for fragile States, to reduce the gap and improve their performance in the water sector;
5. *Recalls* that the implementation of the African Water Vision 2025 is a vital necessity for unlocking the development potential of Africa and highlights the link between water, agriculture and the environment;
6. *Endorses* Decision EX.CL/Dec.802 (XXIV) adopted by the Executive Council at its last session on 29 January 2014.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXII)

Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Border Dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria: The Bakassi Case

1. On 14 August 2013, two months after the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the OAU/AU, a major event in the area of peaceful resolution of conflicts took place at a time when violent conflicts were raging in many African countries. Indeed, the resolution of the Bakassi border dispute between the sister nations of Cameroon and Nigeria which lasted for 20 years came, on that historic date, to its final conclusion in peace and harmony.
2. Africa owes this happy conclusion to the Heads of State of Cameroon and Nigeria who had chosen right from the outbreak of the conflict, to seize the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in The Hague, of the matter. The African Union, which endeavours for the realization of a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa by 2063, welcomes, on the one hand, this major lesson of maturity and wisdom which does great honour to Africa as a whole and which spared the continent a fratricidal war with incalculable consequences and stresses, on the other hand, that the approach adopted by Cameroon and Nigeria should be a source of inspiration for all African actors involved in conflicts.
3. In the light of the historical scope of this peace-oriented action, the AU expresses its sincere congratulations to the Heads of State of the two countries as well as to M. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and to the States witnesses to the Green Tree Agreement which made it possible to implement the ICJ judgment pronounced on 10 October 2002.
4. The AU wishes that the international community recognizes this event as a strong point worthy of praise and a significant contribution of Africa to safeguard world peace.

TWENTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION

**Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
26 to 27 June 2014**

Assembly/AU/Dec.517 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Protocol and the Statute for the Establishment of the African Monetary Fund
(Doc. EX.CL/836 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of the draft Protocol and the Statute for the Establishment of the African Monetary Fund;
2. *Adopts* the Protocol and the Statute for the Establishment of the African Monetary Fund;
3. *Calls on* Member States to sign and ratify as expeditiously as possible the Protocol for the Establishment of the African Monetary Fund so as to enable the Protocol to enter into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.518 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
(Doc. EX.CL/836 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of Seventh Joint Annual Meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
2. *Requests:*
 - (i) Member States to ensure that the overarching goal of the Common African Position, which is to eradicate poverty in all its forms, is the key message in the intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda, and to be vigilant about what Africa is negotiating;
 - (ii) The Commission, in collaboration with partners, to carry out projections of financing needs for implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Africa using sustainable finance including domestic resources;
3. *Calls upon* the Secretariat of the High-level Committee, with the support of partners, to come up with an advocacy and negotiation strategy to build alliances in order to ensure that African priorities identified in the Common African Position are reflected in the global Post-2015 Development Agenda;
4. *Requests* Member States to enhance their statistical capacity to enable them to effectively monitor progress in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and calls upon countries that have not signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics to do so as expeditiously as possible;
5. *Calls upon* the Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Capacity-Building Foundation, to fast track the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the African Statistics Training Centre, in accordance with the decision made by Heads of State and Government;
6. *Requests:*
 - (i) The Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to facilitate regular expert dialogue between development planners and

statisticians, with the purpose of embedding statistics in planning and management for results, so that Africa's transformative agenda is achieved;

(ii) The Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Regional Economic Communities, with the support of partners, to organize a high-level conference in 2014 to discuss the data revolution in Africa and its implications for the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Assembly/AU/Dec.519 (XXIII)

**Decision on Productivity, Competitiveness and Industrialization
(Doc. EX.CL/836 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of Seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance;

2. *Commits* itself to speeding up implementation of the African Union Productivity Agenda for Africa, which, as an essential engine for accelerated industrialization on the continent, will progressively build and enhance the competitiveness of the continent in the global economy;

3. *Calls for:*

(i) Enhancement of the Pan-African Productivity Association, to provide it with the capacity to act as a regional think tank, catalyzer, research and knowledge developer and policy adviser on productivity at the continental level;

(ii) The establishment and enhancement of productivity organizations at national and regional levels and for efforts to ensure that they become members of the Pan-African Productivity Association;

4. *Requests:*

(i) The Commission to work closely with the Pan-African Productivity Association, the Regional Economic Communities and international partners, including the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in order to facilitate the establishment of regional organizations on productivity and social dialogue and to compile and disseminate best practices on productivity in Africa;

(ii) The Commission, the Pan-African Productivity Association, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne (AFRISTAT) and other development partners to develop a comprehensive productivity and competitiveness measurement system to track progress and to make intercountry, interregional and global comparisons;

5. *Undertakes* to join efforts with the ministries of labour, industry, economic development and finance and with other relevant bodies in the public and private sector in promoting social dialogue and productivity in support of the implementation of industrial policies at all levels, with particular focus on the SMMEs and agribusiness;

6. *Invites* the Commission, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, the Pan-African Productivity Association and other development partners to organize regular activities to foster a culture of productivity in Africa and building productivity capacity management at all levels;

7. *Requests* the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the decision and report to the Assembly on progress in the implementation.

Assembly/AU/Dec.520 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa 2024
(Doc. EX.CL/839 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Report and of the Extraordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Science and Technology (AMCOST V) held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 15 to 18 April 2014;
2. *Adopts* the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa – 2024 (STISA-2024) as the continental framework for accelerating Africa’s transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy within the overall framework of the AU Agenda 2063;
3. *Calls upon* Member States and Regional Economic Communities to integrate the STISA-2024 in their STI development agendas, ensure its implementation, and popularization on the continent;
4. *Invites* the development partners, UNESCO, UNECA, UNCTAD and other stakeholders to support the implementation of STISA-2024;
5. *Requests* the Commission to prepare practical modalities for implementation of STISA-2024 at all levels and to report progress in this regard to the Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.521 (XXIII)

**Decision on the African Observatory for Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI)
(Doc. EX.CL/839 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report and the recommendations of the Extraordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST V) held from 16 to 18 April 2014 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo;
2. *Recalls*:
 - (i) The Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.452 (XX) on the Creation of the African Observatory on Science, Technology and Innovation in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;
 - (ii) The Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.235 (XII) on the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation;
3. *Takes note* of the draft Statute of the African Observatory on Science Technology and Innovation (AOSTI) and requests the Commission to submit it to the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for consideration and appropriate recommendations;
4. *Calls upon* the Member States and development partners to avail the necessary technical and financial support for sustaining the AOSTI;

5. *Expresses appreciation* to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for hosting and supporting the AOSTI in Malabo.

Assembly/AU/Dec.522 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO)
(Doc. EX.CL/839 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report and the recommendations of the Extraordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST V) held from 16 to 18 April 2014 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.453 (XX) on the Creation of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
3. *Takes note* of the draft Statute of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO) and requests the Commission to submit it to the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for consideration and appropriate recommendations;
4. *Recognizes* ARIPO and OAPI as building blocks for the creation of a single Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization and welcomes their support in the implementation of the Heads of State and Government decisions on PAIPO;
5. *Invites* Member States, WIPO as well as development organizations and partners to lend support for implementation of the decision;
6. *Welcomes and endorses* the offer by the Republic of Tunisia to host the headquarter and Secretariat of PAIPO;
7. *Requests* the Commission to prepare the road map for implementation of PAIPO in coordination with the host country and to report progress in this regard to the Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.523 ((XXIII))

**Decision on the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC)
(Doc. EX.CL/839 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report and the recommendations of the Extraordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST V) held from 16 to 18 April 2014 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo;
2. *Recalls* the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.747 (XXII) on the African Research and Innovation Council;
3. *Further recalls* the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.216 (VII) on the need to establish an African Research Council;

4. *Takes note* of the draft Statute of the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC) and requests the Commission to submit it to the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for consideration and appropriate recommendations;
5. *Calls upon* the Member States and development partners to avail the necessary technical and financial support for sustaining the ASRIC;
6. *Requests* the Commission to submit to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2015 the progress in the implementation of the decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.524 (XXIII)

**Decision on the International Salon on Invention and Innovation
(Doc. EX.CL/839 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Report and the recommendations of the Extraordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Science and Technology (AMCOST V) in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 15 to 18 April 2014;
2. *Welcomes and endorses* the proposal by Republic of Congo to:
 - (i) Organize in Brazzaville every two years an International Salon on Invention and Innovation under the auspices of the African Union;
 - (ii) Host a high-level Ethics and Bioethics Forum in Brazzaville;
3. *Requests* the Commission to work with the Republic of Congo to prepare the terms of reference for the implementation of the International Salon Initiative and submit them for consideration by the AU Summit in January 2015 and to take the necessary steps to organize the first International Salon;
4. *Commends* the progress made by the Republic of Congo, the Commission and the African Academy of Science in the implementation of the Denis Sassou N'Guesso Innovation Prize.

Assembly/AU/Dec.525 (XXIII)

**Decision on the AU Continental TVET Strategy
(Doc. EX.CL/840 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Executive Council recommendation on the Report of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF VI), held from 22 to 25 April 2014 in Yaoundé, Cameroon;
2. *Underscores* the importance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to Africa's development, and particularly for youth empowerment, employment and entrepreneurship;
3. *Adopts* the ten-year AU Continental TVET Strategy;
4. *Calls on* Member States:

- (i) To enhance support and investment for TVET as it is fundamental for skill development for the youth, to promote employability and entrepreneurship through innovation;
- (ii) To align their national TVET strategies to the AU Continental TVET Strategy for effectiveness.

Assembly/AU/Dec.526 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Operationalization of the Specialized Technical Committees
(Doc.EX.CL/845 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Status of Operationalization of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and the recommendations of the Executive Council thereon;
2. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Bureaus of various Sectoral Ministerial Conferences, to pursue and finalize the process of operationalization of the remaining STCs which have not yet operationalized from January 2014 to December 2014 after which all Sectoral Ministerial Conferences will be abolished;
3. *Decides subsequently* that no budget proposals for holding Sectoral Ministerial Conferences from January 2015 will be considered, however with regard to AMCEN, agrees that given the importance of ongoing global consultations on the issue of the environment and taking into account the need to defend the interests of Africa, this institution be allowed to pursue the negotiations with concerned partners until they are concluded;
4. *Requests* the Commission to submit to the Executive Council through the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) a progress report on the operationalization of STCs in July 2016.

Assembly/AU/Dec.527 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Integration of the APRM into the African Union
Doc. EX.CL/851 (XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the APRM Forum on the Integration of the APRM into the African Union structures;
2. *Decides* that the APRM shall be an autonomous entity within the AU system;
3. *Requests* the African Union Commission and the APRM Secretariat to consult on the practical modalities involved in the integration of the APRM into the African Union system, taking into account the fact that:
 - (i) It is a voluntary organization of AU Member States;
 - (ii) It exercises autonomy in its financial and budgetary processes;
 - (iii) Its legal personality, structure, administrative, human resources and financial management shall be based on the standard procedures of the African Union system.

Assembly/AU/Dec.528 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Report of the African Committee of Experts on
the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)**

(Doc. EX.CL/858 (XXV))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and the Decision of the Executive Council on the Report (EX.CL/Dec.843 (XXV));
2. *Further takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council contained in the abovementioned Decision EX.CL/Dec 843 regarding the amendment of Article 37, paragraph 1, of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on the possibility of the renewal of the term of office of the members of the ACERWC;
3. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Executive Council to amend Article 37, paragraph 1, of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as follows:

“The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of five years and may be re-elected only once. However, the term of four of the members elected at the first election shall expire after two years and the term of six others, after four years”;
4. *Requests* the Commission to notify all States parties to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of the amendment and to present the amendment for adoption during the January 2015 Summit in conformity with the provisions of Article 48, paragraph 1, of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Assembly/AU/Dec.529 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Draft Legal Instruments
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of the draft legal instruments;
2. *Adopts* the legal instruments as follows:
 - (a) Protocol on the Establishment of the African Monetary Fund;
 - (b) African Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention);
 - (c) African Union Convention on Cyberspace Security and Protection of Personal Data;
 - (d) African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development;
 - (e) Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights;
 - (f) Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union on the Pan-African Parliament;
3. *Calls on* Member States to sign and ratify the said legal instruments as expeditiously as possible so as to enable them to enter into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.530 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Report of the High-Level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note and adopts* the Report of the Chair of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
2. *Also takes note* of the Strategy for Advocacy and Negotiation, and requests the HLC to adopt it after further consultations with the African Permanent Representatives in New York;
3. *Commends* Heads of State and Government and members of the HLC for their commitment, dedication and leadership in crafting the Common African Position (CAP) out of the aspirations of the African people and embarking on advocacy, negotiation and promotional activities;
4. *Requests* all Member States and other African stakeholders to champion and support the CAP and speak with one voice during the discussions at the United Nations General Assembly and any other relevant fora;
5. *Further requests* the HLC to also explore the emerging issues of accountability and how to align it with the CAP framework to ensure consistency.

Assembly/AU/Dec.531 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Report of the High-Level African Trade Committee on Trade Issues
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII) on Boosting Intra-African Trade/Continental Free Trade Area taken on 30 January 2012 at its Eighteenth Ordinary Session;
2. *Takes note* of the Report of the High-Level African Trade Committee (HATC) held on 25 June 2014 and endorses its recommendations;
3. With regard to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;
 - (i) Reaffirms its commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and to its rapid completion in accordance with its development objectives;
 - (ii) Also reaffirms its commitment to all the decisions the Ministers took in Bali which are an important stepping stone towards the conclusion of the Doha Round;
 - (iii) To this end, acknowledges that the Trade Facilitation Agreement is an integral part of this process;
 - (iv) Reiterates, in this regard, that assistance and support for capacity-building should be provided as envisaged in the Trade Facilitation Agreement in a predictable manner so as to enable African economies to acquire the necessary capacity for the implementation of the agreement;
 - (v) Therefore agrees that the Trade Facilitation Agreement should be implemented in line with the decision Trade Ministers took in Bali;
4. *Adopts* the revisions to the Terms of Reference of the High-Level African Trade Committee arising from its meeting held on 25 June 2014;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to maintain the momentum to fast track the establishment of the CFTA as scheduled by providing necessary financial and technical resources at national, regional and continental levels;
6. *Cognizant* of the impact of the negotiations of bilateral, multilateral and mega trade agreements on the African integration agenda, urges Member States and RECs once more to ensure that they do not compromise the African trade integration process, by transmitting through their respective RECs the draft texts under negotiation with their partners;
7. *Directs* the Commission to prepare draft terms of reference of the CFTA Negotiating Forum based on best practices in the RECs/Tripartite, refined draft Guiding Objectives and Principles as well as Institutional Arrangements to be submitted to the next AU Trade Ministerial Conference for adoption and to the next AU Summit for endorsement towards the effective launch of the CFTA negotiations in June/July 2015;
8. *Requests* the Commission to also prepare terms of reference for the negotiations on technical barriers to trade (TBT), sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and non-tariff barriers (NTBs);
9. *Calls upon* the Ministers of Trade to meet separately from the STC meetings as often as needed to ensure the effective completion of the CFTA negotiations and related issues;
10. *Decides* that the next meeting of the HATC will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in the margins of the January 2015 Summit and will be chaired by the President of the Republic of Ghana.

Assembly/AU/Dec.532 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Date and Venue of the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of
the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XXIII) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Constitutive Act of the African Union, in its Article 6 on the holding of its ordinary sessions;
2. *Recalls* the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, in its Article 5, subparagraph 1, regarding the venue of its June/July Sessions;
3. *Expresses satisfaction* with the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Dakar, Senegal, in June/July 2018;
4. *Favourably welcomes* the offer of the Republic of Senegal and requests the Commission to conduct, for this purpose, the necessary consultations with Senegal with a view to holding this session in the best possible conditions;
5. *Decides* that the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union will be held in Dakar in June/July 2018.

Assembly/AU/Dec.533 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Management of the Radio Broadcasting Spectrum in Africa for
Transition from Analogue to Digital Broadcasting
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XXIII) Add.4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on establishment of enhanced cooperation between the Commission and the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB) for better management of the technical and technological evolution of digital broadcasting;
2. *Underscores* the strategic importance of offering national broadcasting operators the best possible migration from the analogue broadcasting spectrum to the digital spectrum, and thus address the specific needs of Africa's populations in the realm of information;
3. *Directs* the Conference of Ministers in charge of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the Conference of Ministers of Communication, with the participation of national and international regulatory entities for the broadcasting sector, to take up the issue of migration from the analogue radio/television broadcasting to digital transmission and work in concert to protect the interest of the public broadcasting services of Member States of the African Union;
4. *Requests* the Conference of African Union Ministers in charge of ICTs to place this issue on its agenda on a regular basis, and thus be able to constantly monitor progress in the transition from analogue to digital and have a firm grip on this process for the benefit of Africa's populations;
5. *Also requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the African Union of Broadcasting and the African Telecommunication Union (ATU), to expeditiously establish an African Technical Committee for the Information and Media Society to accompany Member States in their transition to full digital broadcasting while at the same time stimulating economic recovery in Africa;
6. *Tasks* the aforesaid African Technical Committee to develop a road map on the practical modalities of implementing the strategy for transition from analogue to digital, taking into account the preservation of the public services for the benefit of African citizens;
7. *Requests* the Commission to present a report on a regular basis to the Executive Council of the African Union on the progress of this issue.

Assembly/AU/Dec.534 (XXIII)

**Decision on Maritime Piracy
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XXIII) Add.5)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note of and welcomes* the proposal of the Republic of Togo on the organization of a Regional Conference on Maritime Piracy and other Criminal Acts Committed at Sea and its offer to host the said Conference;
2. *Recalls:*
 - (i) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.252 (XIII) adopted by the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in July 2009 in Sirte, Libya, in which the Assembly expressed its serious concern at the mounting insecurity in maritime spaces in Africa, and welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Commission to develop a comprehensive and coherent strategy to address the challenges and opportunities linked to the African maritime space;
 - (ii) The communiqué of the 387th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held in Addis Ababa on 29 July 2013 at the ministerial level, by which the Council endorsed the Solemn Declaration of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) on Maritime Safety and Security in the

Gulf of Guinea proclaimed at the Summit held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 24 to 25 June 2013, and presented the Blue Ocean Economy as envisaged in the 2050 AIM Strategy as the “new frontline of Africa’s renaissance”;

(iii) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.496 (XXII) of the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by which the Assembly adopted the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy) and its Plan of Action for Operationalization;

3. *Reiterates* the geostrategic importance of seas and oceans in the socio-economic development of Africa, and their role in the continent’s sustainable development, as well as the crucial place they occupy in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);

4. *Acknowledges* that such a conference is necessary in order to take adequate, coordinated and concerted measures to effectively combat maritime piracy and other criminal acts committed at sea;

5. *Invites* Member States and their appropriate administrations, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, African and international institutions specializing in maritime and related activities, as well as development partners, to participate actively in the Conference when it is convened;

6. *Requests* the Commission to carry out consultations with the Government of the Republic of Togo, in collaboration with technical partners, to study the practical modalities for the organization of the Conference, and submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session in January 2015.

Assembly/AU/Dec.535 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Interim Report of the African Union Commission on South Sudan
(Doc. Assembly/AU/19 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Interim Report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan (AUCISS) and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Commends* H.E. Chief Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo, Chairperson of the AUCISS, and the other members for the work undertaken thus far within a short time and with the limited resources available;

3. *Takes note* of the extension of the mandate of the AUCISS for an additional three months in order to enable it to complete its work;

4. *Requests* the Commission to mobilize funds under the budget year 2014 to finance the implementation of activities of the AUCISS.

Assembly/AU/Dec.536 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security In Africa
Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXIII)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;

2. *Recalls* its earlier decisions on the reports of the PSC on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa, as well as the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the PSC adopted by the PSC meeting at the level of the Heads of State and Government, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 25 June 2014;

3. *Reiterates* the critical role of the PSC in the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent and commends the PSC for the achievements made over the past decade. At the same time, the Assembly notes with deep concern the continued prevalence of the scourge of conflict and violence on the continent. Accordingly, the Assembly calls for renewed efforts by the AU Member States and the Commission, as well as by the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) towards achieving the objective of a conflict-free Africa by 2020, as provided for in the Solemn Declaration adopted at its Twenty-first Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, on 25 May 2013. In this respect, the Assembly:

(i) Stresses the need for all concerned to redouble their efforts to prevent the occurrence of conflict and violence, including through the effective implementation of the relevant AU instruments on governance, democracy and human rights;

(ii) Calls for renewed efforts for the full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and welcomes the steps taken to operationalize the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), as a transitional arrangement. The Assembly looks forward to the successful conduct of the Amani Africa II Exercise, which is expected to validate the full operational capability of the African Standby Force (ASF), expresses appreciation to the European Union (EU) for financially supporting the Exercise, and calls upon Member States, in the spirit of African leadership and ownership, to provide resources to bridge the remaining financial gap;

(iii) Stresses the need for continued efforts in the area of post-conflict reconstruction and development to consolidate peace where it has been established. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the launching of the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI), in January 2014, and urges both the Commission and the AU Member States to spare no efforts to ensure the success of the ASI;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proposal made by H.E. Dr. Thomas Yayi Boni, President of the Republic of Benin, regarding the convening, in 2015, of an extraordinary session of the Assembly of the Union on the financing of AU-led peace support operations and other activities aimed at promoting peace, security and stability on the continent. The Assembly requests the Commission to initiate consultations with the Benin authorities on the proposal, and report thereon at its next ordinary session;

5. *Welcomes* the continued progress in post-conflict reconstruction and development and peacebuilding processes in Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. The Assembly encourages the authorities of these countries and other stakeholders to pursue and intensify their efforts, and calls upon international partners to continue to extend the required support for the consolidation of the gains being made;

6. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the continued positive evolution of the situation in Madagascar, including the appointment of a new Prime Minister and the formation of a new Government. The Assembly encourages the Malagasy authorities and other stakeholders to continue to work together to build on the progress made, including in the promotion of national reconciliation and the deepening of democracy. The Assembly welcomes the transformation of the International Contact Group on Madagascar (ICG-M) into an International Support Group for Madagascar (ISG-M), as agreed during the ninth meeting of the ICG-M held in Antananarivo, on 28 March 2014;

7. *Welcomes* the completion of the transition and the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau following the presidential and legislative elections held on 13 April and 18 May 2014, as well as the resumption of the participation of Guinea-Bissau in the activities of the AU, following the decision adopted by the PSC at its 442nd meeting, held on 17 June 2014. The Assembly commends the leadership and people of Guinea-Bissau for the achievements made, encourages them to continue to demonstrate the same commitment to address the many challenges facing their country, including the required structural reforms, and urges the Member States and

partners to extend the much-needed financial and socio-economic support to Guinea-Bissau, including by actively participating in and pledging resources during the planned donors round table for the country;

8. *Further welcomes* the restoration of constitutional order in Egypt following the constitutional referendum and the presidential election held in January and May 2014, respectively, and notes with satisfaction the resumption of Egypt's participation in the activities of the AU. The Assembly commends the members of the AU High-Level Panel for Egypt, namely, former Presidents Alpha Oumar Konaré of Mali and Festus Mogae of Botswana, as well as former Prime Minister Dileita Mohamed Dileita of Djibouti, for the dedication and commitment with which they fulfilled the mandate entrusted to them, welcomes the final report of the Panel and calls for the effective implementation of the recommendations contained therein, as endorsed by the PSC at its 442nd meeting held on 17 June 2014;

9. *Welcomes* the positive developments that have taken place in Somalia, including the successful conduct, by AMISOM and the Somali National Army (SNA), of the joint military operation code-named Operation Eagle against Al Shabaab, and encourages the Somali stakeholders to pursue and intensify their efforts in achieving national reconciliation, the formation of a cohesive federation and the conduct of credible general elections in 2016. The Assembly reiterates its appreciation to the AMISOM troop and police contributing countries, IGAD and its Member States for their continued engagement and the sacrifices made, as well as to the United Nations and other international partners, including the EU, for their continued support to the efforts of the AU and those of the Federal Government of Somalia. The Assembly calls for the provision of adequate financial and socio-economic support to Somalia within the framework of the New Deal Compact, as well as for generous contributions to the United Nations-administrated Trust Fund for the SNA. The Assembly, noting with concern the looming humanitarian disaster in Somalia, appeals to the international community to provide adequate humanitarian support to Somalia;

10. *Reiterates* the need for renewed efforts to assist Ethiopia and Eritrea in overcoming the impasse in the implementation of the peace process between the two countries and encourages the Commission to take appropriate steps in this respect, in line with the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol. The Assembly reiterates its earlier pronouncements on the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea, welcomes the commitments of the two countries to overcome the challenges at hand, as expressed by the two Heads Of State during the visit the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security undertook to Djibouti and Eritrea in April and May 2014;

11. *Expresses concern* over the continued conflict in Darfur and the resulting impact on the human rights and humanitarian situation, stresses the need for continued efforts to stabilize the situation on the ground and promote an inclusive political process, within the framework of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). In this respect, the Assembly encourages the Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator (JSR/JCM) to pursue and intensify his efforts to bring on board the holdout armed movements and welcomes the convening of a second support Umjaras meeting to the peace process at the initiative of President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad. The Assembly expresses deep concern over the ongoing fighting in the two areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan, with the attendant serious humanitarian consequences and appeals to the parties, namely the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/North (SPLM/N), to extend full cooperation to the AU High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP) in its facilitation efforts. The Assembly welcomes the National Initiative Dialogue announced by President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir in January 2014, and calls upon all stakeholders to work towards creating an enabling environment for the success of this initiative. The Assembly encourages the AUHIP to extend all necessary support to this initiative;

12. *Expresses its deep concern* over the grave security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan and echoes the statement made by the Twenty-sixth Extraordinary Summit of IGAD, held on 10 June 2014, expressing disappointment at the failures of both parties to honour their commitments to date, and calls upon them to live up to their commitments and the expectations of their people. The Assembly reiterates the AU'S deep appreciation to IGAD and its Chairperson, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia, the other leaders of the region, as well as to the IGAD Mediation Team, for their sustained efforts and the results achieved to date, including the signing, in Addis Ababa, on 9 May 2014, by President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Dr. Riek Machar, of the Agreement to

Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan, the launching of a multi-stakeholders political process in Addis Ababa and the deployment of the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs). The Assembly welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2155 (2014), enhancing the strength and mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), including the deployment of three battalions with additional responsibility for protecting the MVTs, as well as contributing to the implementation of the Mission's overall mandate. The Assembly notes with appreciation the work done by the AU Commission of Inquiry, commends former President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and other members of the Commission for their commitment, calls upon all the concerned parties, in particular the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in opposition, to extend full cooperation to the Commission, and looks forward to its final report;

13. *Welcomes* the continued commitment of Sudan and South Sudan to implement the Cooperation Agreements they signed in Addis Ababa on 27 September 2012, with the support of the AUHIP, and notes with satisfaction the progress achieved to date. The Assembly urges the two countries to make renewed efforts towards the resolution of the outstanding issues, notably the conclusive determination of the centre line of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ), the demarcation of the border and the determination of the status of the five disputed border areas, as well as the resolution of the Abyei issue, including the urgent and full implementation of temporary arrangements for the administration and security of the Abyei Area, in line with the relevant PSC decisions and the commitments made by the two countries at various bilateral summits. The Assembly welcomes the Joint Approach to the international community for assistance to Sudan and South Sudan through transitional financial assistance to Sudan, development support to South Sudan, comprehensive debt relief and lifting of economic sanctions imposed on Sudan, expresses support for the conclusions of the Tripartite Committee established in the context of the Cooperation Agreements, reached at its meeting, held in Addis Ababa, from 31 May to 3 June 2014, and requests the AUHIP to continue supporting the efforts of the two countries;

14. *Reiterates* its earlier decisions on the need for a regional and holistic approach to the challenges to peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa, in support to IGAD, and requests the Commission, in line with the relevant PSC communiqué, to expedite its efforts, including consultations with the IGAD Chair, towards the implementation of this approach and the envisaged convening of a regional conference on peace, security, cooperation and development in the Horn of Africa;

15. *Expresses satisfaction* at the progress made in the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Region, and encourages the countries of the region, with the support of the international community, to pursue and enhance ongoing efforts, especially in the area of socio-economic development. The Assembly notes with satisfaction the measures taken by the DRC and MONUSCO to neutralize the armed groups, but calls for continued and enhanced efforts, particularly with respect to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). The Assembly expresses satisfaction at the expressed commitment of the Burundian authorities to continue to work towards the consolidation of peace and reconciliation in their country, and encourages all the stakeholders to work in the same direction and to create the requisite conditions for the successful conduct of the general elections scheduled in 2015;

16. *Expresses concern* about the persistent insecurity in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the resulting humanitarian and human rights consequences. The Assembly expresses satisfaction at the remarkable work accomplished by the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), with the support of the Sangaris Operation and EUFOR-RCA, expresses concern over attempts to undermine MISCA's contribution to the stabilization of the situation, and totally rejects such attempts. The Assembly reiterates its deep gratitude to the countries contributing troops and police personnel to MISCA and to the leaders of the region, especially President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad, current Chairman of ECCAS, as well as to President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo, ECCAS Mediator in the CAR crisis, for their commitment. The Assembly urges the political and other CAR stakeholders to demonstrate the required political will and determination for the promotion of lasting peace and reconciliation in their country, underscores the urgent need to disarm the armed militia, warns all those seeking to undermine the ongoing process and calls upon the United Nations Security Council to impose sanctions against them. The Assembly looks forward to the planned transformation of MISCA

into a United Nations peacekeeping operation and emphasizes the crucial role that the region and AU should continue to play after the re-hatting of MISCA;

17. *Renews* AU support for the efforts aimed at consolidating the progress made in the stabilization of Mali, the restoration of State authority over the entire national territory and the consolidation of peace in that country. The Assembly pays tribute to President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz of Mauritania for having facilitated the conclusion, on 23 May 2014, of a Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Mali and the armed movements after the regrettable incidents that took place in Kidal, in the north of the country. The Assembly welcomes the nomination by President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of a High Representative to the Inclusive Talks provided for in the 18 June 2013 Ouagadougou Agreement, pays tribute to the neighbouring countries, notably Algeria and Burkina Faso, as well as to the regional and international partners, for the efforts they are deploying to facilitate these talks and, in this regard, expresses satisfaction at the signing, by the armed movements, of the Algiers Declaration and Preliminary Platform, in Algiers on 9 and 14 June 2014, respectively. The Assembly encourages all Malian stakeholders concerned to work towards the speedy convening of the Inclusive Talks. The Assembly condemns the attacks perpetrated by the terrorist and armed groups in northern Mali, and demands the immediate withdrawal of these groups from the public buildings and areas they are occupying and their return to the positions they held prior to 17 May 2014;

18. *Reaffirms* the need for sustained efforts to deal in a holistic, collective and coordinated manner with the multidimensional challenges facing the Sahel region. The Assembly underscores the importance of the role of the Ministerial Platform set up in November 2013 and tasked to coordinate international efforts on the Sahel, and welcomes the elaboration by the AU of a Strategy for the Sahel and encourages the AU Mission for Mali and the Sahel (MISAHÉL) to pursue and intensify its efforts in support of the countries of the region. The Assembly reaffirms its support for the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of APSA in the Sahelo-Saharan region;

19. *Reiterates* its earlier decisions on the situation in Western Sahara and the need for renewed efforts to facilitate an early resolution of the conflict which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. The Assembly welcomes the consultations being undertaken by former President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, as AU Special Envoy, with the permanent members of the Security Council and Spain, as the former administrative power, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, as a follow-up to the relevant AU decisions and in support of the United Nations efforts, and looks forward to the submission, by the Commission, in due course, of a report on the situation;

20. *Welcomes* the success of the democratic transition process in Tunisia, following the adoption of the new constitution and the electoral law, as well as the establishment of the High Independent Organ for Elections, opening up encouraging prospects regarding the organization of the forthcoming elections, and pays tribute to the role played by the PSC, through the Panel of the Wise, in the successful conclusion of the process;

21. *Expresses concern* about the prevailing situation in Libya and its impact on the conduct of the ongoing transition and the cohesion of the country, as well as on the regional security and stability. The Assembly strongly condemns all acts of violence in Libya, and appeals to all Libyan stakeholders to put the interest of their country above any other consideration and to work together for the early completion of the current transition and welcomes the successful organization of the legislative elections on 25 June 2014. The Assembly further welcomes the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission of a Special Envoy for Libya in the person of former Prime Minister Dileita Mohamed Dileita of Djibouti, and looks forward to his interactions with the Libyan authorities and other stakeholders, as well as with the relevant international partners. The Assembly welcomes the decision reached by Libya, the neighbouring countries and the Commission, following the consultative meeting held in Malabo, on the margins of the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly, to put in place a ministerial level panel to enhance Africa's support for Libya to ensure the successful conclusion of the ongoing transition;

22. *Expresses deep concern* over the continued threat of terrorism in Africa, particularly in the Sahelo-Saharan region, the Horn of Africa, including in Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti, as well as in the Central African region with the attacks carried out by the Lord Resistance Army (LRA). The Assembly strongly condemns the attacks carried out by various terrorist groups, and expresses outrage at the cowardly kidnapping, by Boko Haram, of over two hundred young girls in northern Nigeria. The Assembly welcomes the ongoing AU's efforts to address the scourge of terrorism, notably through the cooperative mechanisms being implemented by the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Nouakchott Process, the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) and AMISOM. The Assembly, in view of the seriousness of the threat posed by terrorism, stresses the urgency of renewed efforts towards the effective implementation of the AU counter-terrorism framework, including the signing and ratification of the relevant instruments, notably the 1999 Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its 2004 Protocol, which entered into force on 26 February 2014. In this respect, the Assembly requests the PSC to devote a meeting, at the summit level, to the issue of terrorism. The Assembly fully supports the steps agreed upon by the Heads of Intelligence and Security Services of the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, at their fifth meeting held in Ouagadougou, on 20 and 21 May 2014, regarding Boko Haram, including the conduct of a study on the possible establishment of a regional task force along the lines of the RCI-LRA, bearing in mind the initiatives underway within the framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and stresses the need for the urgent implementation of these measures. The Assembly expresses concern over the establishment of military bases on the continent that are designed to delay the operationalization of APSA and stresses the need for sustained support for the efforts being made by Africa to enhance its ownership and leadership in the fight against terrorism in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.537 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Fourteenth Report of the Committee of Ten on United Nations Reforms
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decisions Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (IV), Assembly/AU/Dec.430 (XIX) and Assembly/AU/Dec.485 (XXI);
2. *Takes note* of the Fourteenth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
3. *Also takes note* of the recent developments in the intergovernmental negotiations on the United Nations Security Council reform;
4. *Further takes note* of the high-level meetings of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government, in particular, the Summit of the Committee of Ten held in Oyo, Congo, on 16 May 2014;
5. *Commends* the Committee of Ten for its commitment at the highest level in canvassing and promoting the Common African Position on United Nations reforms, and while reaffirming its strong commitment to the Ezuwilni Consensus and Sirte Declarations containing the Common African Position; endorses the Oyo Conclusions of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government;
6. *Welcomes* the efforts of the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in promoting and defending the continent's interest in the United Nations Security Council reform process and underscores the overriding need to ensure that the interest of Africa continues to be maintained and safeguarded at all times in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform;
7. *Reiterates* its call for Africa to continue to speak with one voice and cohesively on all issues relating to the United Nations Security Council reform and related matters;

8. *Appreciates* progress and developments recorded to date directed at building alliances, dialoguing and engaging other interest groups and Member States in the reform process in support of the African Common Position, and encourages the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations to continue intensifying efforts towards building alliances in support of the Common African Position with diverse interest groups engaged in the intergovernmental negotiations and advance progress so made;
9. *Requests* the African Union Commission to continue to facilitate the activities of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in the intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform and related consultations thereon;
10. *Also requests* that the African Union Commission should work with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to include a budget line in the Commission's budget for 2015 for the purposes of funding the activities of the Committee of Ten from the General Fund;
11. *Further requests* Member States of the African Union to include the issue of the reform of the Security Council among the priorities of their foreign policy while engaging with non-African partners, in particular, to include in their statements at the United Nations General Assembly debate the need to redress the historical injustice the continent continues to suffer;
12. *Reiterates* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and requests the Committee to present a report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2015.

Assembly/AU/Dec.538 (XXIII)

**Decision on the High-Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA) and Preparations for the Global Climate Change Events in 2014
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the High-Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa; Preparations for the Global Climate Change Events; and endorses the recommendations therein;
2. *Further takes notes with interest* of the Declaration of Oran adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication held in Oran, Algeria, from 22 to 23 February 2014;
3. *Reiterates* that international support for means of implementation in particular finance and technology in the context of the Climate Change Convention is key for Africa;
4. *Commends* CAHOSCC on the provision of the necessary political guidance on emerging issues at the global negotiations that has enabled the African Group to devote unwavering support to defend the African position and interests with one unanimous voice and unity of purpose;
5. *Appreciates* the tremendous efforts on the development of the CAHOSCC Framework Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa as a continental framework that will guide the African Union, its Regional Economic Communities and Member States in addressing climate change in the near future;
6. *Reaffirms* that adaptation is a priority in all actions on climate change in Africa;

7. *Stresses* the need for adequate means of implementation, that would provide adequate, predictable, new and additional finance; affordable technology development and transfer, capacity-building, adaptation and also paying due attention to mitigation actions which would allow Africa the space for sustainable development;
8. *Confirms* continued participation in global efforts for climate change mitigation actions that support sustainable development on the continent;
9. *Further notes* the global events on the Climate Summit to be convened by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, on 23 September 2014 in New York; and the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Tenth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol (COP 20/CMP 10) that is scheduled to take place in Lima, Peru, from 1 to 12 December 2014;
10. *Commends* the laudable work of the CAHOSCC Coordinator, H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and the CAHOSCC for the quality of leadership and coordination in pursuit of the Assembly's decisions for Africa to continue to advance its common position on climate change, speaking with one voice in climate change negotiations, including at the Climate Summit in September 2014 in New York, United States of America;
11. *Endorses* the High-Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa;
12. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the relevant Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and other relevant African institutions, to:
 - (i) Undertake study on identification of five African Regional Technology Centres, which possibly serve to link and network with National Designated Climate Technology Entities (NDEs) as well as with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN); and report its proposal and recommendations to the Executive Council;
 - (ii) Elaborate on the implementation of the CAHOSCC Youth Programme on Climate Change (CYPCC), including youth participation in climate change negotiations; and a continental-wide youth competition on climate change aspects to enhance youth engagement in climate change actions;
 - (iii) Develop a CAHOSCC Women and Gender Programme on Climate Change (CWGPCC) to engage women and gender in climate change related actions;
 - (iv) Ensure diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa, New York, Brussels, Nairobi, Geneva, Paris, and Washington D.C. incorporate the African Climate Change Agenda in strategic diplomatic issues to enhance Africa's interest in climate change;
 - (v) Prepare an African Climate Resilient Agricultural Development Programme (ACRADP) in the context of Africa's Agricultural Growth Transformation Agenda by bringing relevant sectors together;
 - (vi) Put in place a Sustainable Forest Management Programme in Africa (SFMPA) in collaboration with African ministers responsible for forestry and energy;
13. *Urges* Member States to urgently complete the development of their national adaptation plans (NAPs); put in place systems and structures for Africa to take full advantage of the global mechanisms in support of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. In particular, Member States are urged to put in place national designated authorities (NDA) and those Member States that have not put in place the national implementing entities to do urgently. This is to facilitate access and utilization of available resources;
14. *Further requests* the Commission, UNECA/ACPC, AfDB, UNEP, United Nations Women and other partners to support the implementation of this decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.539 (XXIII)

Decision on the Theme, Date and Venue of the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the date of the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme “Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063” shall be the following:

- (i) Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee: 23 and 24 January 2015;
- (ii) Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 26 and 27 January 2015;
- (iii) Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 30 and 31 January 2015.

Assembly/AU/Dec.540 (XXIII)

Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on NEPAD (Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXIII))

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Thirty-first Session of the HSGOC;

3. *Highlights* the contributions of NEPAD to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in its decade of existence, noting that CAADP had matured into an agenda for socio-economic transformation and recognized global brand impacting on the continent’s development through the strong expression of reclaimed ownership of agricultural policy by Member States and African citizens;

4. *Endorses* the CAADP Results Framework as a tool to enhance evidence-based planning, monitoring and learning by Member States in the pursuit of agricultural-led economic growth and inclusive development; and requests the NPCA to support the capacity strengthening in Member States to internalize and use the CAADP Results Framework, and develop necessary programmes on afforestation, irrigation and post-harvest loss;

5. *Notes* that in the face of globalization and its impact on food and nutrition security and livelihoods, Africa should embrace food sovereignty and regional trade preference strategies to attain food self-sufficiency and enhanced regional cooperation; and, in this regard, urges NPCA, AUC and RECs to work with Member States to develop the requisite national and regional strategies, policies and programmes;

6. *Appreciates* the programmatic work of NPCA in mainstreaming climate change into CAADP national investment plans and requests the Agency to increase technical and coordination support to Member States to build resilience and adaptive capacity in responding to the impacts of climate change and variability, as well as design climate smart agricultural investment programmes and support the sharing of best practices and lessons on climate smart agriculture;

7. *Further endorses* the NEPAD Programme on Agriculture Climate Change with its components on gender empowerment, support to small-holder farmers and the establishment of an African Climate Smart Agriculture

Coordination Platform through which NPCA will collaborate with partners, including RECs and non-governmental organizations, targeting 25 million farm households by 2025;

8. *Welcomes* the innovative partnership between NPCA and major international non-governmental organizations to strengthen grassroot adaptive capacity to climate change and boost agricultural productivity; and specifically requests the NPCA, in collaboration with FAO, to provide technical assistance to Member States in the implementation of the NEPAD Climate Smart Agriculture programme and the African Development Bank and development partners to provide support to Member States for investments in climate smart agriculture;

9. *Commends* the ongoing implementation actions by the NPCA in promoting NEPAD programmes on food security and nutrition, gender empowerment, sustainable land and water management, while emphasizing the need to ensure that Africa's growth trajectory provides opportunities for the youth and fosters rural transformation; directs NPCA to upscale the implementation of the Rural Futures Programme with a stronger emphasis on youth employment; and further agrees that the AUC and NPCA should develop policies on the labour-market relationship favourable to foster youth employment and invest in practical actions targeting skills development and making agriculture more attractive to the African youth;

10. *Warmly welcomes* the announcement by the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of a grant of US\$ 4 million to support the NPCA in facilitating the implementation of the Agency's job creation programme for the youth in the agriculture sector;

11. *Acknowledging* the multisectorial nature of agriculture and its central role in driving rural transformation, requests NPCA through its Rural Futures Programme to provide technical support to strengthen alignment between agricultural and national development policies and rural development programmes;

12. *Recommits* to the CAADP Maputo Decision and in recognizing the continued need to support Member States to effectively monitor the 10 per cent target in agriculture budget allocation, requests the NPCA, in collaboration with FAO, to undertake a study and develop guidelines to help Member States improve the quality of resource allocation to agriculture to determine the real value and relativity to the GDP size;

13. *Recalls* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.488 (XXI) and Assembly/AU/Dec.508 (XXII) and notes with satisfaction the outcomes of the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure held in Dakar, Senegal, on 15 June 2014 under the distinguished leadership of H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairperson of HSGOC, which promoted the strengthening of innovative synergies between the public and private sectors to mobilize pan-African and global financial investments for infrastructure development on the continent;

14. *Accordingly endorses* the Dakar Agenda for Action adopted by the Summit to move forward the financing for Africa's infrastructure and validates the policy conclusions and recommendations of the NEPAD-ECA Study on Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) for implementing NEPAD programmes and projects which served as the basis for the Summit;

15. *Welcomes*, in particular, the Africa50 initiated by the AfDB as an investment platform designed significantly to narrow the infrastructure financing gap; the setup of the Continental Business Network (CBN) on Infrastructure Financing coordinated by NPCA and the Summit organizing partners; improvement measures to promote policy certainty, legal and fiscal stability towards enabling environment; the continued political determination of African leaders to support the implementation of high impact national and cross-border projects and infrastructure project preparation and financing for the projects showcased at the Summit as a first step towards implementing the PIDA priority action plan by 2020;

16. *Reaffirms* the strong linkage between the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) and the priority projects presented at the Dakar Financing Summit as mutually reinforcing and impetus to further accelerate PIDA implementation; and urges Member States, development finance institutions and partners to

increase funding support for infrastructure project preparation, especially the NEPAD Infrastructure Preparation Facility (IPPF) hosted by the African Development Bank;

17. *Consequently requests* the NPCA to design the appropriate modalities to implement the Dakar Agenda for Action and thereafter report regularly to the HSGOC on progress being made; further urges the NPCA, in conjunction with the RECs, AfDB, UNECA, UNDP, World Bank and the NEPAD Business Groups/Foundation, to strengthen engagement with the private sector on taking forward the Dakar Agenda based on the conclusion to setup the Continental Business Network; and underscores the intrinsic linkages between skills development and modern infrastructure driven by science, technology and innovation, noting the need for the HSGOC to prioritize policy actions in this regard towards PIDA and PICI implementation;

18. *Highly commends* the HSGOC Chairperson and the Government of Senegal for successfully hosting the Financing Summit and extends deep appreciation for the high-level participation of H.E Yayi Boni, President of the Republic of Benin, H.E Goodluck Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, and H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission, with the support of the NPCA Chief Executive Officer, the Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, the President of African Development Bank; the UNECA Executive Secretary and the World Bank Vice-President for Africa;

19. Based on the assessment of reform of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF), recalls Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.508 (XXII) on the need to establish a new umbrella partnership formation and appreciates the efforts by the NPCA and NEPAD Steering Committee to this effect;

20. *Approves* the establishment of the proposed Africa Global Partnership Platform as a new partnership mechanism premised on Africa's regional integration agenda and a coalition-building forum comprising AU Member States represented in the NEPAD HSGOC, the NPCA, the AU Commission, RECs, lead regional institutions and Africa's major trade, investment and aid partner countries from the G8, G20 and OECD;

21. *In re-emphasizing* the rationale for the partnership vehicle to reflect the changing global political and economic architecture, especially the pivotal role of the G20, welcomes the platform as an Africa-owned and led "umbrella formation" bringing together the continent's existing international partners to concretely support Africa's transformation under the auspices of the AU, thereby fostering greater coherence in the continent's partnerships; and reaffirms that the new platform will not replace the existing bilateral partnership arrangements, but serve to complement them;

22. *Endorses* the terms of reference prepared by the NPCA and submitted through the NEPAD Steering Committee, highlighting the proposed rationale, objectives, format and membership of the platform, while noting that the new platform will engage on issues of economic cooperation of strategic nature to Africa, globalization and the defined priorities embodied in the African Union, NEPAD and Agenda 2063;

23. *Hereby mandates* the HSGOC Chairperson with the support of the NPCA Chief Executive Officer and NEPAD Steering Committee to formally approach the identified and potential partner governments and institutions to determine their interest and readiness to join and nominate appropriate senior level officials to the Platform; also requests NPCA Chief Executive Officer to engage Germany as the current G7 Presidency on possibly revamping the G7-Africa partnership outreach during its term; and calls upon the Governments of Senegal, South Africa and Mauritania to approach Australia as the current G20 Presidency on the proposed G20-Africa partnership track possibly through the G20 Development Working Group;

24. *Notes and welcomes* the launch of the African Innovation Outlook-2 Report by the NPCA which captures the status of science, technology and innovation in the African Union Member States and requested Member States, the AU Commission, and NPCA along with the private sector and development partners to increase the roll-out of the surveys to all African countries.

Assembly/AU/Dec.541 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Election of Judges of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/854 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the election conducted by the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 23 June 2014;
2. *Decides* to appoint the following persons as judges of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights for a six-year term:
 - (i) Mrs. Solomy Balungui Bossa (Uganda);
 - (ii) Mr. Rafea Ben Achour (Tunisia);
 - (iii) Mr. Angelo Vasco Matusse (Mozambique);
 - (iv) Mr. Sylvain Ore (Côte d'Ivoire).

Assembly/AU/Dec.542 (XXIII)

Decision on the Official Opening of the Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the programme during the official opening of the ordinary sessions of the Assembly;
2. *Requests* the Commission to establish a task force to review the programme of the official opening of the sessions of the Assembly in order to make them efficient and effective and report during the January 2015 Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.543 (XXIII)

Decision on the Appointment of the Members of the Panel of the Wise of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the provisions of Article 11 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), which deals with the Panel of the Wise, as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.310 (XV) adopted at its Fifteenth Ordinary Session held in Kampala in July 2011;
2. *Takes note* of the end of the term of the current members of the Panel of the Wise (the late former President Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, former President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Mrs. Marie Madeleine Kalala-Ngoy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mrs. Mary Chinery Hesse of Ghana) and pays tribute to them for the dedication with which they discharged their mandate;
3. *Reiterates* the critical role of the Panel of the Wise in the overall efforts of the AU towards conflict prevention, in line with the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol;
4. *Endorses*, in conformity with Article 11, paragraph 2, of the PSC Protocol, the recommendations made by the Chairperson of the Commission regarding the appointment of the new members of the Panel of the Wise.

Accordingly, the Assembly decides to appoint the following personalities as members of the Panel of the Wise for a period of three years:

- (i) For the Northern Africa region, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi from Algeria. Mr. Brahimi held senior positions, notably as Ambassador to several countries, from 1963 to 1979, and Foreign Minister, from 1991 to 1993. He also held senior positions in the League of Arab States and the United Nations, including as Special Envoy;
- (ii) For the Western Africa region, Mr. Edem Kodjo from Togo. Mr. Kodjo has been Finance and Foreign Minister from 1976 to 1978, as well as Prime Minister, from 1994 to 1996. He also served as Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity from 1978 to 1983;
- (iii) For the Central Africa region, Eng. Albina Faria Assis Pereira Africano from Angola. Eng. Africano has been Minister of Petroleum from 1992 to 1999 and Minister of Industry from 1999 to 2000. She also held the position of Special Advisor to the President for Regional Affairs;
- (iv) For the Eastern Africa region, Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe from Uganda. Dr. Wandira Kazibwe has been Minister of Gender and Community Development from 1991 to 1994, Member of Parliament and, from 1994 to 2003, Vice-President of Uganda. She also chaired the African Women Committee on Peace and Development;
- (v) For the Southern Africa region, Dr. Luisa Diogo from Mozambique. Dr. Diogo held several ministerial portfolios. She was Deputy Minister of Finance, then Finance Minister. From 2004 to 2010, she served as Prime Minister;

5. *Further decides* that the outgoing members of the Panel of the Wise shall become members of the Team of Friends of the Panel, in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.310 (XV) and the related report of the Chairperson of the Commission;

6. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to ensure that the required support is availed to the Panel of the Wise to enable it to fully discharge its mandate, particularly through proactive preventive engagement.

Assembly/AU/Dec.544 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Budget of the African Union for the 2015 Financial Year
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Adopts* a total budget of US\$ 522,121,602 for the African Union for the year 2015, broken down into US\$ 142,687,881 operating costs and US\$ 379,433,721 programmes to be financed as follows:
 - (i) A total amount of US\$ 131,471,086 assessed on Member States, and US\$ 225,536,171 is secured from international partners and further US\$ 149,266,824 to be solicited from partners;
 - (ii) Total amounts of US\$ 10,912,046, US\$ 4,730,473 and US\$ 205,000 are to be taken from the Reserves Fund, Acquisition of Properties Fund and Women's Fund, respectively;

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2. *Also adopts* the budget breakdown among the AU organs as follows:

Organs	Operating Budget					Programmes					Total Budget for 2015
	Assessed on MS	Reserve Fund	Acquisition of Property	Partners-Secured	Total Operating Budget	Assessed on MS	Women Fund	Partners-Secured	Gap	Total Programmes	
AUC	93,232,027	5,000,000	4,730,473		102,962,500	7,880,271	205,000	175,049,156	148,884,554	332,018,981	434,981,481
PAP	10,891,648	841,749			11,733,397			17,788,440		17,788,440	29,521,837
AfCHR (The Court)	6,938,014	1,238,140			8,176,154			1,681,511		1,681,511	9,857,665
ACHPR (The Commission)	4,076,044	894,781			4,970,825			951,770		951,770	5,922,595
ECOSOCC	993,710	29,811			1,023,521						1,023,521
NEPAD	4,410,000	2,896,433		4,251,479	11,557,912			24,487,231		24,487,231	36,045,143
AUCIL	371,024	11,131			382,155			260,392		260,392	642,547
Advisory Board on Corruption	739,436				739,436			1,066,192		1,066,192	1,805,628
Peace & Security Council					-	759,253				759,253	759,253
ACERWC	241,724				241,724	37,681			382,270	419,951	661,675
AFREC	900,255				900,255					-	900,255
TOTAL	122,793,882	10,912,046	4,730,473	4,251,479	142,687,881	8,677,205	205,000	221,284,692	149,266,824	379,433,721	522,121,602

TWENTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION (2014)

3. *Further adopts* the breakdown of sources of funding as follows:

Organs	Member States					Partners			Total Budget for 2015
	Assessed on MS	Reserve Fund	Acquisition of Property	Women Fund	Total Member States	Secured	Gap	Total Partners	
AUC	101,112,297	5,000,000	4,730,473	205,000	111,047,771	175,049,156	148,884,554	323,933,710	434,981,481
PAP	10,891,648	841,749			11,733,397	17,788,440		17,788,440	29,521,837
AfCHR (The Court)	6,938,014	1,238,140			8,176,154	1,681,511		1,681,511	9,857,665
ACHPR (The Commission)	4,076,044	894,781			4,970,825	951,770		951,770	5,922,595
ECOSOCC	993,710	29,811			1,023,521			-	1,023,521
NEPAD	4,410,000	2,896,433			7,306,433	28,738,710		28,738,710	36,045,143
AUCIL	371,024	11,131			382,155	260,392		260,392	642,547
Advisory Board on Corruption	739,436				739,436	1,066,192		1,066,192	1,805,628
Peace & Security Council	759,253				759,253			-	759,253
ACERWC	279,405				279,405		382,270	382,270	661,675
AFREC	900,255				900,255			-	900,255
TOTAL	131,471,087	10,912,046	4,730,473	205,000	147,318,607	225,536,171	149,266,824	374,802,995	522,121,602

4. *Requests:*

(i) The Commission to solicit funds from partners to close the funding gap of US\$ 149,266,824 on the programme budget till the end of 2014; and drop all activities without funding from the budget;

(ii) The Commission to report back on the status to the PRC before the January 2015 Summit;

5. *Encourages* Member States on a voluntary basis to increase their contribution in order to reduce the dependence on partners and to strengthen the financial base of the Union;

6. *Advises* the Commission to approach friendly countries to make contributions to the development of Africa;

7. *Urges* Member States to pay their contributions on time;

8. *Requests* the Commission to operationalize the Budget Committee as contained in the revised Financial Regulations and Rules;

9. *Notes* the very low position of reserves and encourages systematic effort to gradually grow the reserves to one-year coverage so as to provide the Union with a solid financial base to meet cases of emergency in the future;
10. *Agrees* to address the financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations of the PRC/Commission Retreat held in Hawassa through the supplementary budget.

Assembly/AU/Dec.545 (XXIII)

**Decision on the Report of Aids Watch Africa (AWA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) and the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Takes note also* of the progress report of the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) business plan;
3. *Urges* Member States to accelerate the effective implementation of all the Abuja Commitments on HIV/AIDS, TB & Malaria as well as all co-infections, in particular viral hepatitis, and the African Union Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa and to report on progress made;
4. *Reaffirms* its commitment to accelerate domestic financing including innovative mechanisms with year-on-year increases in domestic funding and allocation to health;
5. *Reaffirms also* its determination to be accountable and calls upon Member States and all partners to promote accountability and implementation of high impact interventions for the resources available to control the three diseases and save lives;
6. *Requests* the African Union Commission to:
 - (a) Document and disseminate best practices among Member States in the prevention, treatment and control of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;
 - (b) Review the AWA strategic frameworks due to expire in 2015;
7. *Requests* the Chairperson of AWA to report on progress made to the next July 2015 ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII)

**Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and
Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XXIII))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 26 to 27 June 2014, on the Theme of the African Year of Agriculture and Food Security: “Transforming Africa’s Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods through Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development, also marking the tenth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)”,

Recalling our previous decisions and declarations on agriculture and food and nutrition security, in particular the 2003 Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl.7 (II)); the 2004 Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Water in Africa (Ex/Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (II)); the 2009 Sirte Declaration on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security (Assembly/AU/12 (VIII)); the 2007 Decision on the Abuja Special Summit of the AU on Fertilizers (Assembly/AU/Dec.117 (VII)); the 2007 Decision on the Abuja Summit on Food Security in Africa (Assembly/AU/Dec.135 (VIII)); among others,

Acknowledging the persistent efforts made in implementation of the CAADP at national and regional levels, and the positive growth performance that our agricultural sector has been registering in recent years,

Also acknowledging the challenges faced in the implementation of many of those decisions and declarations, in particular on progress made in attaining the minimum targets of public investment in agriculture that should demonstrate Africa's ownership and leadership to the achievement of goals as enshrined in the 2003 Maputo commitments,

Recognizing the dire situations that obtain with regard to Africa's capacity to generate, analyze and manage data and information to facilitate evidence-based policy development and tracking of progress of implementation, and hence affirming our commitment to enhance such a capacity,

Noting with concern that the results of the Cost of Hunger Study in Africa (COHA) conducted by the AUC revealed the degree to which child undernutrition influences health and educational outcomes; the additional barrier it has on children's ability to achieve their full potential; and the impact it has on national productivity,

Concerned that a significant proportion of our population still remains vulnerable to the challenges of economic marginalization, hunger and malnutrition, despite the positive achievements registered recently in agriculture and economic growth; and reiterating our resolve to ending hunger and improving nutrition consistent with our 2013 Decision on Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 under the CAADP Framework (Assembly/AU/Dec.490-516 (XXII)),

Reaffirming our resolve towards ensuring, through deliberate and targeted public support, that all segments of our populations, particularly women, the youth, and other disadvantaged sectors of our societies, must participate and directly benefit from the growth and transformation opportunities to improve their lives and livelihoods,

Reflecting that hunger and malnutrition are major causes of poverty and underdevelopment in Africa by causing poor health, low levels of energy, and mental impairment, all leading to low productivity and low educational attainment all of which can in turn lead to even greater hunger and malnutrition, thereby creating a viscous cycle,

Noting the progress made towards alignment, harmonization and coordination of initiatives and activities of stakeholders and partners with our priorities as defined in the national and regional agricultural and food security investment plans that have been developed through the CAADP process, and stressing the significance of sustaining this momentum,

Concerned that there is limited progress made in agro-industries and agribusiness development, which hampers value addition and competitiveness of our products in local, regional, and international trade; and undermines the potential of the sector in transformation and generation of gainful employment opportunities for the growing African youth and women, hence reaffirming our resolve to the achievement of goals as provided in our decision on the 2010 Abuja Declaration on Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries In Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl.),

Also concerned over the heavy and growing dependence of our production systems and consumption patterns on external factors (weather, global markets, among others) and their associated vulnerabilities to such external factors as climate variability and change as well as to global economic and political shocks,

Stressing the significance of enhancing conservation and sustainable use of all of our natural resources, including land, water, plant, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry, through coherent policies as well as governance and institutional arrangements at national and regional levels, to realize their huge potential to generate wealth, social benefits and contribute to the development of our economies,

Recognizing the importance of multisectoral engagement and co-ownership of this agricultural transformation agenda within our public sectors, including infrastructure, energy, trade, industry, health, science and technology, education, hence the importance of putting in place a coherent intersectoral coordination of the efforts and initiatives for optimizing resource use, synergy and maximizing outcome and impact,

Further recognizing the complementary roles and responsibilities that should be enhanced among the relevant stakeholders, including public, private, civil societies, farmers, pastoralists, fishers, in driving this agricultural transformation agenda,

Welcoming the resolutions of the African Union Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 2 May 2014, endorsed by the Executive Council, and in particular their recommendations calling for our Assembly to consider adopting commitments along specific and concrete priorities,

We hereby adopt the following Declaration:

I. Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process

1. *We recommit* to the key principles and values that define the CAADP process which include, among others:

- (a) The pursuit of agriculture-led growth as a main strategy to achieve targets on food and nutrition security and shared prosperity;
- (b) The exploitation of regional complementarities and cooperation to boost growth;
- (c) The application of principles of evidence-based planning, policy efficiency, dialogue, review, and accountability, shared by all NEPAD programmes;
- (d) The use of partnerships and alliances including farmers, agribusiness, and civil society; and
- (e) Support implementation at countries levels, and regional coordination and harmonization.

II. Commitment to Enhancing Investment Finance in Agriculture

2. *We commit* to enhance investment finance, both public and private, to agriculture; and to this end we resolve:

- (a) To uphold our earlier commitment to allocate at least 10 per cent of public expenditure to agriculture, and to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness;
- (b) To create and enhance necessary appropriate policy and institutional conditions and support systems for facilitation of private investment in agriculture, agribusiness and agro-industries, by giving priority to local investors;
- (c) To fast track the operationalization of the African Investment Bank, as provided for in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, with a view to mobilizing and disbursing investment finance for priority agriculture-related investment projects.

III. Commitment to Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025

3. *We commit* to ending hunger in Africa by 2025, and to this end we resolve:

(a) To accelerate agricultural growth by at least doubling current agricultural productivity levels, by the year 2025. In doing so, we will create and enhance the necessary appropriate policy and institutional conditions and support systems to facilitate:

- Sustainable and reliable production and access to quality and affordable inputs (for crops, livestock, fisheries, among others) through, among other things, provision of “smart” protection to smallholder agriculture;
- Supply of appropriate knowledge, information, and skills to users;
- Efficient and effective water management systems notably through irrigation;
- Suitable, reliable and affordable mechanization and energy supplies, among others;

(b) To halve the current levels of post-harvest losses, by the year 2025;

(c) To integrate measures for increased agricultural productivity with social protection initiatives focusing on vulnerable social groups through committing targeted budget lines within our national budgets for:

- Strengthening strategic food and cash reserves to respond to food shortages occasioned by periodic prolonged droughts or other disasters/emergencies;
- Strengthening early warning systems to facilitate advanced and proactive responses to disasters and emergencies with food and nutrition security implications;
- Targeting priority geographic areas and community groups for interventions;
- Encouraging and facilitating increased consumption of locally produced food items, including the promotion of innovative school feeding programmes that use food items sourced from the local farming community;

(d) To improve nutritional status, and in particular, the elimination of child undernutrition in Africa with a view to bringing down stunting to 10 per cent and underweight to 5 per cent by 2025.

IV. Commitment to Halving Poverty by the year 2025, through Inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation

4. *We resolve* to ensure that the agricultural growth and transformation process is inclusive and contributes at least 50 per cent to the overall poverty reduction target; and to this end we will therefore create and enhance the necessary appropriate policy, institutional and budgetary support and conditions:

(a) To sustain annual agricultural GDP growth of at least 6 per cent;

(b) To establish and/or strengthen inclusive public-private partnerships for at least five priority agricultural commodity value chains with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture;

(c) To create job opportunities for at least 30 per cent of the youth in agricultural value chains;

(d) To support and facilitate preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful and attractive agribusiness opportunities.

V. Commitment to Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services

5. *We commit* to harness markets and trade opportunities, locally, regionally and internationally, and to this end we resolve:

(a) To triple, by the year 2025, intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services;

(b) To create and enhance policies and institutional conditions and support systems:

- To simplify and formalize the current trade practices;
- To fast track the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and transition to a continental common external tariff (CET) scheme;
- To increase and facilitate investment in markets and trade infrastructure;
- To promote and strengthen platforms for multi-actors interactions;
- To strengthen and streamline the coordination mechanism that will facilitate the promotion of the African common position on agriculture-related international trade negotiations and partnership agreements.

VI. Commitment to Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other Related Risks

6. *We commit* to reduce vulnerabilities of the livelihoods of our population through building resilience of systems; and to this end we resolve:

(a) To ensure that, by the year 2025, at least 30 per cent of our farm, pastoral, and fisher households are resilient to climate and weather related risks;

(b) To enhance investments for resilience building initiatives, including social security for rural workers and other vulnerable social groups, as well as for vulnerable ecosystems;

(c) To mainstream resilience and risk management in our policies, strategies and investment plans.

VII. Commitment to Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results

7. *We commit* to a systematic regular review process, using the CAADP Results Framework, of the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration; and to this end we resolve:

(a) To conduct a biennial Agricultural Review Process that involves tracking, monitoring and reporting on progress;

(b) To foster alignment, harmonization and coordination among multisectorial efforts and multi-institutional platforms for peer review, mutual learning and mutual accountability;

(c) To strengthen national and regional institutional capacities for knowledge and data generation and management that support evidence based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

VIII. Strengthening the African Union Commission to support delivery on these commitments

8. *We will strengthen* the capacity of the African Union Commission to help it fulfil the growing roles and mandates we have been ascribing to it, through this Declaration as well as other relevant previous declarations and decisions; and to this end we invite the Chairperson of the Commission to submit a proposal with a view to enhancing the institutional capacity of the lead department as well as other relevant units, for consideration and approval by the January 2015 ordinary session of the Executive Council.

IX. A Call for Action

9. *We commit* to an expedient process of translation of these commitments into results; and to this end we call upon:

(a) The AU Commission and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to develop an implementation strategy and road map that facilitates translation of the 2025 vision and goals of Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation into concrete results and impacts, and report to the January 2015 ordinary session of the Executive Council for its consideration;

(b) The AU Commission to fast track the operationalization of the African Investment Bank;

(c) The AU Commission and RECs to facilitate the acceleration of economic integration to boost intra-Africa trade in food and agriculture;

(d) The AU Commission and NPCA, in collaboration with partners:

- To develop mechanisms that enhance Africa's capacity for knowledge and data generation and management to strengthen evidence based planning and implementation;
- To institutionalize a system for peer review that encourages good performance on achievement of progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration and recognize biennially exemplary performance through awards;
- To conduct on a biennial basis, beginning from the year 2017, the Agricultural Review Process, and report on progress to the Assembly at its January 2018 ordinary session;

(e) The African stakeholders, including farmers, pastoralists, fishers, private sector operators in agriculture, agribusiness and agro-industries, civil society organizations, and financial institutions, to rally behind the realization of the provisions of this Declaration and take advantage of the huge opportunities that it presents;

(f) The African agricultural research and knowledge institutions to vigorously support the realization of this agenda through an integrated and coherent manner, building on national systems and capacities;

(g) The development partners to rally and align their technical and financial support in a harmonized and coordinated manner to support the implementation of the provisions of this Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXIII)

**Declaration on Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XXIII) Add.3)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twenty-third Ordinary Session in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea,

Recalling the outcome of the Ministerial Meeting on “A Promise Renewed: African Leadership for Child Survival” which was held in January 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Noting that the call for “A Promise Renewed for Child Survival” emerged from the Global Call to Action for Child Survival Conference convened in Washington, D.C., in June 2012,

Recalling that the Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalization of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Continental Policy Framework seeks to take the continent forward towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services in Africa by 2015,

Noting with concern that the Maputo Plan was a short-term plan built on nine critical action areas: integration of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services into PHC, repositioning family planning, developing and promoting youth-friendly services, unsafe abortion, quality safe motherhood, resource mobilization, commodity security and monitoring and evaluation and there is a need to have a second round plan,

Recalling the launching of the African Union Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) in May 2009,

Aware of the fact that the African continent shares a significant global burden of newborn, child and maternal mortality,

Cognizant that most of the deaths are preventable and that some African countries have achieved MDG 4 and some are on track to achieve MDG 4 and 5,

Emphasizing the need for a renewed commitment and stronger efforts to accelerate the progress on maternal and child health,

Convinced that preventable maternal and child deaths can be significantly reduced through concerted actions,

Hereby declare our:

1. *Commitment* to end preventable child and maternal deaths by the year 2035 in line with the Post-2015 Framework on Sustainable Development; and in this connection commend our Member States especially those that successfully achieved MDGs, for the exemplary efforts they made and for the commitments of their leadership in achieving the difficult task;
2. *Resolve* to achieve universal access to quality MNCH services by developing and implementing a Pan-African MNCH Road Map incorporating the second round renewed Maputo Plan of Action and strengthening the implementation of the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA);
3. *Acknowledgment* of the need of scaling-up access for underserved populations, such as high burden, rural and low-income groups;
4. *Conviction* that our priorities should be directed towards high-impact solutions focusing on the primary causes of child and maternal death;
5. *Readiness* to go beyond the health sector and effectively invest in multisectoral programmes such as the education of girls and boys; the empowerment of women and men; climate change and water and sanitation;
6. *Call upon* all countries, donors and stakeholders to consolidate their efforts around a shared goal and common metrics to ensure mutual accountability and financing;

7. *Readiness* to support the development and adoption of a Pan-African MNCH Score Card which helps the African Union gauge and rate countries' progress on MNCH;

8. *Commitment* to develop and implement country-led road maps that integrate ongoing efforts to accelerate progress to end preventable deaths among children and mothers. In this connection, we request the Commission, in collaboration with the RECs, to follow up the implementation of country road maps and report on the achievements to the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXIII)

Declaration in Support of Small Island Developing States Ahead of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to Be Held in Samoa from 1 to 4 September 2014

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Twenty-third Ordinary Session in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 26 to 27 June 2014,

Reaffirming the spirit of Pan-Africanism and the aspirations of all Africans as expressed through the Constitutive Act of the African Union,

Recognizing that the sustainable development of Africa's islands is indivisible from the African Union's goal of transforming Africa's development as per the objectives of its Agenda 2063 which aims to mobilize the potential of the blue ocean economy and build resilient economies for all its Member States,

Recognizing both the environmental and economic vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and that Africa and its islands are particularly vulnerable to climate change,

1. *Underline* our profound support and solidarity to the development of Small Island Developing States ahead of the Third International Conference on SIDS to be held in Samoa from 1 to 4 September 2014 aimed at improving the development framework available for the sustainable development of islands;

2. *Call for* improved mechanisms towards building resilience of all Small Island Developing States at a global level and mandate the Commission to consult with a view to establishing a mechanism to better support Small Island Developing States.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXIII)

Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 26 to 27 June 2014, on the Theme of the African Year of Agriculture and Food Security: "Transforming Africa's Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods through Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development",

Recalling the OAU Resolution AHG/Res.224 (XXIX) of 1993 that recognized the seriousness of the African food and nutrition situation and the efforts of Member States towards alleviating the challenge,

Further recalling the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl.7 (II)) of 2003 that called for increased stakeholder collaboration and increased food production,

Mindful that food security without improved nutrition will not deliver the desired inclusive socio-economic outcomes; as the number of those affected by hunger and malnutrition has continued to increase over the past few years,

Stressing that agriculture and food security are key determinants of child nutrition that require coordinated and comprehensive responses from other sectors, including health, education, labour, social protection, and coordinated collaboration with the development partners, private sector, the academia, civil society and communities,

Noting that human capital is the engine for the economic and structural transformation of Africa, and that the first 1000 days provide the window of opportunity for children which can influence the cognitive and physical capacity of all children, with life-long consequences,

Recognizing that as a continent efforts need to be enhanced to address childhood undernutrition, in order to continue to reduce the prevalence of childhood stunting, but also in order to reduce the absolute numbers of stunted children in Africa,

Noting the multi-country study on the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) being led by the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, to quantify the aggregate social and economic impacts of chronic hunger in Africa,

Noting with concern that the results of the study on the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) revealed the degree to which child undernutrition influences health and educational outcomes; the additional barrier it has on children's ability to achieve their full potential; and the impact it has on national productivity,

Acknowledging the current efforts being made by stakeholders such as: (i) coordination of efforts through the African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development (ATFFND) (ii) generation of evidence through the Cost of Hunger Study; (iii) Africa's Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination (ARISE 2025), a direct outcome of the COHA study; and (iv) nutrition advocacy initiatives by the African Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho,

We hereby:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to end hunger by 2025 through strengthening our development policies as an effective investment in the human capital of our countries;
2. *Commit* to ending child stunting bringing down stunting to 10 per cent and underweight to 5 per cent by 2025 and, in particular, focusing on the first 1000 days as the only window of opportunity during which permanent and irreversible physical and mental damage would be avoided; and commit to positioning this goal as a high-level objective in national development plans and strategies, and to establish long-term targets that give all children an equal chance for success, by eliminating the additional barriers imposed by child undernutrition;
3. *Call upon* Member States, who have not yet done so, to consider participation in the study on the Cost of Hunger in Africa and request the Commission, UNECA, WFP, UNICEF and other development partners to expedite the successful completion of the study, including wide dissemination of the results at the country and regional levels;
4. *Request* the Commission, the RECs and development partners to facilitate the establishment of a continental-wide mechanism to monitor progress towards the elimination of child undernutrition in Africa;
5. *Commit* to continue the dialogue and strengthen advocacy efforts in support of improved nutrition including through supporting the AU Champion.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXIII)

Resolution on the Lifting of the Economic and Trade Embargo Imposed on

the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Twenty-third Ordinary Session in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 26 to 27 June 2014,

Recalling Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XV) adopted by our Assembly at its Fifteenth Ordinary Session held in Kampala, Uganda, on 27 July 2012, Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVII) adopted at its Seventeenth Ordinary Session held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 1 July 2011, Resolution Assembly AU/Res.1 (XIX) adopted at its Nineteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2012, and Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXI) adopted at its Twenty-first Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2013, in particular the calls made to the Government of the United States of America to lift the unjustifiable and long-standing economic and trade embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba to enable it to enjoy all the legitimate prospects for sustainable development,

Reaffirming our commitment to further strengthen Africa-Caribbean relations as expressed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Kampala, Uganda, in June 2010,

Also reaffirming our full support for the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the: “Necessity of ending the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”,

Reiterate our call and, once again invite the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on the Cuban people.

**EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT ON EMPLOYMENT, POVERTY
ERADICATION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

**Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
September 2014**

**Report on the Follow-up on the Ouagadougou 2004 Summit:
Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development in Africa**

“1. In September 2004, the African Union (AU) Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa held in Ouagadougou adopted a Declaration, Plan of Action and Follow-up Mechanism for Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation.

2. After ten years of implementation marked by four biennial and two comprehensive follow-up reports, the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council decided (EX.CL/Dec.648 (XIX)) to hold a Special Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC) to evaluate the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation. The Special Session was held in Windhoek, Namibia, in April 2014, to prepare an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly in Ouagadougou (Ouaga+10) in September 2014, as per Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.498 (XXII)). It considered the Second Follow-up Comprehensive Report on the Implementation of the Ouagadougou 2004 Declaration and Plan of Action, and then considered new policy instruments for the next decade.

3. The Extraordinary Summit was expected to adopt a Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development, as well as their follow-up mechanism, a Programme on Labour Migration and a Public-Private Partnership Framework on Jobs Creation and Inclusive Development. At the request of the host country, the Summit was postponed sine die, as a result of the Ebola epidemics in the region and a subsequent decision of the ECOWAS Secretariat to suspend regional meetings.”*

* Document Assembly/AU/20 (XXIV).

TWENTY-FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
30 to 31 January 2015**

Assembly/AU/Dec.546 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Hissène Habré Case
(Doc. EX.CL/866 (XXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of Report of the Commission on the steps taken for the organization of the Hissène Habré trial in Senegal as outlined in the Annual Activity Report of the Chairperson of the Commission;
2. *Reiterates* its commitment to fight impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4, subparagraphs (h) and (o), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
3. *Welcomes* all steps taken for the organization of the Hissène Habré trial including the establishment of the African Extraordinary Chambers within the Courts of Senegal (AEC) with the view to prosecuting the person or persons who bear the greatest responsibility for the most serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights committed on the territory of Chad during the period from 7 June 1982 to 1 December 1990;
4. *Commends* the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Senegal and the Commission for the steps taken towards the organization of the Hissène Habré trial including financial and technical support granted to the African Extraordinary Chambers;
5. *Also commends* the AU partner countries and institutions for their financial support to the AEC, namely: Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United States of America, European Union and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
6. *Calls on* Member States, partner countries and institutions to continue supporting Senegal through the African Extraordinary Chambers in the execution of the AU mandate to prosecute and try Mr. Hissène Habré, on behalf of Africa, with guarantees for a fair trial;
7. *Takes note of and supports* the initiative of the Chairperson of the Commission to set up at the ministerial level a consultative mechanism between the AU, Chad and Senegal in order to address challenges/difficulties which might have negative impacts on the smooth organization of the Hissène Habré trial;
8. *Requests* the Commission to follow up and to report regularly on the implementation of various decisions of the Assembly on the Hissène Habré case.

Assembly/AU/Dec.547 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of
Previous Decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on the progress made in the implementation of decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC);
2. *Reiterates* the commitment of the African Union and its Member States to fight impunity in accordance with the Constitutive Act;

3. *Also reiterates* its previous decisions for the deferral of the proceedings initiated by the ICC against the President of Sudan and the Deputy President of Kenya in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute which allows the Security Council to defer cases for one year;
4. *Expresses*:
 - (a) Its deep concern following the summoning of President Uhuru Kenyatta through a decision of the Trial Chamber V (b) of the ICC which did not take cognizance whatsoever of the amendments of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the ICC adopted by the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute held in The Hague, the Netherlands in November 2013;
 - (b) Its deep concern regarding the conduct of the Office of the Prosecutor and the Court and the wisdom of the continued prosecution against African leaders;
5. *Commends* President Uhuru Kenyatta for the leadership demonstrated and the unprecedented act of appointing the Acting President so as to respect the Court Summons and protect the sovereignty of Kenya;
6. *Reiterates* the imperative need for all African States parties (ASP) to ensure that they adhere to and articulate the commonly agreed positions at the African Union in line with their obligations under the Constitutive Act of the Union;
7. *Reaffirms* the principles deriving from national and international customary law by which sitting Heads of State and other senior officials are granted immunities during their tenure in office;
8. *Welcomes* the decision made by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on 5 December 2014 to withdraw the charges against President Uhuru Kenyatta while regretting the period it took the Office of the Prosecutor to arrive at the decision and the continued prosecution through disclosure of alleged evidence available to the ICC against him;
9. *Notes with concern* that the case against the Deputy President William Samoei Ruto is still proceeding before the International Criminal Court and reiterates to the ICC the imperative need to terminate its prosecution against the Deputy President as per the previous decisions;
10. *Recalls* its Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 particularly 12 (i)* that African States parties should comply with African Union decisions on the ICC and continue to speak with one voice to ensure that African proposals to the amendments to Articles 16 and 27 of the Rome Statute of the ICC are considered by the ASP Working Group on amendments as well as by the forthcoming sessions of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute;
11. *Expresses its concern* on the failure by the ASP to consider the concerns and proposals for amendments by the African Union of the Rome Statute of the ICC during the Thirteenth Session of the ASP held in New York from 8 to 17 December 2014;
12. *Thanks* Member States, the African Group in New York and at The Hague, the Contact Group and other like-minded States parties to the Rome Statute for their work and continued support in fast tracking the consideration of African concerns and amendment proposals to the Rome Statute;
13. *Regrets* that the AU's endorsement of one person as a sole candidate for the post of judge of the ICC was not respected by some African States parties;

* Editor's note: The English and French texts of this decision do not contain paragraph 12 (i) referred to here.

14. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.529 (XXIII) during the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014, adopting the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights to try international crimes;
15. *Underscores* the need to expeditiously operationalize the exercise of the jurisdiction of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights to try international crimes through signing and ratification of both the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights and the Protocol on the Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights by Member States of the African Union and underline the need to ensure predictable and sustainable funding;
16. *Reiterates* its commitment to fund all AU organs and institutions including the African Court of Justice and Human Rights;
17. *Decides* as follows:
- (a) To request all concerned to fast track consideration by the ASP Working Group on amendments and by the Assembly of States Parties of the African proposals for amendments of the Rome Statute of the ICC;
- (b) To operationalize the exercise of jurisdiction of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights to try international crimes by signing and ratifying the requisite protocols; and, in this respect, to establish a special fund and convene a resource mobilization conference to raise funds to initiate and sustain the activities of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights proposed Chambers of the International Criminal Law Section as envisaged in Article 19 bis of the Protocol on the Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights;
- (c) In accordance with its decisions, particularly the African States parties to the Rome Statute, to reserve the right to take any measures in order to preserve and safeguard the peace, security and stability, as well as the dignity, sovereignty and integrity of the continent;
- (d) Pursuant to this decision and its previous decisions, to request the ICC to terminate or suspend the proceedings against Deputy President William Samoei Ruto of Kenya until the African concerns and proposals for amendments of the Rome Statute of the ICC are considered;
- (e) In the same vein, to request the suspension of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir and to urge the United Nations Security Council to withdraw the referral case of Sudan;
18. *Commends* the Democratic Republic of Congo for complying with the AU decision for non-cooperation for the arrest and surrender of President Omar Al Bashir of the Republic of Sudan;
19. *Underscores* the need for all Member States to comply with the position of the Assembly of the Union regarding the warrants of arrest issued by the ICC against President Bashir of Sudan pursuant to Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act and Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC;
20. *Requests* the Commission to present a progress report on the implementation of this decision at its Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session in January 2016.

Assembly/AU/Dec.548 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Amendment of Article 37, Paragraph 1, of the
African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/870 (XXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of previous decisions and the recommendations of the Executive Council on the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.528 (XXIII) concerning the amendment of Article 37, paragraph 1, of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

2. *Adopts* the amendment to Article 37, paragraph 1, of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as follows:

The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of five years and may be re-elected only once. However, the term of four of the members elected at the first election shall expire after two years and the term of six others, after four years.

3. *Decides* that the amendment will enter into force upon its adoption.

Assembly/AU/Dec.549 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Election of Eleven Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption
(Doc. EX.CL/883 (XXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of eleven members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following members of the Board for a two-year term:

No.	Name	Country
(1)	Mr. Jacques III Achiaou	Côte d'Ivoire;
(2)	Mrs. Akossiwa Antoinette Ayena	Togo;
(3)	Mrs. Angèle Barumpozako	Burundi;
(4)	Mr. Daniel Batidam	Ghana;
(5)	Mr. Jean-Baptiste Elias	Benin;
(6)	Mr. Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara	Sierra Leone;
(7)	Mr. Ekwabi Webster Tekere Mujungu	Tanzania;
(8)	Mr. Alhaji Isa Ozi Salami	Nigeria;
(9)	Mr. Sefako Aaron Seema	Lesotho;
(10)	Mr. John Kithome Tuta	Kenya;
(11)	Mrs. Florence Ziyambi	Zimbabwe.

Assembly/AU/Dec.550 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Election of Seven Members of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL)
(Doc. EX.CL/884 (XXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of seven members of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following six members of the AUCIL for a five-year term:

No.	Name	Country
(1)	Mr. Ebenezer Appreku	Ghana;
(2)	Mr. Mohamed Barakat	Egypt;
(3)	Mr. Abdi Ismael Hersi	Djibouti;
(4)	Mr. Sebastião Da Silva Isata	Angola;
(5)	Mrs. Juliet Semambo Kalema	Uganda;
(6)	Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Thiam	Senegal;
3. *Further appoints* Mrs. Hajer Gueldich (Tunisia) for the remainder of the term of Mr. Rafâa Ben Achour (Tunisia) who was elected for a five-year term by the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 21 to 25 January 2013 but recently resigned from the AUCIL.

Assembly/AU/Dec.551 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Election of the President and Vice-President of the Pan-African University (PAU) Council
(Doc. EX.CL/885 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the President and Vice-President of the Pan-African University (PAU) Council by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the President and Vice-President of the PAU Council for a three-year term as follows:

No.	Name	Country	Position
(1)	Prof. Tolly S. Mbwette	Tanzania	President;
(2)	Prof. Paulo Horácio de Sequeira e Carvalho	Angola	Vice-President.

Assembly/AU/Dec.552 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Designation of the Host Country of the Pan-African University Rectorate
(Doc. EX.CL/886 (XXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the selection of the host country of the Pan-African University Rectorate by the Executive Council;
2. *Designates* the Republic of Cameroon as host country of the Pan-African University Rectorate;
3. *Requests* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the selected host country, for the immediate installation of the Rectorate and report back to it during the June 2015 Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.553 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Outbreak
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Commission's Report on the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak (EVD) and the Report on the Socio-Economic Impacts of the EVD on Africa prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the recommendations therein;
2. *Commends* the Commission and its Chairperson for their invaluable efforts to deal with the crisis of Ebola in West Africa, including:
 - (i) The implementation of the ASEOWA and the subsequent deployment of health volunteers from Member States to help countries affected by Ebola and recommends the extension of ASEOWA's mandate;
 - (ii) The mobilization of financial support and human and material resources;
 - (iii) The solidarity of the Member States, partners and the private sector;
 - (iv) The initiative undertaken at the level of mobilization of funds through the SMS with the cooperation of operators of companies of mobile phones;
3. *Also commends* the health volunteers who have provided heroically eminent services to our brothers and sisters in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone;
4. *Calls upon* Member States, who have not yet done so, to lift all restrictions imposed on Ebola affected countries in accordance with the decision of the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council of 8 September 2014, which advocated, inter alia, the non-closure of borders, and the non-stigmatization of affected countries and their nationals;
5. *Invites* the Member States that have accumulated rich experience in the fight against Ebola to share their knowledge with affected countries;
6. *Requests* the international financial institutions and partner countries to cancel the debt of the three affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) to alleviate the impact of the Ebola crisis on the economies of these countries and assist in their economic recovery and development;
7. *Approves* the recommendation to urgently convene a global conference on the Ebola epidemic in 2015 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, and requests the Commission to liaise with all stakeholders in this regard towards the implementation of this decision;
8. *Requests* the Commission to submit regularly to Member States status reports on the Ebola epidemic, including relevant statistics and all contributions received, as well as their use;

9. *Urges* Member States and all stakeholders to continue their assistance to the affected countries;
10. *Appeals* to the scientific community to accelerate the search for a vaccine against Ebola;
11. *Congratulates* the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for having generously accepted to host AFCON 2015, despite the Ebola outbreak, and for the excellent organization and facilities provided to this important event and expresses its high appreciation in this regard;
12. *Requests* the Commission to pay directly to Member States affected by Ebola (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) US\$ 500,000 as originally agreed;
13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter and requests the Commission to report on progress and the implementation of this decision to the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in June 2015.

Assembly/AU/Dec.554 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Establishment of the African Centre of Disease Control and Prevention (African CDC)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on the establishment of the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (African CDC) and the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Endorses* the establishment of the African CDC;
3. *Welcomes* the fruitful cooperation between the Commission and Ethiopia towards the rapid establishment of the Centre, through their active participation in the work of the Multinational Taskforce in charge of the project;
4. *Expresses immense satisfaction* for efforts made by the Commission to speed up the process for the establishment of the Centre by mid-2015, pursuant to the relevant Executive Council and Assembly decisions;
5. *Approves* that the Coordination Office should initially be at the Headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, and should work closely with already existing Centres in the different regions of the continent and requests the Commission, in collaboration with Member States, to put in place necessary arrangements and coordination towards mechanisms of the operationalization of existing regional centres for mounting rapid response to emergency public health crisis such as the Ebola outbreak;
6. *Takes note* of the proposed structures and the financial implications which amount to approximately US\$ 5 million to cover the expenses for the establishment and operation of the Centre for the initial 18-month period;
7. *Authorizes* the Commission to undertake the mobilization of funds from Member States, and development partners and the private sector who have already indicated an interest and with experience in the domain;
8. *Requests* the Commission, in close collaboration with the Multinational Taskforce, to consider the practical modalities for the operationalization of the Centre and report thereon to the Assembly in June 2015;
9. *Requests* the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs to consider the Statute of the African CDC and submit it to the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.555 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Report of the High-Level African Trade Committee (HATC) on Trade Issues
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-Level African Trade Committee held in January 2015 and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

On the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

2. *Takes note* of the progress towards the establishment of the Tripartite Free Trade Area involving the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the launch of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Common External Tariff (CET) with effect from January 2015;
3. *Urges* Member States to expedite the accession and ratification to the regional free trade agreements;
4. *Requests* the ministers of trade to propose options on levels of trade liberalization to serve as an indicative basis on which to start the CFTA negotiations;
5. *Emphasizes* the importance of involving various stakeholders such as the private sector, parliamentarians, civil society, academia, etc. in the process of establishing the CFTA through appropriate mechanisms so as to ensure ownership of the CFTA by the peoples of Africa;
6. *Mandates* the Chairperson of the HATC, in collaboration with the Chairperson of the Commission, to engage in high-level consultations for the establishment of the CFTA;
7. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with UNECA and RECs, to undertake technical work, required studies and preparation in advance of the negotiations including the preparation of the draft negotiating texts;
8. *Reaffirms* the commitment to launch the CFTA negotiations in June 2015 and in this regard mandates ministers of trade to meet and finalize preparations for the launch;

On the World Trade Organization (WTO)

9. *Welcomes* the breakthrough in the WTO Doha negotiations and reiterates the importance of African countries speaking in one voice to ensure that Africa's interests are adequately addressed within the multilateral trading system;
10. *Urges* Member States to identify key issues in the post-Bali work programme that facilitate the achievement of Africa's strategic structural transformation and regional integration agenda;

On the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

11. *Notes with appreciation* the announcement made by President Obama on the occasion of the Africa-United States Summit held in August 2014 expressing commitment towards the reauthorization of AGOA;
12. *Calls upon* the United States Congress to preserve AGOA as the cornerstone of the Africa-United States trade and investment partnership by ensuring the timely reauthorization of AGOA co-terminus with the Third Country Fabric Provision;

13. *Further calls upon* AGOA-eligible countries to enhance their advocacy to complement the efforts of the African Group of Ambassadors in Washington, United States of America, towards the reauthorization of AGOA.

Assembly/AU/Dec.556 (XXIV)

**Decision on Africa's Engagements at the United Nations Climate Summit and
Lima Global Climate Change Conference (COP 20/CMP 10)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note of the:*

(i) Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the outcomes of the global climate change negotiations at the United Nations Climate Summit and the Twentieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Tenth Meeting of the parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol (COP 20/CMP 10); and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

(ii) Dar es Salaam Joint meeting of the African Ministers of Environment and Foreign Affairs from the CAHOSCC members convened by the CAHOSCC Coordinator, H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, on 29 August 2014 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that facilitated the African Ministers to exchange views and interact on the global climate change negotiations;

(iii) Conclusions of the CAHOSCC preparatory meeting on the adoption of the CAHOSCC Key Political Messages as the basis for Africa's engagements at the United Nations Climate Summit and the Global Climate Change Conference (COP 20/CMP 10) held in New York in September 2014 and Lima, Peru, in December 2014, respectively;

2. *Commends* the leadership of the CAHOSCC Coordinator, H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, in steering the work of CAHOSCC from January 2013 to December 2014 and at COP 19/CMP 9 in Warsaw, Poland, and COP 20/CMP 10 in Lima, Peru, and the achievement by the CAHOSCC including the adoption by the AU of the High-Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA), a blue print for climate action on the continent;

3. *Encourages* the CAHOSCC members to participate at all meetings at the Heads of State level;

4. *Urges* Member States to implement the CAHOSCC High-Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA) at the national level and, as appropriate, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders;

5. *Requests* the Commission to facilitate the implementation of the WPCCAA and put in place a mechanism for follow up and regular reporting to the Summit on its implementation; and the AMCN and AGN to take into account the WPCCAA in their negotiations and engagement with other partners in the climate change processes and fora.

Assembly/AU/Dec.557 (XXIV)

**Decision on Fast Tracking the Implementation of Commitments for
Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/16 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, on the Kigali Action Plan for Fast Tracking the Implementation of the July 2008 Assembly Declaration, and actualizing the Africa Water Vision 2025; and endorses the Action Plan, the Strategy for Resources Mobilization and Implementation, and the Road Map;
2. *Requests* the Commission to coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan, and to report on the progress of implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.516 (XXII) to the January 2016 ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.558 (XXIV)

Decision on the Items Proposed by Member States

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the following items proposed by Member States;
 - A. On the Date and Venue of the Thirty-third, Thirty-fifth and Thirty-ninth Ordinary Sessions of the African Union
2. *Takes note* of the offers of the Republic of Niger, the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Republic of Zambia to host the Thirty-third, Thirty-fifth and Thirty-ninth Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly of the African Union in Niamey, Niger, Ezulwini, Swaziland, and Lusaka, Zambia, in June/July 2019, June/July 2020 and June/July 2022, respectively, and expresses its high appreciation to the above countries for their offers;
3. *Approves* the three offers and requests the Commission to conduct, for this purpose, the necessary consultations with the three Member States with a view to holding these sessions in the best possible conditions;
 - B. On the Creation of an African Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in N'djamena (Doc. Assembly/AU/19 (XXIV) Add.4)
4. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Republic of Chad to establish an African Centre for Information Technologies (ACIT) with headquarters in N'djamena, Chad;
5. *Commends* the Republic of Chad and its President for this crucial initiative and for the funds already mobilized towards the construction of ACIT with a view to promoting information technologies in Africa, which are critical in the continent's development process;
6. *Underscores* the need to conduct an in-depth study on the ways and means to integrate this project into African Union programmes with a precise definition of the inputs expected from the African Union based on an evaluation of the legal, structural and financial implications, and thus submit appropriate recommendations to the competent organs of the African Union;
7. *Requests* the Commission and the Republic of Chad to carry out appropriate consultations with a view to evaluating legal, structural and financial implications, and report to the Assembly through the relevant structures;
- C. On the Establishment of a Mediation Support and Conflict Prevention Unit (Doc. Assembly/AU/19 (XXIV) Add.5)
8. *Takes note* of Egypt's initiative to strengthen the use of preventive diplomacy within the African Union through the establishment of the Mediation Support and Preventive Diplomacy Unit;

9. *Requests* the Peace and Security Council to consider this issue at its sessions and come up with appropriate recommendations together with an evaluation of the legal, structural and financial implications of establishing such a Unit and submit for consideration by the relevant structures;
10. *Further requests* the Commission, in consultation with the Arab Republic of Egypt, to submit a report thereon to the next summit in June 2015;
- D. On the Status of Preparations for the Eleventh African Games Due to Take Place in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, in September 2015 (Doc. Assembly/AU/19 (XXIV) Add.6)
11. *Commends* the Republic of Congo for the arrangements made to host the African Games in the best possible conditions;
12. *Encourages* all Member States of the African Union to actively participate in the African Games in Brazzaville as a demonstration of solidarity with Congo for and a testimony to continental unity;
- E. On the Continent-Wide Solidarity against Boko Haram (Doc. Assembly/AU/19 (XXIV) Add.7)
13. *Takes note* of the proposal by Niger on the Continent-Wide Solidarity against Boko Haram and the draft Declaration submitted on this subject;
14. *Strongly condemns* the abduction of Chibok girls, women, children and all other persons in the northern part of Nigeria by insurgents and reiterates the call on Heads of State and the international community to continue their support to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in its efforts to ensure the release of the abducted people and to facilitate a lasting solution to the threat of Boko Haram;
15. *Welcomes and supports* the efforts deployed by Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Republic of Benin for having agreed to deploy national contingents and establish a Joint Military Staff Headquarters for conduct of military operations against the Boko Haram terrorist group;
16. *Supports* the activities carried out under the Nouakchott Process to prevent and combat terrorism on the continent with the support of the Peace and Security Council and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and that of the international community at large;
17. *Further supports* the proposal to get the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution authorizing Member States of Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Republic of Benin to deploy a Multinational Joint Task Force for an initial period of twelve months and the establishment by the United Nations Secretary-General of a special fund to provide requisite financial and logistics support for the operations to the Task Force;
18. *Expresses its high appreciation* to the Republic of Chad for the timely intervention to assist the Republic of Cameroon in combating the Boko Haram terrorist group;
19. *Calls upon* all Member States to render every possible assistance towards defeating the dangerous Boko Haram group;
- F. On the Transformation of the School of African Heritage into a Regional Vocational School (Doc. Assembly/AU/19 (XXIV) Add.8)
20. *Notes* that this is a commendable initiative and encourages the Government of Benin to pursue it, and further encourages Member States, RECs, African and international partners to render the necessary support towards the achievement of the objectives;

21. *Requests* the Commission and the Republic of Benin to carry out appropriate consultations with a view to evaluating legal, structural and financial implications, and report to the Assembly through the relevant structures;
- G. On a Culture of Peace in Africa (Doc. Assembly/AU/19 (XXIV) Add.9)
22. *Requests* the Commission to:
- (i) Take all appropriate measures in consultation with UNESCO and Government of Republic of Angola to co-organize a biannual Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace in Africa, “Biennale of Luanda”, foreseen to take place in September 2015;
- (ii) Explore with UNESCO and the Government of Côte d’Ivoire the possibility of creating a “School of Peace”;
- H. On the African Education Initiative for Peace through Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (Doc. Assembly/AU/19 (XXIV) Add.10)
23. *Calls upon* Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and African and international partners engaged in the promotion of international peace and security, to actively participate in the Meeting being organized by the Republic of Benin on inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue.

Assembly/AU/Dec.559 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa;
2. *Welcomes* the steps that continue to be taken towards the full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). In particular, commends the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the successful conduct of Exercise Loango 2014 held in Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo, from 19 to 29 October 2014, and the East African Standby Force Coordinating Mechanism (EASFCOM) for having attained full operational capability as confirmed by Exercise Mashariki Salaam 2014, which took place in Nazareth, Ethiopia, from 13 to 22 November 2014; requests the Commission, the concerned Regional Standby Brigades and Member States and to take all necessary steps to ensure that the African Standby Force (ASF) is fully operational by the end of 2015, as planned, including the holding, in course of this year, in South Africa, of the Amani Africa II Field Training Exercise; further welcomes the steps taken towards the operationalization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) including Command Post Exercise Utulivu Africa, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 25 to 29 November 2014;
3. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps taken by the Commission in follow-up to Decision EX.CL/Dec.820 (XXV) adopted by the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 20 to 24 June 2014 on the establishment of the AU Police Cooperation Mechanism (AFRIPOL), notably the holding of two meetings of AFRIPOL Ad Hoc Committee on 2 July and 2 October 2014, in Addis Ababa and Kampala, respectively, to elaborate the draft statute of AFRIPOL and other relevant legal texts, as well as identifying the modalities of its funding; looks forward to the finalization of the process and the ongoing process and the submission to the Executive Council, in June 2015, of a comprehensive report on the operationalization of AFRIPOL;

4. *Notes with deep concern* that despite the progress made, Africa continues to face serious challenges in the field of peace and security, which undermine socio-economic development efforts, cause catastrophic humanitarian consequences and contribute to project a negative image of the continent; stresses the need for increased efforts towards achieving a conflict-free Africa in 2020, as agreed by the Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the OAU/AU in May 2013. In this regard, reiterates the vital importance of conflict prevention, through the scrupulous implementation of the relevant AU instruments and PSC communiqués, as well as through the exercise by that body of all the responsibilities entrusted to it; also reiterates the crucial role of the Panel of the Wise and encourages the latter to intensify its conflict prevention efforts;

5. *Notes* that in 2015 and 2016, a high number of elections will be organized on the continent and stresses that the polls offer a critical window of opportunity to enhance democracy in the concerned Member States. The Assembly calls on the concerned Member States, the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) and the relevant AU organs, including the PSC and the Panel of the Wise, to take all necessary steps to ensure that these elections take place peacefully and in the required conditions of fairness and transparency, in line with the relevant AU instruments, notably the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, bearing in mind that democracy and the rule of law are preconditions for sustainable peace, stability and socio-economic development; and urges once again all Member States that have not yet done so to urgently sign and ratify the Charter;

6. *Reiterates* the deep concern of the AU at the continued worsening of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, as demonstrated by the cowardly and dastardly attacks perpetrated by different terrorist groups across the continent, including Al Shabaab, the Lord's Resistant Army (LRA), Boko Haram, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MOJWA), al-Murabitun and the Ansar al-Sharia groups; once again underlines the need for renewed African and international efforts to address of the prevailing conditions and, in this respect, urges the Member States, the RECs/RMs and the Commission to take all steps necessary towards the effective implementation of all the provisions of the communiqué adopted by the 469th meeting of the PSC held at Summit level, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 2 September 2014; expresses full support to the efforts of the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin, in particular, the establishment of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to combat the Boko Haram terrorist group, encourages the Commission to continue to support these efforts, in line with the relevant PSC communiqués, and calls on the international community to extend all the assistance required; welcomes the convening by the Commission, in Algiers, from 27 to 28 October 2014, of a symposium on victims of acts of terrorism, and urges the full implementation of the recommendations made on that occasion, looking forward to regular updates in this respect;

7. *Welcomes* the progress that continues to be made in terms of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction in Comoros, Madagascar, with the continuation of the reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau; urges all stakeholders concerned to pursue the efforts undertaken and calls for continuous mobilization of African and international support for these countries, including within the framework of the African Solidarity Initiative (ISA);

8. *Reiterates* Africa's solidarity with countries in West Africa affected by the Ebola epidemic (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), welcomes the deployment by the Commission of ASEOWA, as mandated by the PSC, calls for continued African and international mobilization to contain the Ebola crisis; and stresses the need for additional efforts at peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction in the three countries;

9. *Welcomes* the completion of the transition in Tunisia, with the holding, in November and December 2014, of the presidential election; commends all Tunisian social and political actors for the sustained efforts they have made and for their maturity, which allowed for a peaceful and consensual transition, and underscores the exemplary nature of the Tunisian experience; and appeals to the international community to provide Tunisia with the economic and financial support necessary for the consolidation of democracy;

10. *Welcomes* the positive developments in Burkina Faso, and reiterates the AU's commitment to assist the transitional authorities in their efforts to bring the Transition to its logical conclusion, with the organization of presidential and legislative elections in October 2015; calls on Member States of the AU and the international community as a whole, to provide all necessary support to this end; and welcomes the establishment of the International Support Group for the Transition in Burkina Faso (GISAT-BF), under the joint auspices of the AU, ECOWAS and the United Nations, and the conclusions of its inaugural meeting in Ouagadougou on 13 January 2015;
11. *Urges* the Government of Mali and the armed movements in the north to rapidly conclude a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in full respect of the unity and territorial integrity of Mali, as well as of the secular nature of the Malian government and looks forward to the resumption in February 2015, within the framework of the Algiers process, of inter-Malian peace talks. The Assembly reiterates the full support of the AU mediation spearheaded by Algeria, with the participation of the countries in the region, the AU, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations, the European Union (EU) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC);
12. *Expresses its full support* to the conclusions of the ministerial meeting of the African troop contributing countries to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) on the capacity of MINUSMA held in Niamey, Niger, in November 5, 2014, and requests the Commission to expedite consultations with the United Nations on the follow-up of these conclusions, including the establishment of an intervention force modelled on the United Nations Force Intervention Brigade for Stabilization in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), as agreed by the region at the Summit of Member Countries of the Nouakchott Process on Enhancing Security Cooperation and Operationalization of APSA in the Sahelo-Saharan region held in the Mauritanian capital on 18 December 2014;
13. *Reiterates* its support to the Nouakchott Process on Enhancing Security Cooperation and Operationalization of APSA in the Sahelo-Saharan region, welcomes the holding of the Summit of Member Countries of the Nouakchott Process, on 18 December 2014, and encourages the Commission and countries concerned, with the support of international partners, to effectively implement the Declaration adopted on that occasion; further welcomes the adoption by the PSC on 11 August 2014, of the AU Strategy for the Sahel region, and calls on the countries of the region and the Commission, with the support of international partners including the EU, the OIC and the United Nations, to work towards its effective implementation;
14. *Welcomes* the progress that continues to be made in Somalia, and urges the Somali stakeholders to stay on course and action to demonstrate the required unity of purpose and action, in order to expedite the implementation of Vision 2016 and fulfill the aspirations of their people to peace, security and stability; pays tribute to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the troop and police contributing countries (T/PCCs) for their commitment and the sacrifices made, and reiterates the AU's appreciation to those partners extending support to the Mission; and appeals for the provision of adequate financial, economic and humanitarian assistance to Somalia, as well as for enhanced support for the building of capable and effective defense and security forces;
15. *Reiterates* the support of the AU to the implementation process of the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the region and urges all stakeholders to redouble their efforts in this regard; stresses the crucial importance of neutralizing the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and other armed groups operating in eastern DRC, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and with the decisions taken by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the African Union. The Assembly, noting with regret the FDLR refusal to disarm voluntarily before the expiry of the deadline of 2 January 2015, set by the countries of the region, calls on the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and MONUSCO to immediately implement the mandate entrusted to them by resolutions 2098 (2013) and 2147 (2014) to neutralize the armed group; urges all stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration of December 2013 that marked the conclusion of the dialogue between the Government of the DRC and the former M23; and

stresses the need for greater efforts to translate into reality the socio-economic aspects of the Framework Agreement;

16. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) and troop and police contributing countries for the excellent work done in the Central African Republic (CAR), as well as to Member States and international partners who have provided logistical, technical and financial support to the Mission and welcomes the successful transformation, on 15 September 2014, of MISCA into a United Nations operation – the Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA; urges the Central African Republic stakeholders to commit themselves resolutely to achieving the national reconciliation process and the completion of the transition within the newly agreed time frame; it condemns in no uncertain terms the acts of violence perpetrated by armed groups and calls for scrupulous compliance with the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities reached at the National Reconciliation Forum, held in Brazzaville from 21 to 23 July 2014; reiterates its appreciation to the International Mediation, ECCAS and the international partners for their continued commitment; and calls for increased humanitarian, financial and economic support for CAR;

17. *Underscores* the need for renewed efforts to overcome the current impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia and, in this respect, encourages the Commission and the PSC to take appropriate initiatives in line with the provisions of the PSC Protocol; also encourages the Commission and the PSC to continue to support as appropriate the process aimed at normalizing the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea and promoting good neighbourliness between the two countries; and reiterates its support for the proposed regional and holistic approach to the challenges of peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa, in line with its earlier decisions on the matter;

18. *Reiterates* the support of the AU to the national dialogue initiative in Sudan aimed at addressing in a holistic and inclusive fashion the multifaceted challenges confronting the country and, in this respect, calls on all Sudanese stakeholders to demonstrate the required political will and commitment; reiterates its full support to the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), commends its members for their untiring efforts and commitment and urges the Sudanese stakeholders to extend full cooperation to the Panel; and appeals to the international community to extend the necessary support, including the provision of economic and financial assistance and debt relief, to help stabilize the economy of the country;

19. *Expresses deep concern* at the prevailing situation in South Sudan, marked by continued conflict and a disastrous humanitarian situation; calls once again on the parties to demonstrate the necessary commitment to end the bloodshed in their country and respond to the aspirations of their people; reiterates the AU'S appreciation to the Intergovernmental Authorities on Development (IGAD) for its relentless efforts and commitment to the search for a lasting solution to the conflict and welcomes the establishment, by the PSC, of the AU High-Level ad hoc Committee and encourages it to take all necessary steps in order to enhance the IGAD-led mediation; expresses its determination to support the measures contemplated by the IGAD Summit of 7 November 2014 and requests the PSC to take the necessary follow-up action; and looks forward to the consideration in due course, by the PSC, of the report of the AU Commission of Inquiry established to investigate human rights violations committed in the course of the conflict in South Sudan and make recommendations on how best to promote accountability, healing and reconciliation;

20. *Encourages* Sudan and South Sudan to expedite their efforts towards the full implementation of the September 2012 Cooperation Agreement; appeals to the two countries to take the necessary steps to address the issue of Abyei, both through the effective implementation of the Temporary Arrangements and renewed efforts to resolve the issue of the final status of the area and commends the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) for its invaluable contribution to the stabilization of the Abyei Area; also appeals to the international community to extend the necessary support to the Joint Approach agreed upon by the two countries to address their socio-economic challenges; and commends the AUHIP for its tireless efforts, and encourages it to continue availing its support to Sudan and South Sudan;

21. *Expresses, once again, the AU's deep's concern* at the prevailing situation in Libya and its far-reaching consequences for the country, as well as for regional peace, security and stability; strongly condemns all acts of violence in Libya and reiterates the AU's conviction that there is no military solution to the current crisis; calls on the Libyan stakeholders to put the interest of their country above narrow partisan considerations and to work in earnest towards bringing the violence to an end and initiating a genuine national reconciliation process; expresses full support to the ongoing United Nations-led mediation efforts and welcomes the outcome of the first round of the United Nations facilitated dialogue held in Geneva, from 14 to 15 January 2015; and further welcomes the untiring efforts of the countries of the region, through the ministerial committee of Libya's neighbours, under the overall coordination of Algeria and Libya, encourages their continued involvement and, in this respect, looks forward to the early convening of the reconciliation conference being planned by Algeria;

22. *Reiterates* the United Nations Security Council's repeated calls to the parties to the conflict in Western Sahara, to continue negotiations without preconditions and in good faith, with a view to achieving a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and international legality. In this respect, expresses the AU's full support to the efforts of the United Nations Personal Envoy; and welcomes the steps taken by the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on the relevant decisions of the Executive Council, including the appointment of a Special Envoy and the consultations she undertook with relevant international partners, and requests her to pursue her efforts, notably through continued interaction with the United Nations and other key international stakeholders, in order to mobilize the necessary support to the United Nations-led efforts;

23. *Welcomes* the announcement by the United Nations Secretary-General in November 2014, of the establishment of a High-Level Panel to review United Nations peace operations. In this respect, requests the Commission to develop a common African position on the issue at hand, to be adopted by the PSC, prior to the discussions to take place within relevant United Nations organs, taking into account the need to further promote an innovative and forward looking partnership between the AU and the United Nations in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa; and looks forward to the interaction between the AU and the Panel scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa from 9 to 13 February 2015, and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to provide an update on this issue in June 2015;

24. *Recalls once again* the urgency and imperative of mobilization of increased resources at the continental level, commensurate with the challenges, to help finance the AU Peace and Security Agenda stresses that the ownership and leadership of the peace efforts to which the continent and its people so legitimately aspire cannot be achieved as long as the bulk of the financial burden relating thereto is supported by international partners;

25. *Strongly condemns* the armed terrorist attacks on the State House of Gambia on 30 December 2014 and reaffirms the AU's rejection of all forms of violent attempts at coming to power through unconstitutional means or the use of force; and expresses its solidarity with the Government and people of Gambia;

26. *Strongly condemns* the attack conducted on 30 December 2014 by armed elements in Burundi in order to disturb peace and security in the election process and recalls the AU statement on Burundi supporting the organization of the upcoming elections in a fair, free and transparent manner;

27. *Decides* to name the new Peace and Security Building after "Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

Assembly/AU/Dec.560 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Report of the High-Level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
2. *Commends* the Heads of State and Government serving on the HLC for their commitment, dedication and leadership in facilitating evidence generation, advocacy, negotiation and mobilization activities to articulate Africa's input into the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
3. *Acknowledges* that negotiations by the global community has entered a critical phase and that continued strategic engagement is necessary to facilitate the evolution of a Post-2015 Development Agenda that is compatible with Africa's development objectives;
4. *Supports* the decision to use the proposal from the OWG on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the main basis for negotiations as it captures the essential elements of the Common African Position (CAP) priorities and should not be reopened for further discussion;
5. *Endorses* the formation and the terms of reference of the African Group of negotiators on the Post-2015 Development Agenda which shall be the single negotiating body acting on behalf of the continent;
6. *Reaffirms* that the CAP remains the sole negotiating document for Africa and calls upon all African Member States to adhere to its provisions during all negotiations relating to the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
7. *Requests* the HLC to ensure Africa's participation in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015 as informed by the outcomes of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development (STC) and calls upon all Member States to participate at the highest possible level to ensure that Africa's voice is heard;
8. *Reaffirms* full support to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and commends this sister country for the ongoing preparations towards the successful hosting of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Africa for the first time;
9. *Recommends* the convening of a special session of the HLC during the next summit for stocktaking and to provide strategic guidance to deepen Africa's political leadership and stakeholder engagement to ensure both the financing for development and the Post-2015 Development Agenda outcomes reflect Africa's priorities;
10. *Requests* the HLC to report to the June 2015 Assembly on the progress of negotiations.

Assembly/AU/Dec.561 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Report on Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report and expresses its appreciation for the efforts put in by the Conference of the AU Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF), the Ministerial Working Group of the CAMEF and the Commission, working in close collaboration with the UNECA, towards the implementation of the pertinent decisions of the Assembly on the issue; and, in this regard, agrees on the urgent need to find a solution to this long-standing issue;
2. *Stresses* the critical need to ensure that the AU becomes financially autonomous;
3. *Urges* all Member States that have not yet done so, to honour as soon as possible their contributions and arrears to the Union;

4. *Reaffirms* the principle of alternative sources of financing the Union by its Member States, provided that Member States are given the flexibility of its implementation, in accordance with their national imperatives, laws and regulations and constitutional provisions as appropriate;
5. *Requests* the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Scale of Assessment to pursue consultations in an open-ended manner, with a view to proposing modalities for the implementation of the alternative sources of financing the Union by Member States with particular emphasis on:
 - (i) The determination of an appropriate scale of assessment for contribution so that the AU can take charge of its budget in line with the following principles:
 - (a) Member States to fund the operational budget at 100 per cent;
 - (b) Member States to fund the programme budget at 75 per cent;
 - (c) Member States to fund the peace support operations budget at 25 per cent;
 - (ii) Proposing a non-exhaustive and non-binding basket of options, at the national, regional and continental levels, by building on the reports of H.E. President Obasanjo and the ministerial Working Group of the CAMEF from which Member States may choose from, in view of the implementation of the alternative sources of financing the African Union, on the understanding that Member States preserve their sovereign rights of adding new options/measures deemed convenient to them; and
 - (iii) Devising an accountability mechanism to ensure sound, effective and efficient financial management of the Union's budget;
6. *Requests* the Commission to provide all necessary assistance and resources to facilitate the discussions on the above;
7. *Requests* the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Scale of Assessment to submit its report on the matter at the June 2015 Summit.¹

Assembly/AU/Dec.562 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Date and Venue of the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of
the Assembly of the African Union in June 2015**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the communication by the Republic of Chad on the withdrawal of its offer to host the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in June 2015;
2. *Welcomes and expresses its high appreciation* to the Republic of South Africa for its offer to host that session;
3. *Accepts* the offer of the Republic of South Africa to host the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in June 2015 to be held as follows:
 - (i) Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 8 to 9 June 2015;
 - (ii) Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 11 to 12 June 2015;

¹ Reservation by the Republic of Tunisia on paragraph 7.

(iii) Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 14 to 15 June 2015;

4. *Requests* the Commission in close consultation with the Republic of South Africa to make all the necessary arrangements for the holding of that session and communicate the venue to the Member States as soon as possible.

Assembly/AU/Dec.563 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Thirty-second Session of the HSGOC;

3. *Reiterates* that NEPAD represents the inclusive ownership of Africa's development programmes which attract international recognition and serves as a robust model of implementation in solving Africa's multi-dimensional challenges;

4. *Appreciates and endorses* the NPCA Results-based Performance Report for January-December 2014 on the status of NEPAD programmes being implemented towards achieving integrated and inclusive impact in the context of reinforcing regional integration; and encourages the continued sharing of lessons and experiences on NEPAD implementation among NPCA, NEPAD national offices, RECs and partners under the auspices of the NEPAD Coordinating Structures and Focal Points Platform;

5. *Specifically notes* the elaboration of the Malabo CAADP Implementation Strategy and Road Map (IS&R) to translate the 2025 vision and goals of the Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation into concrete results and impact in response to Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII) of June 2014; and requests the NPCA to develop a coherent Programme of Work to operationalize the IS&R and monitor implementation performance based on the CAADP Results Framework, with emphasis on enhanced support to small-holder farmers, women, youth and promoting inclusive agricultural value-chains, preference for regional markets and strengthening natural resources governance;

6. *Calls on* the NPCA to accord greater importance to Africa's structural economic transformation by building knowledge and extend technical support to Member States to appropriately put in place robust planning and evidence-based analytical capacity in African institutions to foster spatial inclusion and economic growth;

7. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.540 (XXIII) and welcomes the set-up of the NEPAD Climate Change Fund as an innovative mechanism to accelerate action in support of Member States to build resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change; and further requests the NPCA to mobilize new and additional resources towards converting the existing fund into a multi-partner pool fund;

8. *Noting* Document Assembly/AU/2 (XXIII) which reaffirmed support for the Abuja Declaration on Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa, also welcomes the Women in Agribusiness Platform convened by the NPCA in Durban, South Africa, in October 2014, and urges the NPCA to support the continued sharing of experiences and the capacity-building efforts among African women agricultural entrepreneurs;

9. In implementing the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA): 2014-2024, commends the programmatic efforts of the NPCA to increase technical support for health research as means of

addressing the continent's health challenges and help in translating the political commitments made by African leaders into transformative approaches for effective healthcare delivery;

10. *Accordingly requests* the NPCA in partnership with the African Academy of Sciences to establish and operationalize the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA) as a platform to stimulate breakthrough innovations in health to improve the livelihoods of marginalized and stigmatized communities; and calls upon Member States, regional and global partners as well as private foundations to support the Alliance in order to strengthen health research and innovation in Africa;

11. *Notes* the contributions of the NPCA to combating the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in collaboration with the AUC and directs the NPCA to support the acceleration of the evaluation of promising treatment options and vaccine candidates against EVD based on the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) Initiative as a platform for establishing regional expert working groups on clinical trials using Ebola vaccines and other therapies as a pathfinder for scaling up regulatory oversight capacity to cover the current and future public health threats;

12. *Commends* the efforts of the RECs, NPCA and AUC in partnership with UNDP, UNECA and ACBF under the AU Multi-Agency Capacity Development Programme for RECs (M-CDP) to advance coherence and coordination in enhancing results-oriented capacities of RECs towards accelerating regional integration in Africa;

13. *Welcomes and endorses* the AU RECs Capacity Development Implementation Plan: 2015-2025 based on the NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) resulting from the scoping and capacity needs assessment exercise in the eight AU RECs; reaffirms the important alignment of the Implementation Plan with the RECs Medium Term Strategic Plans, Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; and mandates the NPCA, AUC and the RECs in conjunction with the UNDP, UNECA, ACBF and potential M-CDP partners to roll out the Implementation Plan to realize the institutional effectiveness of RECs and the prompt coherent delivery of regional programmes and projects;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the impressive progress recorded under the Dakar Agenda for Action and the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI); and gratefully notes the report presented by H.E. Jacob G. ZUMA, President of the Republic of South Africa and the Chairperson of the HSGOC PICI High-Level Sub Committee, including the key outcomes of the PICI Ministerial and Technical meetings hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa in Pretoria in January 2015;

15. In the context of PICI, highlights the successful completion of the East African Community Regional ICT project and the launch of the construction of the missing link of the Trans-Saharan Highway in November 2014; agrees to include new high-impact energy projects in the PICI portfolio and adopts the manufacturing of rail rolling stock to be championed by the Republic of South Africa to support the deepened drive towards industrialization and the Lamu Port, South Sudan, Ethiopian Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor to be championed by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya;

16. *Equally recognizes* the progress made under the SMART Africa championed by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, within the framework of PICI; welcomes the One Africa Network Initiative aimed at reducing the costs of electronic communications within regions and ultimately across the continent; and in this respect, recommends Member States to adopt and roll out this initiative in furtherance of Africa's socio-economic integration;

17. *Highly commends* H.E. Jacob G. Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, and Champion Leaders for their firm commitment in promoting PICI projects as well as the NPCA, AUC, AfDB, ECA and RECs for their technical support to the initiative;

18. *Endorses* in the context of the Dakar Agenda for Action, the PIDA Implementation Acceleration Strategy (PAS) and the PIDA Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM) developed by the NPCA and AUC in conjunction with AfDB, ECA, and RECs to implement the Dakar Agenda for Action, focusing on early infrastructure project preparation and

increased bankability of the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PAP): 2020 projects; and also notes the Infrastructure Skills for Development (IS4D) Initiative to enhance the capacity of the RECs and relevant agencies for the implementation of PIDA projects;

19. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.540 (XXIII) validating the findings of the NEPAD-ECA Study on Domestic Resource Mobilization and the related outcomes of the Dakar Financing Summit; requests the NPCA, ECA, RECs and relevant organizations to develop a common regional framework for the harmonization of policies, laws and regulations to enhance private sector financing specific to the 16 identified PIDA projects; and directs the NPCA to submit the proposed framework to the HSGOC by January 2016 for consideration;

20. *Welcomes* the finalization of the Africa Power Vision (APV): From Vision to Action with its Implementation Plan by the NPCA, AUC, UNECA and the Government of Nigeria through the United States of America Power Africa initiative, as a continental vehicle to advance Africa's position on increased access to clean, reliable and affordable energy sources and promote national and regional energy impact based on the PIDA PAP; and urges the NPCA to mobilize political support, project bankability, financial closure and overall implementation for the APV prioritized projects;

21. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.540 (XXIII) approving the set-up of the Africa Global Partnership Platform (AGPP) as the new umbrella formation and specially notes the demarche through formal invitations to the Heads of State and Government of potential AGPP partner countries under the direction of H.E. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal and HSGOC Chairperson, to advance the effective take-off of the Platform;

22. *Appreciates* the growing positive response of partner countries for the AGPP and the joint efforts to convene the Platform's First Plenary Session during 2015; and requests the NPCA, in consultation with the NEPAD Steering Committee, to develop a common position on Africa's outreach in 2015 within the context of the AGPP, based on stronger partnership with Germany and Turkey as the current G7 and G20 chairs, respectively;

23. *In this regard, commends* the Governments of Senegal, Mauritania and South Africa along with the NEPAD Steering Committee, NPCA CEO and AUC for their committed efforts on the Platform;

24. *Also notes* the main outcomes of the Brisbane G20 Summit in November 2014 and the Africa-NEPAD Week during the sixty-ninth United Nations General Assembly in October 2014, while reaffirming the renewed commitment to the shared principles of equality, transparency, mutual accountability and African ownership in promoting meaningful partnerships to realize the continent's development goals;

25. *Welcomes* the finalization of the NPCA Stakeholders and Partnership Strategy as an institutional framework to guide partnership building and resource mobilization for NEPAD programmes; approves the NEPAD Goodwill Ambassadors initiative as an integral part of the Strategy and notes the collaboration between the NPCA and Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF) on the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG); also refers to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.508 (XXII) and urges the NPCA to expedite the monitoring and evaluation of Africa's major partnerships and report to the HSGOC in due course;

26. *In recalling* the Rules of Procedure of the NEPAD governance structures adopted by Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.442 (XIX), reiterates the critical need to continue to promote inclusiveness and national ownership within the NEPAD process to fast track the implementation of NEPAD by Member States;

27. *In line with the said Rules of Procedure and after due consultations by the HSGOC Leaders, endorses* the re-election of H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, as HSGOC Chairperson, and H.E. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria, as Vice-Chairpersons for the second term of two years;

28. *Further endorses* the membership of the five initiating countries and the re-election of the 15 rotating HSGOC members by the Thirty-second HSGOC Session as follows:

Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
Cameroon	Ethiopia	Algeria	South Africa	Nigeria;
Chad	Rwanda	Egypt	Malawi	Senegal;
Congo (Republic)	Tanzania	Libya	Zambia	Benin;
Gabon	Uganda	Mauritania	Zimbabwe	Mali;

a. Note: *Sudan inclusive.

29. *Congratulates* the re-elected HSGOC Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and the Member States for their consistent political support and commitment in spearheading the strategic orientation towards consolidating the implementation of NEPAD;

30. *In general, extols* the enriched quality of the technical work of the NPCA under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki.

Assembly/AU/Dec.564 (XXIV)

Decision on the Fifteenth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council (Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XXIV))

The Assembly,

1. *Recalling* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.573 (XXIII), Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (IV), Assembly/AU/Dec.430 (XIX) and Assembly/AU/Dec.485 (XXI), takes note of the Fourteenth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;

2. *Also takes note* of the recent developments in the intergovernmental negotiation on the United Nations Security Council reform; including the high-level meetings of the Committee of Ten held in Nairobi on 17 November 2014;

3. *While taking note with appreciation* of the progress made so far in engaging Member States of the United Nations in garnering support for the Common African Position, commends the Committee of Ten for its commitment at the highest level in canvassing and promoting the Common African Position on United Nations Security Council reform and related matters;

4. *Reaffirms* its strong commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration containing the Common African Position;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Permanent Representatives of the African Union Member States to the United Nations in promoting and defending the continent's interest in the United Nations Security Council reform process and encourages the Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations to continue intensifying efforts towards building alliances in support of the Common African Position with diverse interest groups engaged in the intergovernmental negotiation and advance progress so made;

6. *Reiterates* its call for Africa to continue to speak with one voice and cohesively on all issues relating to the United Nations Security Council reform and related matters; and underscores the overriding need to ensure that the interest of Africa continues to be maintained and safeguarded at all times in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiation on Security Council reform;
7. *Further underscores* the need for the Committee of Ten to continue to intensify efforts in advocating, canvassing and promoting the Common African Position and to reach out at the highest political levels for the purpose of garnering and galvanizing the necessary political will in support thereof, and to continue holding high-level meetings outside the margins of the Summit of the African Union, with a view to further promoting the Common African Position and building on the gains made so far;
8. *Requests* the Commission to continue to facilitate the activities of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations in the intergovernmental negotiation on United Nations Security Council reform and related consultations thereon;
9. *Decides* to include an allocation in the Commission's regular budget for the purpose of funding the activities of the Committee of Ten from the general fund;
10. *Reiterates* its call that Member States of the African Union include the issue of the reform of the Security Council among the priorities of their foreign policy while engaging with non-African partners; in particular, to include in their statements at the United Nations General Assembly debate the need to redress the historical injustice the continent continues to suffer;
11. *Reiterates* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and requests the Committee to present a report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in June 2015.

Assembly/AU/Dec.565 (XXIV)

**Decision on the Report of the Commission on Development of the African Union Agenda 2063 and
the Report of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on the Bahr Dar Retreat
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note of:*
 - (i) The report of the Commission on the development of the African Union Agenda 2063, as well as the Agenda 2063 Framework Document; Agenda 2063 Popular Version; and the Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan;
 - (ii) The presentations of the report of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Agenda 2063;
2. *Once again welcomes* the consultative nature of the Agenda 2063 development process;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commission for the excellent work accomplished;
4. *Also expresses its high appreciation* to the Ministerial Follow-up Committee for its proactive work towards the smooth implementation of the Bahr Dar Ministerial Retreat conclusions of January 2014;
5. *Recalls* Decision EX.CL/Dec.832 (XXV) taken at the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, requesting Member States to conduct national consultations on

the Agenda 2063 Framework Document and Popular Version, and to provide inputs to the Commission by 31 October 2014, as well as Decision EX.CL/855 (XXVI) adopted at the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2015;

6. *Adopts* the Agenda 2063 Framework Document and Popular Version;

7. *Requests*:

- (i) The Commission to intensify measures aimed at popularizing the fifty-year continental agenda;
- (ii) Member States and the RECs to accelerate the domestication of Agenda 2063 and integrating it into their respective development initiatives and plans;
- (iii) The Commission to finalize all necessary consultations on the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 with a view to submitting it at the June 2015 meetings of the AU policy organs;

8. *Takes note* of the commendable progress made in the formulation and development of the following Agenda 2063 flagship projects and promoting reconciliation in Africa:

- (i) Integrated High Speed Train Network;
- (ii) Great Inga Dam;
- (iii) Single African Aviation Market;
- (iv) Outer Space;
- (v) The Pan-African E-Network;
- (vi) Creation of an Annual African Consultative Platform;
- (vii) Establishment of the Virtual University;
- (viii) Free Movement of Persons and the African Passport;
- (ix) The Continental Free Trade Area;
- (x) Silencing the Guns by 2020;
- (xi) Development of a Commodity Strategy;
- (xii) Establishment of the Continental Financial Institutions, including the African Central Bank by 2030;

9. *Requests* the Commission to:

- (i) Present detailed road maps for the implementation of each of the flagship projects for consideration by the AU policy organs in June 2015;
- (ii) Ensure that the issues and concerns of African island and landlocked States are adequately mainstreamed into all continental frameworks for political, social, cultural and economic development, including the addition of a representative of island States to the Bahr Dar Ministerial Follow-up Committee;

(iii) Facilitate access to funds required by island States, including under the Agenda 2063 Resource Mobilization Strategy, as well as climate funds by 2020;

10. *Authorizes* the convening of a ministerial retreat as proposed by the Commission and the Ministerial Follow-up Committee in between the two summits to brainstorm on the draft First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 as well as other relevant issues including all flagship projects, and those pertaining to agricultural transformation and eradication of poverty, so as to report at the next summit in June 2015. In the same vein, requests the Commission to pursue consultations with the RECs and other stakeholders so as to gather all contributions from all concerned partners in this process;

11. *Underscores* the need to undertake the restructuring of the Commission to enable it to carry out the critical mandate linked with the implementation of Agenda 2063 with requisite human and financial resources and institutional capacity. In this regard, calls upon the Commission to pursue its efforts in ensuring prudent management of its financial resources and on Member States to fulfil their financial obligations to the AU and calls on partners to release the pledged funds in a timely manner to enable the AU to carry out its programmes in a predictable and sustainable manner. In the interim, requests the Commission to establish a temporary structure to oversee the conclusion of the First Ten-Year Plan, and coordinate finalization of the identified fast-track projects;

12. *Also calls upon* Member States to take necessary measures for the effective implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Air Transport Markets in Africa and adopt its regulatory texts in this respect;

13. *Underscores* the need for the continent to fully integrate the Blue Ocean Economy and its great opportunities within the framework of Agenda 2063 through development of requisite expertise;

14. *Stresses*, at the continental and regional levels, the need to ensure smooth division of labour on the basis of the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity among all stakeholders, particularly the AUC, the RECs and the NPCA in Agenda 2063;

15. *Takes note* of the budgetary requirement of the Pan-African E-Network amounting to US\$ 230,000.00 and authorizes the Commission to mobilize resources in this regard;

16. *Also takes note* of the offer by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the proposed African Space Agency after the conclusion of the draft space policy that is being developed by the AU Space Working Group as articulated in AU Agenda 2063.

Assembly/AU/Dec.566 (XXIV)

Decision on the Composition of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union for 2015

The Assembly,

1. *Elects* members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union for 2015 as follows:

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (i) | Chairperson: | Zimbabwe; |
| (ii) | First Vice-Chairperson: | Democratic Republic of Congo; |
| (iii) | Second Vice-Chairperson: | Niger; |
| (iv) | Third Vice-Chairperson: | Kenya; |
| (v) | Rapporteur: | Mauritania; |

2. *Also elects* the following Member States as members of the Drafting Committee from the five regions:

- (i) Central Africa: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea;
- (ii) East Africa: Eritrea, South Sudan and Uganda;
- (iii) North Africa: Algeria and Egypt;
- (iv) Southern Africa: Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland;
- (v) West Africa: Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Togo.

Assembly/AU/Dec.567 (XXIV)

Decision on the Streamlining of the Summits

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Malabo Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.542 (XXIII) on the official opening of the ordinary sessions of the Assembly adopted in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014;
2. *Stresses* the need to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of summits and maximize the use of time and resources;
3. *Requests* the Commission to make proposals on the streamlining of AU summits, including but not limited to:
 - (i) The number of invitees;
 - (ii) The length of agenda and opening ceremony;
 - (iii) The number of decisions and parallel events;
 - (iv) The methods of work as well as the Rules of Procedure;
4. *Requests* the Executive Council to consider proposals from the Commission during their retreat and make appropriate recommendations to the June 2015 Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.568 (XXIV)

Decision on the Democratic Transition in Tunisia

The Assembly,

1. *Congratulates* Tunisia on the successful democratic transition crowned by the progress of the legislative and presidential elections in a conducive environment and considers the success of the Tunisian experience as a possible model for the democratization process in Africa;
2. *Notes with satisfaction* the enabling climate that favoured the holding of transparent, peaceful and credible elections and encourages the Tunisian stakeholders to maintain the momentum of the democratization process which will enable them to address the challenges of the new phase;

3. *Congratulates* the Tunisian people for fully participating in the recently concluded presidential and legislative elections which will strengthen the democratic process in their country;
4. *Encourages* the Tunisians to continue the practice of inclusive and consensual politics which is one of the preconditions for representative and participatory democracy at this critical juncture in the history of their country;
5. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the African Union Commission throughout the transition process in Tunisia and encourages the Commission to continue supporting democratization processes;
6. *Reiterates* its unwavering solidarity and support to Tunisia in its efforts to nurture and consolidate democratic and participatory governance under conditions of peace, security and political stability all of which are critical for development and prosperity.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIV)

**Declaration on the Establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market
(Doc. EX.CL/871 (XXVI))**

We, the African Heads of State and Government, meeting in, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 and 31 January 2014, on the occasion of the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly,

Considering:

- (i) The Constitutive Act of the African Union, adopted on 11 July 2000 in Lomé, Togo, in particular Articles 14, 15 and 16, which entrust the African Union Commission with a coordination mission in the Transport, Communication and Tourism sectors,
- (ii) The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991,
- (iii) The Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVIII) of the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2012, which adopted the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) as the single policy and strategic framework for the development of infrastructure in Africa,
- (iv) The Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.826 (XXV) endorsing the report of the Third Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport (CAMT),
- (v) The Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.821 (XXV) placing the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Air Transport Markets in Africa, i.e. the establishment of a single African aviation market, in the context of the African Agenda 2063,

Mindful of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII) adopted by the Assembly during its Eighteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 and 30 January 2012 on Boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the Continental Free Trade Area,

Concerned by the slow pace in implementing the Yamoussoukro Decision on the liberalization of air transport markets in Africa,

Aware of the political will shown by a number of States in spearheading the liberalization of the air transport markets throughout the continent and the need to encourage others to follow suit,

Declare to:

1. *Ensure* the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market for African airlines by 1 January 2017;
2. *Support* the initiative of Championing States to open their respective air transport markets immediately and without conditions;
3. *Develop* binding guidelines for negotiation of air services agreements between African States and third parties;
4. *Encourage* African airlines to enter into cooperation agreements among themselves;
5. *Accelerate* the ratification of the Constitution of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC);
6. *Eliminate* all obstacles that may hinder the achievement of the objectives of the AU Agenda 2063 on boosting intra-African trade and fast tracking the Continental Free Trade Area as regard to the air transport industry;
7. *Provide* resources to AFCAC to adequately carry out its activities as a specialized agency on aviation matters and as an executing agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision;
8. *Promote* the development of regional and continental aviation infrastructure and services in a holistic manner based on the policies and programmes of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
9. *Facilitate* air connectivity by implementing the regulatory texts of the Yamoussoukro Declaration;
10. *Harmonize* legislation, promote free movement, remove all barriers and improve safety and security in air transport operations;
11. *Encourage* the establishment of regional safety and security oversight, strengthen search and rescue as well as accident investigation organizations;
12. *Integrate* in all national civil aviation programmes activities to combat and prevent pandemics;
13. *Take specific measures* to ensure the sustainable financing and appropriate management of the air transport subsector and to create enabling conditions for national and foreign private investments;
14. *Ratify and speed up* the implementation of international conventions relating to aviation safety, security and the protection of the environment as well as regional agreements on market access, facilitation of transport of passengers and cargo by air;
15. *Promote and facilitate* establishment of regional training institutions for technical and professional staff in the different civil aviation;
16. *Pursue* the creation of a human resources development fund for the civil aviation sector in Africa on the basis of the joint endeavour between AFCAC and ICAO;
17. *Promote* research and development programmes for aviation infrastructure and air transport services in Africa;
18. *Ensure* that Member States of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities strengthen inter-African and continental cooperation in the air transport subsector; and

19. *Call upon* the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the European Union, the World Bank and other development partners to support the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market under the AU Agenda 2063.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXIV)

**Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXIV))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2015,

Taking note of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine, and recalling all resolutions and decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East,

Reiterating our full support to the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle against Israeli occupation, under the leadership of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming our support for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all United Nations relevant resolutions, which guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the borders of June 1967, and its capital, East Jerusalem,

Further reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own Palestinian independent State, and supporting full membership of the State of Palestine at the United Nations and in the international agencies and accession to international conventions and protocols,

Welcoming the Decision of the Swedish National Assembly, Spanish Parliament, the British House of Commons and the French National Assembly to recognize the independent State of Palestine,

Commending the efforts exerted by President Mahmoud Abbas to achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and supports his efforts in achieving the Palestinian reconciliation,

Condemning all Israeli measures on the city of Jerusalem, through the policy of Judaization, the demolition of houses, the expulsion and destruction of historic monuments of the Islamic and Christian holy sites and the expansion of settlements in the city,

Further condemning Israel for withholding Palestinian funds, which constitute a cornerstone of the Palestinian economy, and calling on the international community to put pressure on Israel to release withheld Palestinian tax funds,

Hereby:

1. *Call upon* the international community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities, release Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, and demand that Israel refrains from arbitrary arrests of Palestinians including children and women, which is a violation of international law and human rights norms including the Geneva Convention on the rights of women and children;
2. *Further call upon* the international community to exert pressure on Israel to lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip, open the crossings, and allow the construction of the seaport and the rebuilding of the airport and the entry of building materials to restore what has been destroyed by the recent Israeli war on the Gaza Strip;
3. *Request* the United Nations and the Quartet to shoulder their responsibilities and put pressure on Israel to commit to the process of serious peace negotiations;

4. *Urge* the United Nations Security Council to discharge its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security, and to take the necessary steps to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on the principle of two-State solution, according to the 1967 borders, and apply the provisions of relevant international law and previous decisions of the United Nations Security Council in this regard;

5. *Reiterate* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, demands a full withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories to the line of June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still occupied in southern Lebanon.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXIV)

**Declaration of Support to the Countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
and Benin in the Fight against Boko Haram
(Doc. Assembly/AU/19 (XXIV) Add.7)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting in our Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 and 31 January 2015,

Reaffirming the aspirations of all Africans to peaceful coexistence and the spirit of Pan-Africanism, as enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union,

Recalling the relevant sections of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.536 (XXIII), adopted at the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of our Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014, and the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa issued at the end of its meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2014,

Recalling also the conclusions of the 436th meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 23 May 2014 and its 469th meeting held on 25 November 2014 on the fight against Boko Haram, particularly the recognition of the progress made towards coordinated and collective efforts against terrorism and transnational organized crime within the framework of the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in the Sahel-Saharan region,

Welcoming the conclusions of the Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), comprising Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad, as well as Benin held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 7 October 2014, with focus on assessment of the security situation and the common strategy to adopt in the immediate term as part of measures to combat the terrorist group Boko Haram in the region,

In solidarity with LCBC Member States and Benin in their determination to strengthen their operational and intelligence capacities, and the coordination of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in Lake Chad Basin, as expressed at the Forty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held on 15 December 2014,

Approving the engagement of LCBC Member States and Benin for a common and coordinated response to the security challenges posed by Boko Haram in Nigeria and in neighbouring States,

1. *Appeal* to all Member States of the Union and other international players, including the United Nations, to support the efforts being exerted by LCBC Member States and Benin to establish an appropriate legal framework to govern cross-border military operations against Boko Haram;

2. *Invite* Member States of the African Union (AU), particularly African members of the United Nations Security Council, to back the adoption of relevant resolutions on the decision of Heads of State and Government of

the Lake Chad Basin Commission to support the Multinational Joint Task Force for the conduct of cross-border military operations against Boko Haram.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXIII)

Special Declaration Acknowledging the Role of African Volunteers in the Fight against Ebola

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2015,

1. *Express deep concern* about the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), the number of deaths and its socio-economic impact on the continent;
2. *Also express concern* about the particular impact of the EVD outbreak on women and children;
3. *Express our profound appreciation* for the Commission and its Chairperson for the invaluable efforts deployed to tackle the grave Ebola crisis in the West Africa region, particularly with the establishment of ASEOWA and the subsequent deployment of numerous spontaneous health volunteers from several African countries in aid of the Member States affected by Ebola;
4. *Note with satisfaction* the presence of numerous young spontaneous volunteers who responded to the African Union Commission's call to join in the ASEOWA mission;
5. *Also note with satisfaction* the contributions of ASEOWA, which has made a significant difference in the ongoing fight against Ebola;
6. *Commend and express profound appreciation* for the young people of the continent who put their lives at risk and answered the Commission's call for medical volunteers to assist the affected countries;
7. *Hail* the spirit of sacrifice of all the health professionals, especially those from Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria who have lost their lives in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease;
8. *Request* the Commission, together with the partners and civil society organizations, to build a database of all health workers who lost their lives for the purpose of honouring them after the epidemic is declared over;
9. *Also request* the Commission to put in place a mechanism for honouring all ASEOWA volunteers and personnel who have served creditably;
10. *Further request* the Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of this Declaration at our Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session in January 2016;
11. *Decide* that the Global Conference on Ebola will be held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in 2015.

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXIII)

**Special Declaration on Illicit Financial Flows
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XXIV))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2015,

Recognizing the Conference of Ministers Resolution 886 (XLIV) which established the high-level panel on illicit financial flows from Africa,

Concerned with the increasing scale and extent of illicit financial flows from Africa, particularly from our extractive industries and natural resources which constitute a drain on the resources required for Africa's development. Whereby, it is estimated that Africa has lost up to US\$ 1.8 trillion between 1970 to 2008 and continues to lose extensive finances estimated at up to US\$ 150 billion annually through illicit financial flows (IFF) or "illicit capital flight" mainly through tax evasion, mispricing of trade and services by multinational companies,

Aware that the problem of illicit financial flows is exacerbated by corrupt tendencies of government agencies, lack of or weak African institutions both at the national and continental levels in all sectors, governance challenges, political instability and conflicts, weak tax administration, and lack of capacity to monitor and curb such criminal activities among others,

Realizing the growing need for domestic resource mobilization for the attainment of our continental development visions and goals, particularly Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which both call for inclusive growth, sustainable development and social and economic structural transformation of Africa through optimal utilization of our natural resource endowments,

Conscious that the amount of illicit financial flows from Africa is greater than the inflow of Overseas Development Assistance,

Convinced that curtailing illicit financial flows through, inter alia, institutionalizing prudent legal and regulatory regimes, including fiscal policies that disallow financial secrecy, fight corruption, institute and/or strengthen African institutions, build African Member States capacity for contract negotiation, tax administration and identify and return the resources lost through illicit financial flows, can greatly contribute to the alternative sources of financing Africa's development agenda,

Further convinced that the time is now for Africa's renaissance, for the continent to regain ownership of its natural resources and to implement sound, prudent management and good governance, with a view to optimizing the benefits derivable from its natural resources, in particular extractive sectors and mineral resources, for present and future generations while limiting negative environmental and macroeconomic impacts,

Noting the diligence manifested and extensive amount of work undertaken by the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, involving extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders in Africa and partners in the United States of America and Europe,

Acknowledging the report of the High-Level Panel, and taking note of its findings and recommendations,

Expressing appreciation to the chair H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa, and members of the High-Level Panel for the rigorous and comprehensive report produced,

Further expressing appreciation to African governments and organizations and to Africa's partners and development agencies for their overwhelming support for the work of the Panel,

We hereby:

1. *Endorse* the findings and recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa;
2. *Declare* our commitment to end the chronic illicit financial flows from Africa which is a huge hindrance to the sustainable social and economic development of our continent;
3. *Resolve* to ensure that all the financial resources lost through illicit capital flight and illicit financial flows are identified and returned to Africa to finance the continent's development agenda. In this regard, direct the AUC, supported by Member States, to mount a diplomatic and media campaign for the return of illicitly outflow assets;

4. *Further declare* our commitment to adopt and implement the findings and recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and, in this connection, we request the Commission, in collaboration the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the RECs, to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Panel report and submit progress reports on the achievements to the Assembly annually;
5. *Call upon* the international community to adopt and implement the findings and recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa;
6. *Direct* the Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank, to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the Panel and undertake further research and capacity-development activities in this regard within the continent and at the global level;
7. *Request* the continued engagement of the chair H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa, and the Panel in carrying out advocacy work to disseminate the Panel's findings and to galvanize support from a broad coalition of partners, including civil society and the private sector, to implement the Panel's recommendations;
8. *Further request* the Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Capacity-Building Foundation and other development partners to build capacities of African Union Member States and institutions, particularly in contract negotiation, tax management, regulatory and legal frameworks, policies, money laundering, asset recovery and repatriation, and resource governance for effective and optimal management and governance of our natural resources;
9. *Express* the need to ensure that illicit financial flows and their impact on domestic resources mobilization is given the necessary attention by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and in this regard, stress the need for robust international cooperation to address the problem.

Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (XXIII)

**Declaration on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/20 (XXIV))**

The Assembly,

Recalling the objectives of the Constitutive Act of the African Union as well as the vision and mission of the African Union, the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Africa and the AU Agenda 2063,

Recalling all relevant declarations, decisions and policy guidelines that we adopted in the area of poverty eradication and political and socio-economic development since 2004, in particular instruments such as the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (2006), the Social Policy Framework for Africa (2008), the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy-PCRD (2006), the African Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018, the African Women Decade 2010-2020, the African Charter on Statistics (2009), the Productivity Agenda for Africa (2010), the Yaoundé Declaration on Social Protection (2010), the Social Protection Plan for the Informal Economy and Rural Workers-SPIREWORK (2011), the Malabo Declaration on Creating Employment for Accelerating Youth Development and Empowerment (2011), the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) (2008), and the Labour Market Information Harmonization and Coordination Framework (2012),

Recognizing that the last two decades Africa experienced sustainable and high growth rates that did not translate into proportionate job creation, thereby contributing to significantly reduce unemployment, underemployment and poverty,

Acknowledging that high political engagement in some countries complemented by increased commitment of international partners, social partners and other non-State actors, has yielded significant progress in the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Agenda, while recognizing the imperative to scale up the political leadership and commitment,

Affirming the private sector as the engine for jobs and wealth creation, and mindful that productive investment, micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs), the rural sector and the social economy are the main sources to create jobs,

Noting with concern the very high level of structural underemployment associated with limited social protection coverage, low productivity and income generating capacity and poor occupational health and safety conditions which affect particularly women and youth in the informal economy and rural sectors, and the most vulnerable groups, people living with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities,

Noting with concern that the high levels of unemployment, underemployment and poverty are among the principal factors fuelling conflict and civil strife on the continent,

Noting with concern the inadequate appropriate legal and policy measures to protect workers from unacceptable forms of work in compliance with relevant legal instruments to promote fundamental principles and rights,

Noting with concern discrimination against women as well as the inadequacy of legal and institutional arrangements to cater for their work and life responsibilities; while appreciating the increase of their participation in the labour market,

Noting with concern the insufficient appropriate internal budgetary resources allocation for the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development,

Conscious that the acceleration of widespread labour migration within Africa contributes to development and poverty eradication,

Conscious of the importance of beneficiation from the continent's endowed natural and human resources which open up sustainable development opportunities,

Having taken cognizance of the assessment of the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation and after having drawn the lessons,

Do hereby solemnly:

1. *Reaffirm* our determination to place employment creation as an explicit and central objective of our economic and social policies at the national, regional and continental levels, with a view to improving the living conditions of our people;
2. *Reaffirm* our determination to reduce unemployment in our countries, in particular of youth and women, by at least 2 per cent annually over the next decade; and also to halve the huge underemployment rate over the next decade;
3. *Reaffirm* our willingness to speed up transitioning of the informal economy to the formal economy and promote decent work in all economic activities sectors;
4. *Reaffirm* our determination to step up our regional cooperation for smooth labour migration on the continent, including through effective implementation of our treaties, charters, protocols and other relevant policy instruments in view of the free movement of people and workers while combatting its negative impact on human trafficking; we further reaffirm our resolution to enhance our cooperation with other regions of the world for

better and more responsible management of labour migration flows for mutual development benefits while emphasizing the importance of adequate protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families;

5. *Finally reaffirm* our determination to end the challenge of high levels of unemployment, underemployment and poverty, in particular among the youth and women, over the next decade, through a speedy, measurable and well- resourced implementation of the following key priority areas:

- (a) Political Leadership, Accountability and Good Governance;
- (b) Youth and Women Employment;
- (c) Social Protection and Productivity for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth;
- (d) Well-functioning and Inclusive Labour Market Institutions;
- (e) Labour Migration and Regional Economic Integration;
- (f) Partnership and Resource Mobilization.

To this end, we commit to:

6. *Effect* reforms at the national, regional and continental levels to address structural constraints in view of improving governance, in particular fighting against corruption, improving the TVET systems, and accelerating creation of sustainable enterprises;

7. *Take* urgent measures to improve the level of growth inclusiveness, productivity and competitiveness of our economies, targeting the SMEs, micro enterprises in the informal economy, and the rural sector;

8. *Enhance and develop* labour market institutions governance; and empower local collectivities to actively participate in local development, including local entrepreneurship;

9. *Implement* the relevant African and international instruments to protect all people in their relation to the labour market; and ensure equal opportunities and employment conditions for all, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized groups;

10. *Facilitate* effective and productive labour migration, free movement of workers to promote regional economic integration and cooperation;

11. *Increase* significantly and appropriately the budgetary resources allocated to employment policies financing and put employment among our development priorities with international partners in the true spirit of the Paris Declaration and Accra call for action;

12. *Implement* the commitments in the present Declaration, its Plan of Action and Follow-up Mechanisms, as well as adopt for implementation:

- (a) The Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration; and
- (b) The Public-Private Partnerships Framework for Jobs Creation and Inclusive Development annexed herewith.

To this effect, we:

13. *Shall include* employment creation, social protection and social security, social inclusion and poverty eradication as indicators in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and in the RECs' Macroeconomic Convergence Frameworks;
14. *Request* the Commission in collaboration with the AfDB, ILO, ECA, UNDP and other key international partners to develop a Five-Year Priority Programme to ensure the implementation of the Declaration, its Plan of Action and Follow-up Mechanism, the Labour Migration Governance Strategy with international partners and the Public-Private Partnerships Framework for Jobs Creation and Inclusive Development;
15. *Request* the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and international development partners, to consider the establishment of the Employment and Social Cohesion Fund as a financing mechanism for the Declaration and its Plan of Action;
16. *Encourage* the United Nations, international financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral institutions, regional and continental development banks to adopt policies in coherence with the present Declaration and its Plan of Action, including UNDAF processes and the Decent Work Country Programme at country level.

Assembly/AU/Decl.7 (XXIII)

Declaration on the Organization of the Crans Montana Forum in the Occupied City of Dakhla, Western Sahara

We, the Heads of States and Governments of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2015,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Executive Council to issue a declaration on the organization of the Crans Montana Forum in the occupied city of Dakhla, Western Sahara, from 12 to 14 March 2015,

Recalling all decisions and resolutions adopted by the OAU/AU and United Nations on the situation in Western Sahara,

Bearing in mind the efforts undertaken by the United Nations and the AU to achieve a just and lasting solution of the question of Western Sahara in accordance with the United Nations Charter and resolution 1514 adopted in 1960 related to decolonization,

Hereby:

1. *Reaffirm* Decision EX.CL/Dec.758 (XXII) endorsed by the Assembly of the Union which inter alia "Requests the Commission to take all the necessary measures for the organization of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in compliance with the relevant OAU/AU decisions and United Nations resolutions" and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.536 (XXIII) adopted by the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Malabo on June 2014;
2. *Express support* to the efforts made by the Chairperson of the AUC and the AU Special Envoy, the former President of Mozambique, H.E Joaquim Chissano, in coordination and complementarity with the efforts made by the Personal Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Western Sahara, H.E. Ambassador Christopher Ross;
3. *Consider* that the organization of any international conference in the current circumstances in Western Sahara is in contradiction with the efforts made by the international community to resolve the conflict in Western Sahara, and can only create an atmosphere of confrontation in the territory;
4. *Urge* the Swiss International Organization "Crans Montana" and all other organizers to cancel the meeting planned in the occupied city of Dakhla, Western Sahara, as it is a grave violation of international law;

5. *Call upon* the AU Member States, African civil society and all organizations not to participate in this forum, scheduled from 12 to 14 March 2015 in the occupied city of Dakhla, Western Sahara;
6. *Request* the Commission to take all necessary measures to ensure the follow-up of this declaration.²

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXIV)

Resolution on Debt Cancellation of the Countries Affected by the Ebola Virus Disease

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2015,

Recognizing that the Ebola virus is a global public health issue that threatens the entire planet and Africa in particular with regard to its human impact and consequences on the social and economic prospects of the continent, particularly for the three directly affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone),

Considering the negative impact of the epidemic on economic activities, foreign direct investment flows, tourism revenues, export earnings, tax revenues and macroeconomic stability,

1. *Aware* that the mechanisms of debt constitute an obstacle to the achievement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda expressed in our Common African Position with a view to building a democratic, peaceful and prosperous continent where growth is inclusive and sustainable for the benefit of our people;
2. *Express our profound solidarity* to the governments and people of countries hardly affected with regards to the deterioration of their economic, financial and social conditions;
3. *Reiterate* our call to bilateral and multilateral creditors for the complete and unconditional cancellation of the external debt that impedes the progress of affected countries towards an inclusive and sustainable growth trajectory in support of the effective expression of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural aspects of their people;
4. *Urge* the Commission to work closely with the concerned countries for a comprehensive assessment of their external debts in order to estimate its amount and identify their creditors;
5. *Urge* the Commission to set up a High-Level Contact Group composed of Member States, the Commission, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and to work closely with creditors for the negotiation of the terms of the debt cancellation in affected countries;
6. *Request* the High-Level Contact Group to submit its report in our Twenty-fifth Ordinary session;
7. *Decide* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Assembly/AU/Res.2 (XXIV)

Resolution on Recent Developments in Cuba-United States of America Relations

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the historic decision adopted to re-establish diplomatic relations between the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America;

² Reservations by Burundi, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea and Senegal.

2. *Calls for* the lifting of the long-standing and unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade on Cuba;
3. *Further urges* the President of the United States to take all the necessary measures within his wide executive powers to deal with all outstanding issues regarding the embargo.

Assembly/AU/Commitment (XXIV)

Solemn Commitment by African Union Member States to the Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the Establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market by 2017

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union (AU), meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 2015 to deliberate on the establishment of a single air transport market and commit on the modalities for the pursuit and acceleration of its implementation,

Considering the Constitutive Act of the African Union, adopted on 11 July 2000 in Lomé, Togo, in particular Articles 14, 15 and 16 which entrust the African Union Commission with a coordination mission in the transport, communication and tourism sectors,

Further considering the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty), in particular, Article 61 relating to the integration of air transport and Article 10 relating to the authority of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to adopt decisions,

Recognizing the relevance of the objective of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on a new African civil aviation policy adopted on 7 October 1988 whose primary purpose was to create a conducive environment for the development of intra-African and international air services,

Noting the Executive Council Decision Relating to the Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision Concerning the Liberalization of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa (the Yamoussoukro Decision) adopted by the Council Decision CM/2178 (LXX11) of 8 July 2000, as endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government by Decision AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (IV) of 12 July 2000 in Lomé, Togo, and which entered into force on 12 August 2000 calling for full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision within two years by 2002,

Recalling the African Ministers Responsible for Air Transport meeting in Sun City, South Africa, from 18 to 19 May 2005 expressing serious concerns about the delay in the implementation of the Decision, and taking note of progress some States have made in that regard, called for measures that will ensure effective implementation including the establishment of the African Air Transport Executing Agency (Executing Agency) provided for in the Yamoussoukro Decision under the auspices of the African Union,

Respectful of the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government during its Eighteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 and 30 January 2012 on Boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the Continental Free Trade Area,

Bearing in mind of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.821 (XXV) of 26 June 2014 placing the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Air Transport Markets in Africa and more particularly the establishment of a single African aviation market in the context of the African Agenda 2063,

Cognizant of the outcome of the Africa-wide meeting on air transport organized jointly by the AUC, AFCAC and AFRAA in Nairobi, from 29 to 31 October 2014 which completed the validation of the regulatory and institutional texts for the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and recognizing their endorsement by the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.857 (XXVI) of 28 January 2015,

Mindful of the globalization of the world economy and the need to create a conducive environment for the development and provision of safe, reliable and affordable air transport services necessary for the free movement of persons, goods and services in Africa,

Taking into account the importance of enhancing cooperation among African airlines in order to stimulate the development of inter-African air transport and the need to improve the quality of service to consumers through full liberalization of African air transport markets,

Recognizing the necessity to adopt measures with the aim of establishing a liberalized intra-African aviation market concerning the Single African Air Transport Market,

Convinced that, given the different levels of air transport development in Africa, it is necessary to endorse the Pretoria communiqué issued by the Ministerial Working Group on Air Transport on 21 January 2015 which will lead towards full continental open sky intra-African operations by Africa airlines in January 2017,

Determined to accelerate the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the liberalization of air transport markets in Africa,

Aware of the strong commitment already shown by a number of Member States in spearheading the liberalization of the air transport markets throughout the continent and encourage others to follow suit,

We hereby,

1. *Express our commitment* to the immediate implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market and open our air transport market to each other;
2. *Entrust* the AU Commission to coordinate and facilitate the process of operationalization of the Single Air Transport Market in Africa; and to report to the Conference of Ministers of Transport;
3. *Develop* regulatory frameworks to expedite the implementation of the single air transport market and engage all specialized institutions in the aviation sector to support Member States in this process;
4. *Report* to the Union on the progress made in the implementation and operationalization of the Single African Air Transport Market.

The following Member States hereby declare their solemn commitment to the immediate implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market by 2017. These Member States will be constituted as a working group at the ministerial level in order to achieve its goal and it will remain open to those that will join later.

List of Countries

1. Benin;
2. Cape Verde;
3. Congo Republic;
4. Côte d'Ivoire;
5. Egypt;
6. Ethiopia;

7. Kenya;
8. Nigeria;
9. Rwanda;
10. South Africa;
11. Zimbabwe.

TWENTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Johannesburg, South Africa
14 to 15 June 2015**

Assembly/AU/Dec.569 (XXV)

**Decision on the Launch of the Continental Free Trade Area Negotiations
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the Conference and adopts the following:
 - (i) The objectives and principles of negotiating the CFTA;
 - (ii) The indicative road map for the negotiation and establishment of the CFTA;
 - (iii) The terms of reference for the CFTA Negotiating Forum (CFTA-NF);
 - (iv) The institutional arrangements for the CFTA negotiation;
 - (v) The draft Declaration on the Launch of Negotiation for the Establishment of the CFTA;
2. *Expresses satisfaction* with the preparatory work done towards the launch of the negotiations for the Continental Free Trade Area and commits to negotiate a CFTA with significant benefits by building on the progress already achieved by the RECs;
3. *Launches* negotiations for the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area aimed at integrating Africa's markets in line with the objectives and principles enunciated in the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;
4. *Requests* the Continental Free Trade Area-Negotiating Forum (CFTA-NF) to organize its inaugural meeting in 2015 and to work towards concluding the negotiations by 2017;
5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and development partners to provide the necessary support to the Member States, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to ensure a timely conclusion of the negotiations;
6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the status of preparations for the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference 2015, and congratulates the Republic of Kenya for hosting this important Conference, and urges Member States to participate actively;
7. *Welcomes:*
 - (i) The briefing on progress made on AGOA as well as the initiative to hold in Gabon a ministerial meeting in preparation for the AGOA Forum;
 - (ii) The briefing on UNCTAD XIV due to be held in Lima, Peru, in March 2016. In this regard, congratulates H.E. Ms. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya, over her appointment by the UNCTAD General Council as Chair of the Tenth Ministerial Conference;
8. *Congratulates* the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) for the launching of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in June 2015 which is a great achievement towards continental integration to be emulated by other regions.

Assembly/AU/Dec.570 (XXV)

**Decision on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Outbreak
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Commission Progress Report on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak and notes that the EVD outbreak emergency is over and ASEOWA is preparing for the final exit by the end of its current mandate on 18 August 2015;
2. *Congratulates* the people and Government of Liberia on being declared Ebola free by the WHO on 9 May 2015;
3. *Expresses appreciation:*
 - (i) To all Member States that contributed volunteer health workers to ASEOWA and commends the Commission for putting in place adequate safety measures that ensured the safe return of all the volunteer health workers;
 - (ii) To Member States and partners that supported ASEOWA and the affected countries with financial and material resources;
4. *Invites* all Member States to participate at the highest level, in the International Conference on Africa's Fight against Ebola being organized under the theme: "Africa Helping Africa in the Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction", that will take place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 20 to 21 July 2015;
5. *Commends* the African private sector for their financial and material support and requests Member States to facilitate the continuation of the SMS initiative by granting required approval through their national regulatory authorities to the mobile network operators;
6. *Requests* the Commission:
 - (i) To undertake a comprehensive review of the Humanitarian Policy Framework in order to capture an expanded disaster management protocol that addresses the current gaps in the coordination of response to disasters and emergencies by the Commission and to submit to the January 2016 Summit;
 - (ii) In collaboration with Member States and development partners, to establish an African Volunteer Health Corps to be deployed during disease outbreaks and other health emergencies and to report regularly to the Assembly on progress made;
7. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter and requests the Commission to report on progress and the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council in January 2016.

Assembly/AU/Dec.571 (XXV)

**Decision on the Report of Aids Watch Africa (AWA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) and the recommendations contained therein; and the end of the term progress on the AU Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria;
2. *Commends* the concrete efforts provided by Member States, RECs, civil society, the private sector and international development partners in implementing the AU Road Map from 2012 to 2015 and decides to extend the AU Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria response in Africa from 2016 to 2020 to achieve full implementation;
3. *Requests* the Commission:
 - (i) Working with the NEPAD Agency, in consultation with Member States and development partners, to develop a “Catalytic Framework” detailing milestones towards ending the epidemics of AIDS, TB and malaria in line with the Abuja +12, 2030 target; and urges all actors to mobilize resources needed, leverage on treatment and embark on a fast-track comprehensive strategy to end AIDS, TB and malaria;
 - (ii) In consultation with Member States and partners, to develop accountability mechanisms with clear targets and indicators to monitor and measure priorities in the response to the three diseases;
4. *Appreciates* the progress recorded on access to medicine catalyzed by the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) framework in line with the AU Road Map Pillar II and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA); and urges the NEPAD Agency, RECs, Member States and other stakeholders to redouble their implementation efforts;
5. *Reaffirms* the commitment to strengthen health systems and to increase domestic funding in line with the Abuja 15 per cent target and reiterates the importance of continued accountability and judicious use of domestic and international resources;
6. *Calls upon* countries and development partners to contribute towards the Fifth Replenishment target of the Global Fund in order to control these three diseases and save lives;
7. *Urges* Member States to improve the integration of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and gender equality responses in the execution of large capital projects to leverage public and private sector partnerships to increase domestic financing as part of the innovative approaches for sustainable funding for health;
8. *Endorses* the report on eMTCT Best Practices in line with the Global Plan and the African Plan towards Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive; and urges Member States to take measures to accelerate the prevention and elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2030.

Assembly/AU/Dec.572 (XXV)

**Decision on Items Proposed by Member States
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XXV) Add.1 to 4)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the items proposed by Member States and stresses the need to strictly observe the rules of procedure regarding submission of items to AU policy organs;
- A. On the Naming of African Union Garden under the Name of Professor Wangari Maathai (Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XXV) Add.1)

2. *Recognizes* the importance of environmental conservation and protection, and the need to promote democracy and human rights, and appreciates the contribution made by the late Professor Wangari Maathai to the African continent and the whole world in supporting these endeavours;
3. *Endorses* the proposal by the Republic of Congo to name the AU Garden after Professor Wangari Maathai in appreciation by the African Union for her contribution to the African continent and the whole world;
4. *Requests* the Commission to work with the Republic of Congo to ensure the formal naming of the African Union Garden under the name of Professor Wangari Maathai by 2015;
- B. On the outcomes of the Dakar Summit on Higher Education (Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XXV) Add.2)
5. *Expresses its high appreciation* for the outcomes of the Dakar Summit on Higher Education, including the Declaration on Revitalization of Higher Education for Africa's future;
6. *Stresses* the importance of the revitalization of higher education and its role in the realization of the AU Agenda 2063;
7. *Requests:*
 - (i) The Commission to take the lead in building the African common space for higher education and research according to the AU Strategy for Harmonization of Higher Education, with a view to promoting intra-African academic networking and the mobility of teachers and students;
 - (ii) Member States:
 - (a) To strengthen their support and investment in higher education in order to develop a critical mass of high-level intellectual capital, and promote youth employability through entrepreneurship skills and innovation;
 - (b) To work towards the elimination of inequalities and the promotion of gender parity in higher education;
 - (c) To make use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in higher education to increase access to and promote quality in higher education;
 - (d) To align national education strategies with the African Union Post-2015 Strategy for Education in Africa;
8. *Commits* to the establishment of a team of ten Heads of State and Government (two from each geographic region) as African champions of education, science and technology, to meet and report on the status of education, science and technology in Africa to the AU Summit once a year;
9. *Endorses* H.E. President Macky Sall of Senegal as the first coordinator of the group champions;
- C. On the state of progress and accelerated implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.465 (XX) on the Establishment of the South-South and Triangular Coalition in support of the Africa Post-2015 Development Agenda (Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XXV) Add.3)
10. *Expresses its high appreciation* for the follow-up actions undertaken by Guinea in the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.465 (XX) on the establishment of the South-South and Triangular Coalition; and adopts the Concept Note and the new Road Map on its establishment;
11. *Requests* the Commission to organize, in collaboration with the ECA, UNDP, AfDB, World Bank and the European Union, the Conference of Partners of the Coalition before the end of December 2015;

D. On the Polio Eradication in Africa: “Our Historic Legacy to Future Generations” (Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XXV) Add.4)

12. *Expresses its high appreciation* to Nigeria for this worthy initiative and its great achievement in eradicating polio on its territory in 2014 in line with the relevant AU health policies;

13. *Encourages* all Member States to emulate the best experiences and practices in the eradication of polio on the continent as an important legacy to leave to Africa’s future generations. In this regard, calls on Member States to allocate adequate resources in the fight against polio.

Assembly/AU/Dec.573 (XXV)

**Decision on the High-Level Committee (HLC) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the progress made by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in New York;
2. *Emphasizes* that the post-2015 development agenda must be ambitious with adequate, predictable and timely means of implementation to respond to the level of ambition in achieving all the SDGs;
3. *Calls upon* the HLC to remain engaged in the intergovernmental negotiation processes, through the AGN, until their completion in September 2015;
4. *Reiterates* its call to Member States to participate, at the level of Heads of State and Government, in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), which will convene in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 16 July 2015;
5. *Encourages* Member States to attend, at the highest political level, the September 2015 United Nations Summit on the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, given the importance of the Summit to the continent;
6. *Calls upon* Member States to engage, at the technical level, in the process of developing global indicators for assessing progress on implementation of the SDGs, as a means of building capacity and ensuring coherence among indicators at the global, regional, and national levels;
7. *Requests* the HLC to present a final report to the Assembly in January 2016;
8. *Expresses gratitude* to the HLC and the AGN for their work.

Assembly/AU/Dec.574 (XXV)

**Decision on the Sixteenth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on
the Reform of the United Nations Security Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.564 (XXIV), Assembly/AU/Dec.573 (XXIII), Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (IV), Assembly/AU/Dec.430 (XIX) and Assembly/AU/Dec.485 (XXI);

2. *Takes note* of the Sixteenth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
3. *Also takes note* of the Committee Heads of State Consultative Summit Held in Livingstone, Republic of Zambia, on 9 May 2015 and the high-level outreach consultations with the five permanent members of the Security Council;
4. *Further takes note* of the progress made at both the intergovernmental negotiations and outreach with Member States of the United Nations in garnering support for the Common African Position;
5. *Welcomes* the support that the Common African Position continues to garner on United Nations Security Council reform;
6. *Reaffirms* that the Common African Position, as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration, shall continue to serve as the only viable option that reflects Africa's legitimate right and aspiration to rectify, inter alia, the historical injustice endured by the continent;
7. *Also reaffirms* its unanimous and unequivocal adhesion to the Common African Position contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration consisting of the claim of two additional seats in the category of the non-permanent members and two seats in the category of permanent members with same rights, privileges and obligations accorded to the current permanent members, including the right to veto;
8. *Reserves* the right to determine the criteria for the selection of the two Member States to represent Africa in the Security Council as permanent members;
9. *Undertakes* to defend the African Union Common Position during the negotiations on the reform of the Security Council;
10. *Calls on* all African Union Member States to continue to speak with one voice on the need to not adhere to other negotiating groups or special interests, as it is not in keeping with the spirit of the Common African Position;
11. *Requests* the Coordinator to present this Decision to the next session of the United Nations General Assembly, in order to garner the support of friendly countries in favour of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;
12. *Reiterates* its call on all African Union Member States to include the issue of the Security Council reform among their foreign policy priorities in their engagements with non-African partners; in particular, to include in their statements during the debates of the United Nations General Assembly, the need to correct the historical injustice that the African continent continues to suffer;
13. *Decides* to include an allocation in the Commission's budget for the purpose of funding the activities of the Committee of Ten;
14. *Reiterates* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of its mandate until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and requests the Committee to present a report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2016.

Assembly/AU/Dec.575 (XXV)

**Decision on the Election of Six Members of the African Committee of Experts on
the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACEWRC)
(Doc. EX.CL/918 (XXVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of six members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following members of the ACERWC for a five-year term:

No.	Name	Country
(1)	Mrs. Dikéré Marie-Christine Bocoum	Côte d'Ivoire;
(2)	Ms. Aver Gavar	Nigeria;
(3)	Ms. Maria Mapani-Kawimbe	Zambia;
(4)	Mr. Clement Mashamba	Tanzania;
(5)	Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur	Ethiopia;
(6)	Ms. Goitseone Nanikie Nkwe	Botswana;

3. *Requests* the Commission to prepare modalities to ensure the scrupulous respect of the principles of equitable regional and gender representation in all AU organs and institutions, and to submit the modalities to the January 2016 Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.576 (XXV)

**Decision on the Election of Three Members of the
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
(Doc. EX.CL/919 (XXVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of three members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following members of the ACHPR for a six-year term:

No.	Name	Country
(1)	Mr. Solomon Ayele Dersso	Ethiopia;
(2)	Mrs. L. King Jamesina Essie	Sierra Leone;
(3)	Mrs. Sylvie Kayitesi Zainabo	Rwanda;

3. *Requests* the Commission to prepare modalities to ensure the scrupulous respect of the principles of equitable regional and gender representation in all AU organs and institutions, and to submit the modalities to the January 2016 Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.577 (XXV)

**Decision on the Budget of the African Union for the 2016 Financial Year
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* a total budget of US\$ 416,867,326 for the African Union for year 2016, broken down into US\$ 150,503,875 operating budget and US\$ 266,363,451 programmes to be financed as follows:
 - (i) A total amount of US\$ 169,833,340 is assessed on Member States; and
 - (ii) A total amount of US\$ 247,033,986 is secured from international partners;
2. *Also adopts* the budget breakdown among the AU organs as follows:

Organs				Partners			Total Budget for 2016		
	Budget	Programmes	Assessment	Operating	Programmes	Total	Operating	Programmes	Total 2016
AUC	107,213,380	19,174,284	126,387,664		192,461,978	192,461,978	107,213,380	211,636,262	318,849,642
PAP	12,016,230		12,016,230		20,444,763	20,444,763	12,016,230	20,444,763	32,460,993
AfCHR (The Court)	7,934,915		7,934,915		2,351,486	2,351,486	7,934,915	2,351,486	10,286,401
ACHPR (The Commission)	4,279,846		4,279,846		1,301,399	1,301,399	4,279,846	1,301,399	5,581,245
ECOSSOC	1,043,396		1,043,396		991,223	991,223	1,043,396	991,223	2,034,619
NEPAD	8,871,755		8,871,755		25,013,737	25,013,737	8,871,755	25,013,737	33,885,492
AUCIL	389,575		389,575		295,200	295,200	389,575	295,200	684,775
Advisory Board on Corruption	1,376,408		1,376,408			-	1,376,408	-	1,376,408
Peace & Security Council		797,216	797,216			-	-	797,216	797,216
ACERWC	253,810	39,565	293,375		445,802	445,802	253,810	485,367	739,178
SPECIALIZED OFFICES OF THE AU									
AFREC	945,268		945,268			-	945,268	-	945,268
IPED	735,512		735,512			-	735,512	-	735,512
CIEFFA	735,512		735,512			-	735,512	-	735,512
PAU	2,526,668		2,526,668			-	2,526,668	-	2,526,668
AIR	-		-	681,600	1,453,676	2,135,276	681,600	1,453,676	2,135,276
ACDC	1,500,000		1,500,000		1,593,121	1,593,121	1,500,000	1,593,121	3,093,121
TOTAL	149,822,275	20,011,065	169,833,340	681,600	246,352,386	247,033,986	150,503,875	266,363,451	416,867,326

3. *Authorizes* the Commission to continue to solicit additional funds from partners for programmes of the Union amounting to US\$ 70,552,314 till the end of 2015 and to report back on the status to the PRC before the January 2016 Summit;
4. *Emphasizes* the need for ownership of AU programmes by Member States through an effective demonstration of political will and by honouring their financial commitments to the organization, in particular the

Flagship Projects featuring in the Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 and to minimize dependency on external funding;

5. *Requests* the Commission:

- (i) To take the necessary measures to improve on the execution rate of the budget against available funds;
- (ii) To strengthen the internal control processes with a view to ensuring a judicious utilization of the resources put at the disposal of the organization;
- (iii) In collaboration with the PRC, to undertake a study of the sanction regime on contribution, to make it effective and to make appropriate recommendations to the policy organs;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to pay special attention to the allocation of funds for issues of peace and security taking into consideration the decision for Member States to provide 25 per cent of the budget for peace and security;

7. *Approves* 2 per cent of the AMISOM budget for 2016 to be supported by voluntary contributions from Member States;

8. *Decides* to implement the Decision of the Assembly (Assembly/AU/Dec.561 (XXIV)) on Alternative Sources of Funding where Member States enhance ownership of the budget of the Union by financing 100 per cent of the operating budget, 75 per cent of programmes and 25 per cent of the peace and security budget effective January 2016 to be phased in incrementally over a five-year period;

9. *Decides* to increase the budget by 2 per cent, to reach the target of 1 per cent and 12 per cent, for the Women Fund and the Peace Fund, respectively.

Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV)

**Decision on the Scale of Assessment and Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

- 1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the review of the scale of assessment;
- 2. *Decides* to endorse the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee as follows:
 - (i) The new scale of assessment will be based on the principles of solidarity, equitable payment and capacity to pay and in a way that ensures no single country bears a disproportionate share of the budget;
 - (ii) The new scale of assessment shall be based on achieving the following targets:
 - (a) 100 per cent of the Union's operational budget;
 - (b) 75 per cent of the Union's programme budget;
 - (c) 25 per cent of Union's peace support operations budget;
 - (iii) That the new scale of assessment shall be based on a tier system as follows:
 - (a) All countries with GDP above 4 per cent – tier 1;

- (b) All countries with GDP above 1 per cent but below 4 per cent – tier 2;
 - (c) All countries with GDP of 1 per cent and below – tier 3;
 - (iv) The achievement of the targets in subparagraph (ii) above should be phased in over 5 years starting from January 2016;
3. *Further decides that:*
- (i) The new scale will be based on the principle that the five Member States in tier 1 shall take 60 per cent of the budget shared equally; whereas Member States in tier 2 and tier 3 pay based on capacity to pay as contained in option 3 of the proposal;
 - (ii) The new scale will be based on a ceiling of 12 per cent without the imposition of a floor rate;
 - (iii) The new scale will be implemented for the financial years 2016, 2017 and 2018;
4. *Adopts* the new AU scale of assessment which constitutes a hybrid of pure capacity to pay for some Member States and equal payment scales for others in accordance with the percentage of the budget under each tier;
5. *Urges* Member States to choose from a non-exhaustive, non-binding basket of options of alternative sources of funding in line with national imperatives, laws, regulations and constitutional provisions;
6. *Urges* the Commission, in consultation with the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee, to institute a robust annual review mechanism during the first five years of implementation that will assess possible impacts and recommend adjustments when and where necessary;
7. *Encourages* the Commission and the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee to continue working on and incorporating modalities that will build synergy between the review of the scale of assessment and the budgeting, financial governance and management processes;
8. *Urges* Member States working in the spirit of solidarity and self-reliance to strive to achieve the stated contribution targets contained in the relevant Assembly decisions;
9. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee meeting in an open-ended manner to pursue and conclude its work in instituting a sound and credible accountability and oversight mechanism that will ensure effective scrutiny of the budgetary processes, including its presentation and implementation; and, in this regard, further requests the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Scale of Assessment to meet in October 2015 to consider all outstanding issues, including the consultation with the Republic of Angola on its scale of assessment and submit its report on the matter at the next summit in January 2016;
10. *Urges* the Commission to provide all the necessary support to ensure the timely conclusion of the exercise by providing a comprehensive list of existing and proposed accountability mechanisms;
11. *Encourages* Member States to promptly pay their assessed contributions once the new scale comes into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.579 (XXV)

**Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on NEPAD
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Thirty-third Session of the HSGOC;
3. *Reaffirms* NEPAD as the strategic vehicle to accelerate the implementation of the Africa Union's regional integration agenda and recommits to exercising strong political will and determination to fast track NEPAD delivery at all levels within the context of Agenda 2063;
4. *Underscores* the role of NEPAD in advancing the economic empowerment of African women and catalyzing the institutional transformation of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), adding that the NPCA continues to function as the economic development and technical body of the Union; and, in this regard, welcomes the progress report presented by the NPCA Chief Executive Officer and the SADC Executive Secretary;
5. In the spirit of the 2015 AU theme: "Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063", notes with satisfaction the successful implementation of 77 projects in 35 African countries with more than half a million women beneficiaries under the NEPAD-Spanish Fund since its establishment in 2007, as an exemplary mechanism for the fulfilment of the NPCA mandate;
6. *Appreciates* the significant support of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and calls upon Member States, stakeholders and partners to build on the achievements of the NEPAD-Spanish Fund to sustain its key results and impact geared towards strengthening women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming in contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2063;
7. *Recalling* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.563 (XXIV), specially notes the scaling up of technical support by the NPCA to strengthen the institutional capacity of the RECs through the roll-out of the 2015-2025 RECs Capacity Development Implementation Plan;
8. *Directs* the NPCA to collaborate with the ECOWAS Commission to support the Short and Medium-Term Capacity Plan in the second phase in response to the invitation by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and the Chairperson of NEPAD HSGOC and ECOWAS; and requests the NPCA to extend technical support to promote cross-REC cooperation on capacity enhancement involving the tripartite, COMESA, SADC and EAC, as well as other RECs;
9. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.563 (XXIV) and notes the measures taken by the NPCA to obtain accreditation as a regional implementing entity under the Green Climate Fund to mobilize new and additional resources for the funding of regional projects through the existing NEPAD Climate Change Fund and the setup of the NEPAD Development Partners Working Group to drive the Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme;
10. *Welcomes* the launch of the African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance and Forum as a platform for coordinated support in responding to the impact of climate change and variability; and urges the NPCA, through the Alliance, to increase collaboration with the RECs, NGOs and partners in attaining the target of reaching 25 million farm households by 2025;
11. *Recognizing* the NEPAD Natural Resource Governance Programme, calls on the NPCA to support the technical and financial capacity of Member States to design, negotiate and implement tax policies and complex contracts on natural resources to maximize the benefits to African countries and local communities;

12. *In addition, requests* the NPCA to develop the NEPAD Policy Framework on Youth Employment in Africa, in partnership with the AUC, UNECA and UNDP, and submit to the HSGOC in due course for consideration;
13. *In furtherance* of the Programme of Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICl), welcomes the formal launch of the Continental Business Network (CBN) in Cape Town on 1 June 2015 as a private sector platform to mobilize investments and financing of prioritized infrastructure projects based on the Dakar Agenda for Action (DAA);
14. *Acknowledging* the fact that energy remains a key priority for Africa's structural transformation and recalling measures to implement PIDA and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.563 (XXIV) on the Africa Power Vision (APV), hereby proposes the setting up of an African instrument steered by Africa to coordinate all global initiatives and financial support dedicated to the power sector for the continent's maximum benefit;
15. *Notes* the outcomes of the G7 Summit's Outreach Dialogue with Africa held in Schloss Elmau, Germany, based on the engagement between the G7 and participating African leaders on 8 June 2015; re-emphasizes the enduring need for Africa's development priorities to constantly inform global partnerships and welcomes the G7 Summit's reiterated commitment to support Africa's peace, security and stability agenda, the strengthening of democratic institutions and the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease; and requests the NPCA to follow up on G7 commitments on the initiative on strengthening assistance for Complex Contract Negotiations (CONNEX) focusing initially on extractive industries;
16. *Commends* the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NPCA for the preparatory consultation held with Africa's international partners towards the launch of the Africa Global Partnership Platform (AGPP) hosted by the Government of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa in May 2015; warmly welcomes the offer by the HSGOC Chairperson to inaugurate the first plenary session of the new Platform in Dakar, Senegal, in October 2015; and stresses the importance of the full functioning of the AGPP as an effective African-owned and led partnership mechanism;
17. *Expresses deep appreciation and pays tribute* to Dr. Donald Kaberuka, outgoing President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, in acknowledgement of his immense contributions and consistent support for the AU development objectives and initiatives, especially in the implementation of NEPAD, and welcomes the special award of recognition as Most Valued Partner of NEPAD presented to Dr. Donald Kaberuka on behalf of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and HSGOC Chairperson.

Assembly/AU/Dec.580 (XXV)

**Decision on Africa's Engagements in the Global Climate Negotiations
(Doc. Assembly/AU/16 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Coordinator of the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on climate change action in Africa and preparation for Global Climate events in 2015; and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Expresses appreciation* to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) for representing the interests of Africa in the climate change negotiations and the constructive manner in which they have advanced the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process; and urge the African Group of Negotiators to maintain the unity of the group and to continue to represent African interests in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process;

3. *Reaffirms* that any agreement adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-first session, to be held in Paris in December 2015, should be in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and equity;
4. *Also reaffirms* that any agreement adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-first session should enhance the implementation of the principles and provisions of the Convention, and its annexes, be consistent with science and equity, and further enhance a multilateral rules-based system in a balanced and ambitious manner;
5. *Agrees* to achieve an agreement that provides parity between mitigation, adaptation and provisions for enhancing means of implementation, noting the increased burden for adaptation in developing countries from inadequate aggregate mitigation efforts and, further, that such an agreement should ensure that mitigation ambition keeps the world on track for a global average temperature increase by the end of the twenty-first century that is well below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;
6. *Urges* developed country parties and other parties included in Annex II to the Convention to fulfil the commitment to provide climate finance and technology as a means of enhancing action towards achieving the objectives of the Convention; and also urges that the provisions of the proposed 2015 agreement in relation to finance take into account the commitment of \$100 billion dollars annually by 2020 as the basis for climate finance, ensuring additionally, predictability and sustainability of resources, and include a clear burden-sharing process for calculating the contributions to be made by developed country parties;
7. *Further urges* Member States to continue putting in place systems and structures for Africa to take full advantage of the global mechanisms in terms of finance and technology, in support of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures;
8. *Takes note* of the initiatives on renewable energy in Africa, and of the progress made since the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), regarding the African Renewable Energy Initiative, suggested by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), as a contribution to global efforts, led by developed countries, to address climate change and sustainable development; and further takes note of the work undertaken in this regard, and of the two technical meetings which have been organized by UNEP in Addis Ababa on 17 March, and in Cairo on 23 May 2015 to further elaborate on the African renewable energy initiative;
9. *Recalls* the Summit's decision on AMCEN's flagship programme on renewable energy, and urges the importance of its implementation, and to liaise in this regard with the AUC, NEPAD, AGN, AFDB, UNEP and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and make sure that all other initiatives and proposals are aligned with the flagship programme, and funding is accessed from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with the AMCEN President leading the work in this regard;
10. *Agrees* to this effect that a technical group chaired by the AMCEN President, consisting of the AUC, NEPAD Agency, AGN, AFDB, UNEP and IRENA, formulate concrete proposals and projects, in order to avoid duplication and ensure unity of purpose for Africa, in line with Agenda 2063;
11. *Takes note* of the call by the leaders of the G7, during the Summit held from 7 to 8 June 2015 in Schloss Elmau, Germany, for accelerated access to renewable energy in Africa, and welcomes the expression of support towards Africa. In this regard, the G7 is urged to consult and work closely with the technical group under the leadership and guidance of AMCEN to ensure Africa's ownership and leadership of these initiatives;
12. *Encourages* AMCEN to develop with the AGN a proposal for enhanced support to Africa on adaptation and on loss and damage, in the context of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Green Climate Fund;

13. *Requests* AGN to improve and upgrade the AGN-Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) guidelines and template, based on the deliberations and outcome of the Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on INDCs for Africa, which took place in Cairo from 17 to 19 May 2015, so as to reflect the linkage between mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation;

14. *Encourages* Member States to make use of the AGN-INDCs guidelines and template when preparing and developing their INDCs.

Assembly/AU/Dec.581 (XXV)

**Decision on the Date and Venue of the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of
the Assembly of the African Union in January 2016**

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the date of the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme “2016, African Year of Human Rights, in particular, with Focus on the Rights of Women” shall be the following:

- (i) Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 24 and 25 January 2016;
- (ii) Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 27 and 28 January 2016;
- (iii) Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 30 and 31 January 2016.

Assembly/AU/Dec.582 (XXV)

**Decision on the Streamlining of the AU Summits and the Working Methods of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* to approve the following recommendations of the Executive Council:

- (i) Decision-making by the Executive Council and the Assembly to be clearly delineated, and the Assembly to delegate their decision-making powers and mandate to the Executive Council to take decisions, except on key strategic issues;
- (ii) Empower the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) of Ministers to take decisions on issues falling under their competence, except where there are attendant financial and structural implications. However, the Executive Council may, if necessary, consider decisions of the STCs at the request of any Member State;
- (iii) The Assembly to focus on strategic policy issues such as continental integration, peace and security, governance and financial matters; and those decisions taken at the Executive Council are not repeated at the Assembly;
- (iv) Hold “closed session” meetings to discuss some strategic issues accompanied by one or more members of our delegations, as the issue to be discussed may require; In this regard, the Assembly to convene in a retreat format to afford sufficient time to deliberate on strategic issues and to interact;
- (v) Allow the full participation of the Regional Economic Communities in the deliberations of the summits to share experiences, successes and constraints, in the advancement of the continental integration agenda;

(vi) Continue with the two Summits, which should be streamlined with one Summit, focusing on policy issues with participation of partners in accordance with the Rules of Procedure; and the other Summit focusing on the implementation of decisions;

(vii) The Subcommittees of the Assembly report to only one session of the Assembly in a year; and the membership of these Subcommittees to rotate within 2 to 3 year cycles to allow for burden sharing;

(viii) The Opening Sessions of the Assembly be conducted in a business-like manner and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, with only the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the State of Palestine based on historical African solidarity with their struggle, being allowed to address the Assembly in person; within that context, other invited guests should be provided with alternative platforms, other than the Opening Sessions, to address the Heads of State and Government;

(ix) Allocate additional resources for interpretation and translation in order to increase the number of personnel in the Directorate of Conference Management and Publications and ensure documents are properly translated and are ready on time;

2. *Requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2016.

Assembly/AU/Dec.583 (XXV)

**Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the peace and security situation in Africa;

2. *Expresses satisfaction* with the efforts deployed at the continental and regional level to address the scourge of conflicts and promote lasting peace and security. The Assembly notes with concern that, despite its efforts, Africa continues to face serious conflicts and crises with devastating humanitarian and socio-economic consequences;

3. *Urgently appeals* for stronger action in the area of conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as in the area of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. To this end, the Assembly stresses the critical importance of promoting good governance and respect for the rule of law, in keeping with the commitments made by Member States within the framework of relevant AU instruments;

4. *Underlines* the critical role of women in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, and welcomes all the steps taken by the PSC and the Commission in this respect;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the significant progress Côte d'Ivoire continues to make in the area of post-conflict reconstruction, and encourages all stakeholders to work to ensure the success of the presidential elections scheduled for October 2015. The Council commends the Government of Guinea-Bissau for the reforms already embarked upon to promote stability and ensure economic recovery. The Assembly calls upon all the countries and organizations that made pledges at the donor round-table held in Brussels, Belgium, on 25 March 2015, to honour their commitments as soon as possible. The Assembly welcomes the strides that Tunisia continues to make after the completion of the transition period. The Assembly reaffirms its support for the efforts aimed at ensuring stabilization and socio-economic recovery in Madagascar, takes note of the decision of the High Constitutional

Court of 12 June 2015, rejecting the resolution impeaching the President of the Republic and calls upon all the parties to comply with the said decision and work towards the creation of a stable environment to enable Madagascar to continue to enjoy international support;

6. *Also notes with satisfaction* the end of the Ebola epidemic in Liberia and the significant progress made by Guinea and Sierra Leone in combatting the epidemic. The Assembly underscores the need for sustained mobilization in order to completely eradicate the scourge, and to provide more economic and financial support to ensure sustainable economic recovery in the affected countries;

7. *Welcomes* the signing of the Malian Peace and Reconciliation Agreement resulting from the Algiers Process in Bamako on 15 May 2015 by the Malian Government, the Algiers Platform Movement and some groups of the Coordination Movement of the Azawad (CMA). The Assembly takes note of the commitment of the CMA to sign the Agreement in Bamako on 20 June 2015 following the conclusion in Algiers on 5 June 2015, the record of conclusions of the preparatory consultations on the implementation of the peace and reconciliation agreement in Mali, as well as the security arrangements for the cessation of hostilities. The Assembly expresses the full support of the AU for the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, calls for the strict implementation of the Agreement, and the mobilization of the needed resources. The Assembly expresses its deep appreciation to the Mediation team led by Algeria for their efforts. The Assembly affirms that only the Malian Defence and Security Forces have the right and legitimacy to occupy the entire national territory within the framework of their sovereign mission to protect borders, persons and their property, and any occupation by non-State irregular forces is illegal and therefore demands that such occupation should cease;

8. *Commends* the authorities and the other stakeholders in Burkina Faso for their commitment to a peaceful and successful transition. The Assembly urges them to persevere in their efforts in a spirit of consensus and harmony. The Assembly makes an urgent appeal to Member States and the entire international community to mobilize the required financial resources and logistical support for the holding of presidential, legislative and local elections scheduled to take place between October 2015 and January 2016. The Assembly also welcomes the successful holding of the Bangui Forum for Reconciliation in the Central African Republic and urges the Central African stakeholders to effectively implement the recommendations of the Forum. The Assembly stresses the need for the holding of elections in order to complete the transition in CAR by the end of 2015, in accordance with the communiqué of the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), held in N'Djamena, on 25 May 2015;

9. *Stresses* the need to revive the implementation process of the framework agreement for peace, security and cooperation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the region and to strengthen its governance structures, and provide its full support for the initiatives agreed upon by the guarantors of the framework agreement at their second meeting in Johannesburg on 13 June 2015. The Assembly reiterates the need for urgent and effective neutralization of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and all the other negative forces and armed groups operating in the east of the DRC and, in this regard, encourages the Government of the DRC to continue the military offensives initiated for that purpose, invites the Government of the DRC and the United Nations to establish, through the ongoing strategic dialogue between them, conditions conducive to the resumption of military cooperation between the Government of the DRC and MONUSCO, and encourages the rapid repatriation of elements of the FDLR who have already been disarmed and are in transit camps, as well as their dependants. The Assembly stresses the need for speedy implementation of the December 2013 Nairobi Declaration on the Kampala Dialogue between the Congolese Government and the M23;

10. *Welcomes* the progress made in the political process in Somalia towards the realization of Vision 2016, and urges the Somali stakeholders to stay on course in order to fulfil the aspirations of their people to peace, security and stability. The Assembly pays tribute to AMISOM and the troop and police contributing countries for the achievements made on the ground and for their sacrifices and calls on the United Nations and the other international partners to extend to the Mission the support that is commensurate with the challenges at hand, bearing in mind that, in deploying AMISOM, the AU is active on behalf of the United Nations Security Council, which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;

11. *Reiterates* its concern at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and requests the Commission to take the required initiatives to overcome the challenges at hand. The Assembly also calls for continued efforts to facilitate the normalization of the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea;
12. *Reiterates* the AU's support to the National Dialogue Initiative in Sudan and calls on all stakeholders to work towards its successful implementation, with the support of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), in order to address comprehensively the challenges facing the country. The Assembly calls on the parties in Darfur and South Kordofan and Blue Nile to demonstrate renewed commitment towards achieving a cessation of hostilities in these regions, in order to facilitate the political process;
13. *Encourages* Sudan and South Sudan, with the continued support of the AUHIP, to expedite their efforts towards the full implementation of the September 2012 Cooperation Agreement, and to take the necessary steps to address the issue of the Abyei Area;
14. *Reiterates* its support to the ongoing efforts to promote a regional and holistic approach to the challenges of peace, security, stability and development in the Horn of Africa, in support of IGAD, and encourages the Commission, through the AUHIP, to expedite its efforts in this respect;
15. *Expresses its concern* in the face of the grave crisis in Burundi and the risk that the current political impasse poses to the gains made by the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and to the Comprehensive Cease-fire Agreement of 2003. The Council condemns all acts of violence in Burundi, calls for respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and urges all the Burundian stakeholders to uphold the spirit of dialogue and consensus and to find a lasting political solution to the current crisis in accordance with the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution of Burundi. The Assembly expresses its full support to the efforts of the East African Community (EAC) and those being deployed by the Chairperson of the Commission. It welcomes the work of the PSC in finding a solution and calls for the implementation of the relevant decisions;
16. *Reiterates* the AU's deep concern at the prevailing dire security and humanitarian situation on the ground in South Sudan. The Assembly strongly condemns all the ceasefire violations committed by the parties, as well as the attacks and other egregious acts of violence and abuses of human rights against civilians and humanitarian agencies. The Assembly notes with disappointment the continued impasse in the peace process, and calls on the parties to demonstrate the required political will and commitment to end the current tragedy in their country. The Assembly reiterates the AU's support for the IGAD-led efforts and, in this respect, welcomes the operationalization of the AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan, as well as the appointment of former President Alpha Oumar Konaré of Mali as the AU High Representative for South Sudan, and expresses appreciation to the PSC for remaining actively seized of the matter. The Assembly also welcomes the initiative taken by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and the African National Congress (ANC) to facilitate dialogue within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The Assembly calls for enhanced humanitarian support for the needy populations;
17. *Strongly condemns* the continuation of hostilities in Libya and the attacks against civilians and reiterates its grave concern over the worsening humanitarian crisis. The Assembly also expresses deep concern about the worsening scourge of terrorism in Libya and reaffirms the need for continued and renewed efforts to fight against this scourge. The Assembly supports the legitimate Government in its efforts to fight terrorism in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2214. The Assembly urges all Libyan stakeholders to engage more seriously on the path of dialogue and reconciliation, bearing in mind that there can be no military solution to the conflict, and expresses full support to the United Nations-led political dialogue. The Assembly commends the neighbouring countries for their role in the search for a solution, welcomes the final communiqué of the sixth meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Libya's Neighbours, held in N'Djamena, Chad, on 5 June 2015, and reiterates the key role of the International Contact Group for Libya (ICG-L) and encourages the Commission, working with the United Nations, to enhance the effectiveness of the Group;

18. *Notes with deep concern* the continued impasse in the search for a solution to the conflict in Western Sahara and underlines the urgent need for renewed international efforts to facilitate an early resolution of the conflict. In this respect, the Assembly, recalling the advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 16 October 1975, calls on the United Nations General Assembly to determine a date for the holding of the self-determination referendum for the people of Western Sahara and protect the integrity of the Western Sahara as a non-self-governing territory from any act which may undermine it. The Assembly recalls the PSC communiqué of 27 March 2015 and, in this context, renews its full support to the AU Special Envoy for Western Sahara, former President Joaquim Chissano. The Assembly urges the Security Council to fully assume its responsibilities, as well as effectively address the issues of the respect of human rights and the illegal exploitation of the territory's natural resources. The Assembly encourages the Chairperson of the Commission to pursue her efforts, based on international legality, and calls on Member States to avail the necessary capacity-building support to the people of Western Sahara;¹

19. *Reiterates* its deep concern about the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism on the continent and condemns in the strongest terms the various terrorist acts committed on the continent, including in Somalia and Kenya, by al-Shabaab, in north eastern Nigeria and the neighbouring countries by Boko Haram, in Mali and the larger Sahel, as well as in North Africa, by various terrorist groups. The Assembly welcomes the efforts and initiatives aimed at neutralizing the various terrorist groups active on the continent. The Assembly emphasizes the relevance of the steps agreed upon in the communiqué adopted by the PSC, at its 455th meeting, held at the level of Heads of State and Government in Nairobi, Kenya, on 2 September 2014, and calls on Member States to deploy additional efforts towards the implementation of the relevant provisions of the communiqué. The Assembly requests the PSC to convene, before the year 2015, a meeting, at the ministerial level, to review the implementation status of the Nairobi communiqué;

20. *Commends* the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin for their sustained efforts to fully operationalize the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) established to combat the Boko Haram terrorist group, and calls for enhanced international support for the MNJTF, and welcomes the steps taken by the Commission in support of the efforts of the LCBC countries and Benin. The Assembly takes note with satisfaction of the progress made by the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), and urges for continued efforts to fully neutralize the LRA;

21. *Welcomes* the adoption by the PSC of the Common African Position on the Review of the United Nations Peace Operations being undertaken by the High-Level Panel appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, and calls on all Member States to defend this Position during the deliberations of the relevant United Nations organs on the report of the Panel;

22. *Recalls* the decision adopted at its Twenty-third Ordinary Session held in Malabo, in June 2014, in which it welcomed the proposal by Togo to host a conference on maritime security and safety, and decides, in view of the importance of the issue and based on the recommendations of the meeting of the Ministers of Defence and Security, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in May 2015, to transform this Conference scheduled to take place from 2 to 7 November 2015, into an extraordinary AU Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, and encourages the Commission and the Togolese Government to expedite the preparation process of this event;

23. *Commends* the PSC for the successful organization of its retreat on issues and challenges in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, held in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 21 to 23 May 2015. The Assembly decides to endorse the conclusions and the concrete measures contained therein and requests the PSC to take steps towards their effective implementation.

Assembly/AU/Dec.584 (XXV)

¹ Reservation entered by the Republic of Senegal on paragraph 18.

**Decision on the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa and on the implementation of the communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM. (CDLV) adopted by the 455th meeting of the Peace and Security Council held in Nairobi on 2 September 2014;
2. *Reiterates* its deep concern at the worsening scourge of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, as evidenced by the growing presence of the Islamic state in Africa to which some groups have pledged allegiance, as well as the continuing ignoble attacks by different terrorist groups, including al-Shabaab in Somalia and Kenya, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Central Africa, Boko Haram in Nigeria and in other countries of the Lake Chad Basin, al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), al-Murabitoun in northern Mali and the Sahel in general, the Ansar Al-Sharia and other terrorist groups in North Africa;
3. *Stresses once again* that terrorism cannot be justified in any circumstance and that it cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or particular group. The Assembly strongly condemns all terrorist acts perpetrated on the continent, irrespective of the perpetrators, place and motivations. The Assembly expresses the AU's full solidarity with the affected countries and victims of terrorism;
4. *Notes with concern* the growing links between terrorism and violent extremism, on the one hand, and transnational organized crime, on the other;
5. *Reiterates* the relevance of the instruments adopted by the OAU/AU in recent years to fight against the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, particularly the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its 2004 Protocol;
6. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States, through the strengthening of their legislative frameworks and operational capabilities, and hails the establishment of security cooperation mechanisms at the regional level, including the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL) of the Sahel, the Nouakchott Process on enhanced security cooperation and operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel-Saharan region and the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (ICR-LRA);
7. *Also commends* the efforts undertaken by the Commission, including through the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and those of the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission in charge of counter-terrorism cooperation, in support of the measures taken by Member States to combat terrorism;
8. *Recalls* that, despite the significant progress made by the continent in developing a normative and operational framework against terrorism, further sustained efforts are required to ensure the monitoring and effective implementation of the commitments made by Member States. Accordingly, the Assembly endorses the call made by the PSC in favour of an action-oriented approach;
9. *Welcomes* the measures taken within the framework of the implementation of the Nairobi communiqué, including:
 - (i) The continued implementation of the Nouakchott Process on enhanced security cooperation and operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel-Saharan region;
 - (ii) The implementation by the countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin of the Joint Multinational Force (FMM) responsible for combating the Boko Haram terrorist group; and

(iii) The launching of the Djibouti process on strengthening security cooperation in East Africa;

10. *Also welcomes* the progress made in the operationalization of the African Police Cooperation Mechanism (AFRIPOL), as well as the establishment by the Commission of an advisory team responsible for supporting the AU in monitoring and implementation of the relevant provisions of communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM. (CDLV), and notes with satisfaction the emphasis placed by the team in combating radicalization. The Assembly welcomes the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) for initiatives taken to strengthen the national capacities of Member States;

11. *Requests* Member States and the Commission to redouble their efforts to implement expeditiously the outstanding provisions of the communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM. (CDLV), including:

(i) The signing and ratification of the relevant African and international instruments by those Member States that have not yet done so and the effective implementation of the provisions contained therein;

(ii) The submission by the Member States parties to the 2004 Protocol of annual reports to the PSC on measures taken to combat and prevent terrorism;

(iii) The designation by the Member States which have not yet done so of national focal points to liaise and coordinate with the ACSRT;

(iv) The financial contributions and the provision of technical expertise for the ACSRT;

(v) The formulation of an African arrest warrant against individuals accused or convicted of terrorist acts;

(vi) The assessing of the state of implementation of the 2002 Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism;

(vii) The organization of an annual consultative forum with international partners on the issue of terrorism and violent extremism;

12. *Reiterates* the need to respect, in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, the highest standards of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Assembly also reiterates the need to tackle all the conditions that provide fertile ground for terrorism and violent extremism;

13. *Requests* the PSC to hold a ministerial meeting before the end of 2015 to assess the status of implementation of the communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM. (CDLV) and agree on the measures to tackle the challenges faced.

Assembly/AU/Dec.585 (XXV)

**Decision on the Report of the Commission on Governance in Africa
(with Focus on the African Governance Architecture and Elections)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on Governance in Africa (with focus on the African Governance Architecture and Elections) and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recalls* the previous Decision of the Assembly (Assembly/AU/Dec.304 (XV) at its Sixteenth Ordinary Session dedicated to the theme “Towards Greater Unity and Integration Through Shared Values” held in Addis Ababa in January 2011, which called for the establishment of a “Pan-African Architecture on Governance”;
3. *Commends and encourages* the Commission to continue its efforts towards ensuring synergies and complementarity between the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and for establishing the AU Commission Interdepartmental Conflict Prevention Task Force;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to ratify, domesticate and implement all AU Shared Values Instruments, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
5. *Encourages* Member States to continuously ensure the conduct of democratic, credible and peaceful elections that guarantee peace, security and stability on the continent;
6. *Urges* Member States to intensify measures to strengthen the effectiveness of State institutions in their delivery of public services, ensuring decentralization of governance machinery, improving planned urbanization, combatting corruption and reversing illicit financial outflows from Africa;
7. *Calls upon* Member States to redouble their efforts in entrenching a culture of constitutionalism, human rights and the rule of law;
8. *Further encourages* Member States to put in place institutional mechanisms, where they do not exist, for the constructive management of diversity including the establishment and strengthening of national infrastructures for peace;
9. *Requests* the Commission to report to the Assembly regularly on the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.586 (XXV)

**Decision on the Update of the Commission on the Implementation of
Previous Decisions on the International Criminal Court**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the update of the Commission on the implementation of previous decisions on the International Criminal Court;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.547 (XXIV) and, in particular;
 - (i) Paragraph 17 (d) that requested the ICC to terminate or suspend the proceedings against Deputy President William Samoei Ruto of Kenya until the African concerns and proposals for amendments of the Rome Statute of the ICC are considered; and
 - (ii) Paragraph 17 (e) that requested the suspension of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir and to urge the United Nations Security Council to withdraw the referral case in Sudan;
3. *Commends* the efforts of the African Union Commission in the implementation of the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.547 (XXIV);
4. *Recommends* the formation of an open-ended Ministerial Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

5. *Requests* the African Union Commission to continue implementing the Decision and, in particular, to write to the United Nations Security Council:

(i) Informing of the African Union Heads of State and Government Decision of January 2015 and also requesting that decision be implemented;

(ii) Informing that the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs intends to meet the Security Council to discuss and follow up on the matter;

6. *Requests* that the African Union Commission join in the Application under Rule 68 by the Prosecutor of the ICC against the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya as an interested party for purposes of placing before the Court all the relevant material arising out of the negotiations;

7. *Recommends* that adequate financial resources be provided to the Commission and the open-ended Ministerial Committee to enable follow-up activities for the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.587 (XXV)

**Decision on the Framework for a Renewed United Nations/AU Partnership on
Africa's Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA) 2017 to 2027
(Doc. EX.CL/913 (XXVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations system for the invaluable support, through past and ongoing programmes, that it has provided its Member States in their efforts to promote development, integration and peace and security at the national level and through the various institutions at the regional and continental levels;

2. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) to develop a new United Nations/AU Partnership, as the successor programme to the Framework for the Ten Year Capacity-Building (TYCBP-AU) which expires in 2016, namely, the Framework for a Renewed United Nations/AU Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA) 2017 to 2027;

3. *Notes:*

(i) That the proposed Framework, PAIDA, (including its Executive Summary) is based on important principles, including ownership and leadership by the African Union; respect for Africa's policy space; consultation and coordination; faithfulness to commitments made; pro-active engagement; strategic partnership and accountability; and that, in accordance with these principles, PAIDA is anchored on the overarching blueprint of the AU, namely Agenda 2063, and takes into account other major blueprints such as the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Agenda;

(ii) That there is concern that funding constraints have hampered the smooth implementation of TYCBP-AU, as indicated in the reports which have emanated from the various reviews conducted by the RCM;

4. *Calls upon:*

(i) The United Nations to take the necessary measures to further enhance its cooperation with the African Union, especially in the context of the implementation of AU Agenda 2063, as well as that of PAIDA as the overall platform for United Nations/AU cooperation;

(ii) The United Nations General Assembly to make adequate, regular and dedicated budgetary allocations for the effective implementation of PAIDA; and

(iii) All United Nations departments, agencies, offices and funds participating in the RCM, to make regular provisions to this end and to continue to coordinate their efforts and deliver as one;

5. *Requests:*

(i) The Chairperson of the Commission and the United Nations Secretary-General to submit annual and triennial review reports to the Assembly and the United Nations General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of PAIDA;

(ii) The United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution at its seventieth session in support of PAIDA and maintain existing institutional arrangements for collaboration with Africa at the continental level, including preserving the status of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa as the sole Economic Commission for the continent, with a view to ensuring continental integrity.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXV)

**Declaration on the 2015 Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XXV))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 14 to 15 June 2015, on the 2015 theme "Year of Women's Empowerment towards Africa's Agenda 2063",

Recalling our previous decisions and declarations on gender equality and women's empowerment in particular the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2003 (Assembly AU/Dec.19 (II)), the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa in 2004 (Assembly AU/Dec.12 (III)), the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) (Assembly AU/Dec.229 (XII)), the Fund for African Women (Assembly AU/Dec.277 (XIV)), the Malabo Decision on the theme for 2015 (Assembly AU/Dec.539 (XXIII)) and all global policies, namely the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women (CEDAW), and the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, among others,

Acknowledging the persistent efforts made in implementation of the AU Gender Architecture above-mentioned at the national, regional and continental levels, and the positive and visible results of implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment made by our continent since Beijing 1995,

Also acknowledging the challenges faced in the implementation of many of those decisions and declarations, in particular on progress made in attaining the minimum targets of gender equality and women's empowerment in women's socio-economic and political life that should demonstrate Africa's willingness, leadership and commitment to the achievement of goals as enshrined in the 2003 Maputo Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa,

Noting with concern that despite positive achievements registered recently in decision-making, women, the largest proportion of our population, still remain at risk and impoverished due to the challenges caused by social, economic and political marginalization, gender-based violence and discrimination against women; and reiterating our resolve to ending violence against women and girls, and improving access to, and control of, finances, land, education, health, sciences and technology and decision-making in political governance and business enterprises, consistent with our Declaration on Agenda 2063 and our continental Gender Architecture and our commitments on global initiatives,

Reaffirming our resolve towards ensuring that all categories of our populations, in particular women and young girls, must participate and benefit directly from the growth and transformation opportunities to improve their lives and livelihoods, with continued positive impact on the lives of our citizenry in rural and urban areas, through deliberate and targeted public support,

Reiterating our commitment to the Addis Ababa Declaration on Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action – Towards a Transformational Change for Women and Girls in Africa, adopted during the Ninth African Regional Conference on Women in November 2014,

Reflecting that hunger and malnutrition are major causes of risk, impoverishment, and persistent underdevelopment in Africa and causes of poor health, low levels of energy, and mental impairment, all leading to low productivity and low educational attainment, all of which can in turn lead to even greater hunger and malnutrition, and increased economic costs, thereby creating a vicious cycle,

Noting the progress made towards alignment, harmonization and coordination of initiatives and activities of stakeholders and partners with our priorities as defined in the Beijing and Dakar Platforms of Action and stressing the significance of accelerating this momentum,

Recognizing the importance of multisectoral engagement and co-ownership of this societal and economic transformation agenda within our public sectors, including agriculture, science and technology, health, peace and security, infrastructure, energy, finance, trade, industry, hence the importance of putting in place a coherent inter-sectoral coordination of the efforts and initiatives in cabinet and other national and regional governance frameworks, for optimizing resource access and control, synergy and maximizing positive outcomes and greater impact,

Further recognizing the complementary roles and responsibilities that should be enhanced among relevant stakeholders, including public sectors, private enterprises – especially with African headquarters, civil society with African leadership, academia, African think-tanks, grassroots and business women, in all formal and informal sectors in driving our shared continental development Agenda 2063,

Reiterating its support to the mandate of the AUC Chairperson's Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security to promote the rights of women during conflict, their participation in the prevention and resolution of conflict, and their protection from sexual and gender-based violence,

Welcoming the Recommendations of the Stakeholder's Consultation with AU Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs, GIMAC (Gender Is My Agenda Campaign) network of civil society organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the United Nations system, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 23 January 2015 at the AUC Headquarters, and in particular their recommendations calling for our Assembly to consider adopting commitments along specific and concrete priorities,

We hereby adopt the following Declaration:

I. Commitment to Enhancing Women's Contribution, and Benefit from Formal Agriculture/Agribusiness Value-Chains

We commit to enhance women's access and full inclusion in agriculture and agribusiness, as contributors and beneficiaries; and to this end, we resolve:

(a) AU Member States to continuously orient policy and decision-makers to understand the important role that women play in development, and specifically in agribusiness, agricultural value chain, food security, nutrition, and care, by putting in place mechanisms for the empowerment of women;

- (b) AU Member States to implement women's right to access, control, ownership and benefit from financial resources, including access to public procurement processes in agribusiness, productive assets, including land, enabling basic infrastructure, education, information and skills development, innovative technologies and practices, to capacitate and develop women's economic empowerment in agribusiness;
- (c) AU Member States to intensify initiatives to create a conducive environment for women to conduct agribusiness and the agricultural value chain through prevention and responding to conflict on the continent, addressing, adapting and mitigating climate change impacts, and addressing the impact of epidemics and natural disasters;
- (d) AU Member States to facilitate the development of agribusiness and agricultural value chains through mechanization, technological innovation and skills development for women;
- (e) AU Member States to reintroduce agriculture as a field of study, including agribusiness and agricultural value chain, of the education curriculum;
- (f) AU Member States and the Commission to ensure that the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) promotes the empowerment of women in agribusiness/agricultural value chains;
- (g) AU Member States to integrate gender responsive indicators in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Results Framework of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and technologies in agribusiness and agricultural value chains, and support the campaign to progressively banish the hand held hoe to the museum.

II. Commitment to Enhancing Women's Access to Health

We commit to enhance women's access to health; and to this end, we resolve:

- (a) To take into account women sensitive issues to emerging threats such as Ebola and other impediments to Africa's development, which disproportionately have a negative impact on women and girls;
- (b) To establish mechanisms to identify survivors of sexual and gender-based abuses and provide psycho-social and economic care during conflict and post-conflict situations;
- (c) To ensure that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of African women are implemented and mutually accounted for in the existing commitments to women's reproductive health and rights, as adopted by African Heads of State in the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol) in 2003, and the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in 2006; and
- (d) To ensure ending of the AIDS epidemic by 2030, as part of the Agenda 2063, has an inclusive, human rights approach that leaves no one behind, including children, adolescents, women of child-bearing age, female key populations, such as women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

III. Commitment to Pushing Forward Women's Economic Empowerment

We commit to empower women at all economic levels, including women at risk and impoverished located in rural and urban areas, with access to, and control of, finances; and to this end, we resolve:

- (a) AU Heads of State and Government to place the Gender Agenda at the centre of their Development Agenda, which should match allocation of adequate resources, based on a fixed percentage of the budget, with the elevated location of the Ministry responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs in order to enable Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs to drive the programmes of gender equality and women's empowerment; and

(b) AU Member States, as we move towards the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, to create and mainstream mechanisms to ensure women's access to finances, financial and entrepreneurial skills development, to move away from limited ring fenced women's funds, and to challenge the financial institutions to have a minimum quota of 50 per cent to finance women for them to grow from micro to macro business.

IV. Commitment to Enhancing the Agenda on Women, Peace and Security

We commit to push forward the women's full and effective participation in conflict prevention, management, peacebuilding, reconstruction and negotiation; and to this end, we resolve:

(a) To develop, implement and report on national and regional action plans on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 to accelerate the Women, Peace and Security Agenda;

(b) To develop and implement a Plan of Action towards Silencing the Guns by 2020 for promoting women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict rebuilding;

(c) To establish mechanisms to identify survivors of sexual and gender-based abuses and provide psycho-social and economic care during conflict and post-conflict situations;

(d) To eliminate impunity for all forms of violence against women and girls;

(e) To facilitate access to justice, rehabilitation and recovery, especially for child soldiers, and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; and

(f) To install a monument at the Africa Union Headquarters honouring women who have contributed to the African anti-colonial and anti-apartheid liberation movements, and the resolution of conflicts on the continent.

V. Commitment to Enhancing Women's Participation in Governance

We commit to implement all AU policies on gender parity and participation of women in judicial processes and institutions, especially in governance and at decision-making levels, such as the Supreme Court, Constitutional Courts, and Regional Courts; and to this end, we resolve:

(a) To ensure that women are part of the electoral machinery, including institutions that address violence before, during, and after elections.

VI. Commitment to Enhancing Women's and Girls' Access to Education, Science and Technology

We commit to enhance women's and girls' access to education, science and technology; and, to this end, we resolve:

(a) To increase education and training investment in institutions/enterprises, accredited for quality, in science and technology (S&T), information and communications technology (ICT), engineering, mathematics, agriculture and agribusiness, nutrition and law with focus on women and innovation; and

(b) To end child marriage, also referred to as defilement, in Africa through adoption of the Common African Position on Ending Child Marriage, and develop and implement comprehensive action plans as an indicator for monitoring Agenda 2063 for girls' empowerment and well-being.

VII. Commitment to Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results

We commit to systematic data gathering, regular review, and progress monitoring of implementation of Agenda 2063 and its Ten-Year Action Plan using the Solemn Declaration Index (SDI), developed by the GIMAC and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); and, to this end, we resolve:

- (a) To conduct the five year progress review of the Africa Women's Decade that involves tracking, monitoring and reporting on progress;
- (b) To foster alignment, harmonization and coordination among multisectorial efforts and multi-institutional platforms for peer review, mutual learning and mutual accountability;
- (c) To strengthen national and regional institutional capacities, including technology software, equipment and uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for data collection, analysis, generation, and management and knowledge generation and dissemination, that supports evidence-based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and
- (d) To share high-impact best practices and solutions with a focus on scalability/technology divisibility and replicability to improve the lives of women in the diverse settings of Africa.

VIII. Strengthening the African Union Commission to Support Delivery on These Commitments

We will strengthen the capacity of the African Union Commission to help it fulfil the growing roles and mandates that we have ascribed through this Declaration, as well as other relevant previous declarations and decisions; and, to this end, we invite the Chairperson of the Commission to submit a proposal with a view to enhancing the institutional capacity of the lead Department as well as other relevant units, for consideration and approval by the July 2015 ordinary session of the Executive Council.

IX. A Call for Action

We commit to an expedient process of translation of these economic, transformational commitments into results; and, to this end, we call upon:

- (a) The AUC to work closely with Member States and RECs to enhance the implementation of the call to action, and to develop an implementation strategy and road map to facilitate translation of the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063's vision and goals of the African Women's Decade (2010—2020) and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action – Towards a Transformational Change for Women and Girls in Africa (Beijing+20), and the communiqué of the Stakeholders' Consultation on the AU 2015 Theme as well as the Johannesburg Declaration and Call for Action on Financial Inclusion of Women in Agribusiness adopted by the Ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs on 12 June 2015;
- (b) AU Member States to review and evaluate the implementation of the call to action every two years and to link it to other reporting mechanisms.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXV)

**Declaration on Polio Eradication in Africa: Our Historic Legacy to Future Generations
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XXV) Add.4)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Assembly of the African Union, meeting at our Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session in Johannesburg, South Africa,

Bearing in mind the Yaoundé Declaration on Polio Eradication in Africa adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting from 8 to 10 July 1996 in Yaoundé, Cameroon,

Recalling the Decision on Polio Eradication in Africa adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Health (Tripoli, 2003), the Executive Council Decision on Polio Eradication in Africa (Maputo, 2003), and the Declaration adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Health (Addis Ababa, 2009),

Acknowledging the unprecedented success of the "Kick Polio Out of Africa" campaign launched at the Yaoundé meeting and the historical opportunity that now exists to attain our objective of a polio-free Africa this year,

Noting with pride that the entire African continent had not reported a single wild poliovirus case for over ten months; that Nigeria recorded a greater than 90% decline in polio cases in 2014 and is very close to stopping endemic poliovirus transmission with no new cases reported for more than ten months; and all polio outbreaks on the continent appear to have stopped,

Recognizing that saving all future generations from the crippling effects of polio will help reduce poverty and fully complies with our Union's vision of an "integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force on the global arena",

Recalling the fiftieth anniversary of the Solemn Declaration for Agenda 2063, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa on 26 May 2013, that places disease eradication and infant and child health at the centre of our efforts to eradicate poverty,

Recognizing that polio eradication efforts help build national and local health systems to reach every child with critical health interventions and services even in the remotest areas, and within the most vulnerable populations,

1. *Reaffirm:*

- (i) Our firm commitment to the goal of global polio eradication, and help deliver a polio-free Africa as a historic legacy to children of all future generations;
- (ii) Our strong determination to sustain the current momentum in polio eradication efforts in Africa, and fully support and monitor the effective implementation of all polio vaccination campaigns in 2015 to reach and vaccinate every last child against polio;

2. *Congratulate* all the Member States of the African Union, the Heads of State, the Ministers of Health, State and local government leaders, community leaders, traditional and religious leaders, all health workers, the media, and civil society organizations for their consistent support for polio eradication activities; recognizing their invaluable role in achieving this historic success;

3. *Recognize:*

- (i) The critical need to sustain intensive efforts in polio eradication to preserve our hard-won gains;
- (ii) The importance of maintaining a strong disease surveillance system, to be able to detect and respond to any polio outbreaks following poliovirus importations, and to strengthen routine immunization coverage to protect all children;
- (iii) The much wider legacy of the polio infrastructure and resources, and the critical role it can play in strengthening routine immunization, supporting broader disease surveillance and emergency health response efforts; the use of the polio infrastructure to tackle the Ebola virus in Nigeria is a living example of this legacy;

4. *Acknowledge* the steadfast support and assistance of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, international development partners and the civil society organizations for polio eradication in Africa, urging them to continue with the same level of support until Africa is officially certified as polio-free, and to help strengthen routine immunization efforts on the continent;

5. *Encourage:*

- (i) The national and subnational leadership of all polio-affected countries to provide direct and consistent oversight to their polio eradication efforts, and ensure that every child is reached and vaccinated;
- (ii) All the Member States of the African Union to allocate additional domestic resources to strengthen routine immunization and disease surveillance initiatives, and closely monitor the full implementation of the 2013-2018 Polio Endgame Strategic Plan.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXV)

**Declaration on the Launch of the Negotiations for the Establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XXV))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 14 to 15 June 2015,

Recalling our Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII)) adopted in the January 2012 Summit on the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area to be operationalized by an indicative date of 2017,

Also recalling our Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.11 (XXIV)) of January 2015 reaffirming our commitment to launch the CFTA negotiations in June 2015,

Reaffirming our commitment to increase intra-African trade through the establishment of a CFTA that will foster economic growth, equitable development, and support integration through trade liberalization, industrialization and infrastructure development towards the full implementation of the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Emphasizing the importance of building the CFTA on existing regional free trade areas in order to broaden and deepen continental integration,

Reiterating that the establishment of a functional CFTA that integrates African economies is a fundamental milestone in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda will play a major role in fostering the structural transformation of the continent,

Reiterating the importance of implementing the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) prioritizing work on industrialization, infrastructure development and free movement of people to ensure maximization of benefits of establishing the CFTA,

Noting the importance of relevant flanking policies and reforms at the continental, regional and national levels to maximize the benefits of establishing the Continental Free Trade Area,

Recognizing the need for technical assistance in order to facilitate the effective participation of all Member States in the entire process leading to the establishment of the CFTA,

Aware of the importance of constructive participation of the private sector, parliamentarians and other relevant stakeholders in the CFTA negotiations through appropriate mechanisms,

Taking note of the report the AU Ministers of Trade meeting that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14 to 15 May 2015,

Now therefore,

1. *Launch* negotiations for the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area aimed at integrating Africa's markets in line with the objectives and principles enunciated in the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;
2. *Urge* all Regional Economic Communities and Member States to participate effectively in the CFTA negotiations;
3. *Call upon* the Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and other development partners to provide analytical support, technical assistance and to carry out a comprehensive capacity-building programme targeted at Member States and RECS in order to strengthen their capacity to effectively engage in the negotiations;
4. *Commend* the Commission and the Continental Task Force on the CFTA for the work done in preparation for the launch of the CFTA negotiations.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXV)

**Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXV))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 14 to 15 June 2015,

Taking note of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine; and recalling all resolutions and decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the situation in Palestine and the Middle East,

Reaffirming our full support to the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle against Israeli occupation, under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people,

Reiterating our support for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions, which have advanced the clarion call for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the borders of June 1967, and its capital, East Jerusalem; and the implementation of the United Nations resolution 194 on the return of the Palestinian refugees,

Commending the efforts exerted by President Mahmoud Abbas to achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and supports his efforts in achieving the Palestinian reconciliation,

Condemning the Israeli statements that are rejecting the two-State solution, which could undermine the peace process between both sides and represent a challenge to all international resolutions,

Also condemning the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land and all measures in the city of Jerusalem, through the policy of Judaization, the demolition of houses, the expulsion and destruction of historic monuments of the Islamic and Christian holy sites and the expansion of settlements in the city,

Further condemning Israel for withholding Palestinian funds and tax revenues, which constitute a cornerstone of the Palestinian economy, and calling upon the international community to put pressure on Israel to release Palestinian tax funds that it has withheld,

We hereby:

1. *Call on* the international community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities, release Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and, equally demand that Israel refrains from arbitrary arrests of Palestinians, including children and women, which is an act of violation of international laws and human rights norms including the Geneva Convention on the rights of women and children;
2. *Further call upon* the international community to exert pressure on Israel to lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip and open the border crossing for the movement of people and goods, and respond immediately to the humanitarian situations due to this siege;
3. *Request* the United Nations Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security, and to take the necessary steps to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on the principle of two-State solution, according to the 1967 borders, and apply the provisions of relevant international law and previous decisions of the Council in this regard;
4. *Reiterate* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East demands a full withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories to the line of June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still occupied in southern Lebanon;
5. *Call for* a boycott of Israeli products from Palestinian occupied territories;
6. *Call on* all Member States and other States that have not yet done so, to recognize the State of Palestine and support its admission into regional and international organizations.

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXV)

Declaration on Self-Reliance

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 14 to 15 January 2015, adopt the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 and its Financing Mechanism, as a step towards our collective vision for the level and depth of integration and development that our continent must achieve in the next 50 years.

1. In doing so, we also recognize that in order to achieve the goals set out in Agenda 2063, Member States need to take practical and concrete measures to achieve the self-reliance we set as our goal 35 years ago in the Lagos Plan of Action adopted in 1980.
2. We reaffirm that self-reliance is not self-isolation, but a commitment to base the development of our continent primarily on own resources, and to mobilize resources within our continent for development.
3. At this Summit, we have adopted the following package of measures for self-reliance:
 - (a) The decision on alternate sources of funding, the revised assessed contribution and scale of assessments that will become effective from January 2016 whose objective is to ensure that in the medium-term Member States of the Union fund 100 per cent of the operating budget, 75 per cent of the programme budget, and 25 per cent of the peace and security operations;
 - (b) In addition, through the African Union Foundation that we have established for resource mobilization on the continent, we work with the African people, including our private sector, to explore other innovative sources for funding our Union. In particular, and for the first time at our Summits, the African private sector made significant pledges that will augment the budgetary resources of our Union.

4. We recognize that the long-term solution to increasing the capacity of our Member States for self-reliance and taking full charge of the budgetary requirements of our Union is in strengthening the capability of our economies both at the country level and continent wide. In this regard, we reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the fast-track programmes and initiatives of Agenda 2063.

5. Africa must also be self-reliant in finding African solutions to African problems in the peace and security domain both in terms of funding and enhancing our collective capability to respond to conflict situations. The African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) is the interim mechanism that we have created for this purpose while we are operationalizing our African Standby Force.

6. We believe that this package of self-reliance measures will not only place our continent on the path towards the vision contained in Agenda 2063. It will also reverse the dependency that hampers the development of the full potential of our continent.

Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (XXV)

**Declaration on Migration
(Doc. Assembly/AU/18 (XXV))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Johannesburg in the Republic of South Africa from 14 to 15 June 2015, under the theme “Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063”,

Following our discussion on the strategic issue of migration, hereby individually and collectively reaffirm our previous commitments aimed at accelerating mobility and integration on the continent, migration in development while addressing regular and irregular migration; we commit to undertake the following actions:

- (i) Speed up the implementation of continent-wide visa free regimes including issuance of visas at ports of entry for Africans and based on the principle of reciprocity where those countries that offer free movement should receive the same,
- (ii) Offer all Africans the same opportunities accorded to the citizens of countries within our respective Regional Economic Communities (RECs) by 2018,
- (iii) Expedite the operationalization of the African Passport that would, as a start, facilitate free movement of persons that will be issued by Member States,
- (iv) Establish a harmonized mechanism to ensure that higher education in Africa is compatible, comparable, with acceptability and enable recognition of credentials that will facilitate transferability of knowledge, skills and expertise,
- (v) Establish a mechanism on practical modalities for the empowerment of African women and youth in education and, encourage their sustained growth in knowledge acquisition; and to include exchange programmes and self-employment in the education curriculum,
- (vi) Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants through the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocols against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants by improving legislation, provision of victim support, enhanced international cooperation and training,
- (vii) Assist in the stabilization of the elected Government of Libya,

1. *Request* the Commission to urgently organize a retreat of the Executive Council to consider:

- (i) The issue of mobility and free movement of people in Africa;
 - (ii) The development of a common position for Africa before the Malta Conference on Migration with the European Union in November 2015;
 - (iii) The development of a Protocol on Free Movement of Persons;
 - (iv) In collaboration with Member States, engage in the process of developing capacity to manage migration flows within the continent;
2. *Endorse* the Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling by the AU Commission and the outcomes of the Regional Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling held in Khartoum, Sudan, from 13 to 16 October 2014, including the TOR, Declaration, Strategy and Plan of Action; and request the Commission to report regularly to the Executive Council on the Initiative;
3. *Decide* to remain seized with the matter and request the Commission to report to the Assembly on the implementation of this Declaration in January 2016.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXV)

**Resolution on the Chagos Archipelago
(Doc. EX.CL/901 (XXVII))**

The Assembly,

Recalling the unlawful excision of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, from the territory of Mauritius by the United Kingdom, the former colonial power, prior to the independence of Mauritius, in violation of international law and United Nations resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965, which prohibit colonial powers from dismembering colonial territories prior to granting independence, as well as United Nations resolutions 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967,

Reaffirming that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius,

Deploing the continued unlawful occupation by the United Kingdom of the Chagos Archipelago, thereby denying the Republic of Mauritius the exercise of its sovereignty over the Archipelago and making the decolonization of Africa incomplete,

Recalling in this regard, inter alia:

- (i) Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVI) of January 2011 of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
- (ii) The Malabo Declaration adopted by the Third Africa-South America Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in February 2013,
- (iii) Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXI) of May 2013 of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
- (iv) The Solemn Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the OAU/AU adopted by Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2013,

Reiterating its grave concern that the United Kingdom purported to establish a “marine protected area” (“MPA”) around the Chagos Archipelago, in a manner that was inconsistent with its international legal obligations and which further impeded the exercise by the Republic of Mauritius of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago,

Noting that the purported “MPA” has been ruled to be illegal by the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the case brought by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on 20 December 2010 against the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Welcoming the confirmation by two members of the Arbitral Tribunal that the Republic of Mauritius is the “coastal State” in relation to the Chagos Archipelago,

Considering that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius is resolutely committed to taking all appropriate measures for the effective exercise by the Republic of Mauritius of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, in keeping with the principles of international law,

1. *Welcomes* the Award of the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is binding on the United Kingdom, and the confirmation that the purported “MPA” has been unlawfully established under international law;
2. *Reaffirms* that the United Kingdom is not to be treated as the “coastal State” in relation to the Chagos Archipelago and that any attempt by the United Kingdom to claim such a status in any international forum is to be treated as contrary to international law and opposed;
3. *Reiterates* its support to the Republic of Mauritius in its legitimate pursuit to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia;
4. *Renews* its call on the United Kingdom to expeditiously end its unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago with a view to enabling the Republic of Mauritius to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Archipelago;
5. *Urges* the United Kingdom, pending the return of the Chagos Archipelago to the effective control of the Republic of Mauritius, not to take any measures or decisions that might affect the interests of the Republic of Mauritius without the latter’s full prior involvement, in accordance with the Award of the Arbitral Tribunal and international law; and
6. *Fully supports* further efforts and actions in accordance with international law, including those of a diplomatic and legal nature at the level of the United Nations system, which may be taken by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for the early and unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, to the effective control of the Republic of Mauritius.